

GCSE SCIENCE: Biology – Y9 Transition

**"An understanding of the natural world is a source of not only great curiosity, but great fulfilment."
– Sir David Attenborough**

Science is a wide-ranging subject and we aim to support students to become inquisitive learners. At Key Stage Four we offer Combined Science and Separate Biology, Chemistry and Physics GCSEs. Courses are offered to best meet the needs and ability of students.

Students studying either pathway have six hours of Science each week (two of these for Biology). In both Combined Science (Biology), in Separate Biology there are nine modules to study across the two years.

Biology is one of the major subjects that form the building blocks of everything we understand about our natural world, along with Chemistry and Physics. It is the study of living organisms and their environment. Biology is an exciting and dynamic subject to study.

Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Keep interested in your studies – Where is the Biology you are currently learning about based? What else can you find out about it? ✓ Research – What Biology is happening in the news? How is Biology being used in political choices and local decisions? ✓ Revision – keep on top of key words and ideas. Skills learnt in Year 9 are used in GCSE – for example calculations, graph work, practical work. 	
Overview of course	<u>Combined Science (Biology)</u>	<u>Separate Biology</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Exam Board: Edexcel ✓ External exams – Combined Science (Biology): Two exams, each 1 hour 10 minutes long (60 marks each) ✓ Paper 1 (1SC0/1BF or 1SC0/1BH) ✓ Paper 2 (1SC0/2BF or 1SC0/2BH) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Exam Board: Edexcel ✓ External Exams – Separate Biology: Two exams, each 1 hour 45 minutes long (100 marks each) ✓ Paper 1 (1BIO/1F or 1BIO/1H) ✓ Paper 2 (1BIO/2F or 1BIO/2H)
Short term focus: Term 1	<p>In the September of Year 10 we start with Topic 1: Key Concepts in Biology - cells, enzymes and transport processes. We consolidate and build on the work from year 9 on cells and magnification in this topic. This is followed by Topic 9: Ecosystems and nutrient cycles, studied in year 9, will be reviewed and completed, which forms part of the paper 2 mock examination towards the end of year 10.</p>	
Careers & Suitability	Skills you will develop in this course: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Development of scientific thinking ✓ Understanding of everyday and technological applications of science ✓ Experimental skills and strategies ✓ Communication of information ✓ Analysis of information ✓ Presenting explanations 	Careers: <p>Healthcare – Medicine, nursing, veterinary science Laboratory technician Farming / Agriculture Research Conservation Teaching Food science</p>