



Aldercar High School

Post-16

Biology



Subject Information

Biology A-level will give you the skills to make connections and associations with all living things around you. Biology literally means the study of life and if that's not important, what is? Being such a broad topic, you're bound to find a specific area of interest, plus it opens the door to a fantastic range of interesting careers.

Possible Career Options

Studying A-level Biology at Aldercar enables you to access degrees at University that give you all sorts of exciting career options, including:

- Doctor
- Clinical molecular geneticist
- Nature conservation officer
- Pharmacologist
- Research scientist
- Vet
- Marine biologist
- Dentist



Subjects to Study Alongside Biology

Biology will support your study of other sciences and maths. Biology also complements the study of psychology, geography and sports.

Entry Requirements

A-level Biology builds on the work done in GCSE Science and Maths, so you'll need good GCSE results from both. Written communication is also important and you'll need to be a strong writer. If you're interested in studying Biology after your GCSEs, ask your teacher about the qualifications you'll need.

Subject Information

Topics covered

AS Biology is one year long, with exams at the end. A-level Biology lasts two years, with exams at the end of the second year. The table to the right shows the topics you will study in each year. An essay question during the final examination challenges you to make connections between the biological knowledge you have developed over two years.

AS and first year of A-level	Second year of A-level
1. Biological molecules	5. Energy transfers in and between organisms
2. Cells	6. Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
3. Organisms exchange substances with their environment	7. Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms	8. The control of gene expression

Practicals

Biology, like all sciences, is a practical subject. Throughout the course you will carry out practical activities including:

- using microscopes to see cell division
- dissection of animal or plant systems
- aseptic technique to study microbial growth
- investigating distributions of species in the environment.

These practicals will give you the skills and confidence needed to investigate the way living things behave and work. It will also ensure that if you choose to study a Biology-based subject at university, you'll have the practical skills needed to carry out successful experiments in your degree.

Field trip

There may be a three day residential field trip in July which you will be expected to attend. This will focus on practical environmental and ecological studies.

Exams

There is no coursework on this course. However, your performance during practicals will be assessed. There are three exams at the end of the two years for A-level, all of which are two hours long. At least 15% of the marks for A-level Biology are based on what you learned in your practicals.

**For further information contact
Mr Heading, Mrs Newton, Mr Marvin or Miss Mansfield**



Aldercar High School
Daltons Close, Langley Mill, Nottingham NG16 4HL
Tel 01773 712477
E-mail info@aldercarhigh.co.uk