Biology A-level 2023/24

SIXTH FORM CHOICES EVENING

Course Overview: Edexcel B

This is a wide-ranging course that examines a variety of traditional and modern techniques and ideas
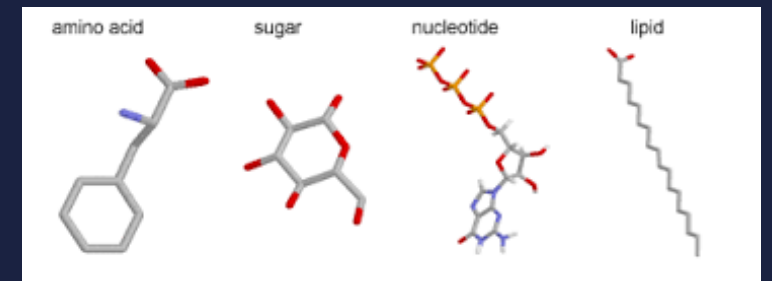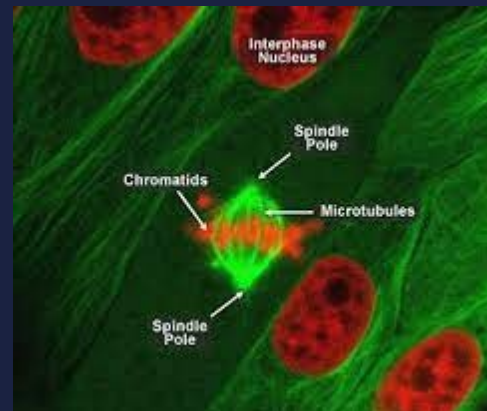
There is no coursework – 100% of the final grade is assessed by public exams at the end of Upper Sixth

The course is split into 10 major topics which are taught 60:40 across the two-year course

Students complete 16 core practical investigations throughout the course. This 'Practical Accreditation' complements their final A-level grade

Course Content

1. Biological molecules
2. Cells, Viruses and Reproduction
3. Classification and Biodiversity
4. Exchange and Transport
5. Energy for Biological Processes
6. Microbiology and Pathogens
7. Modern Genetics
8. Origins of Genetic Variation
9. Control Systems
10. Ecosystems

Entry Requirements

Pupils who study Biology A-level at Epsom must achieve a minimum of a Grade 8 in their IGCSE Biology

Because of the course's analytical and mathematical nature, students should have achieved a Grade 7 or better in Maths and Chemistry

This is not to deter pupils from studying Biology – it is a reflection of the difficulty of the course.

Ideally, students should also have a potential interest in studying a Science at university.

Subject Combinations

Assuming entry requirements are met, we would like to take
any pupil with an interest in studying Biology.
However, there are definitely other subjects
that complement Biology well and these include:

MATHEMATICS, CHEMISTRY, PHYSICS

There other subjects where studying
Biology might be advantageous:

GEOGRAPHY, PE, PSYCHOLOGY

Beyond Epsom: Why Biology?

Medicine – not a required subject but highly recommended for tackling both the UCAT and BMAT

Some Sports science degrees require Biology (or another science, sometimes including Psychology)

Any life science degrees

The analysis of data and application of prior knowledge to unseen situations is a valuable skill to have no matter what degree or career you are hoping to pursue