



# St Paul's Catholic School

## A LEVEL BIOLOGY

**Entry Requirements** Generic A-Level entry requirements plus a grade 6 in Biology or 6/6 in Double Science.

### **Specifications for AQA A Level Biology**

These qualifications are linear. Linear means that students will sit all the exams at the end of their 2-year course. There are 8 topics covered over 2 years of study. All classes have 5 lessons a week split between two of the A-Level Biology teachers.

#### **Subject content**

#### **Year 12**

- 1 Biological molecules
- 2 Cells
- 3 Organisms exchange substances with their environment
- 4 Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

#### **Subject content**

#### **Year 13**

- 5 Energy transfers in and between organisms (A-level only)
- 6 Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
- 7 Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
- 8 The control of gene expression

#### **Assessment**

#### **Board**

AQA (Specification 7402)

- Paper 1 Topics 1-4 including relevant practical skills 2 hours 35% of final mark
- Paper 2 Topics 5-8 including relevant practical skills 2 hours 35% of final mark
- Paper 3 Topics 1-8 including relevant practical skills 2 hours 30% of final mark

All examination papers will contain a mixture of short and long answer questions, extended response and comprehension question. Paper 3 includes a short synoptic essay of 25 marks.

### **Practical Assessment**

Practical work is at the heart of biology. There are 12 assessed practical activities that must be carried out by all students taking this course. Written papers will assess knowledge and understanding of these practical activities, and the skills exemplified within each practical. Pupils will receive a Pass / Fail for the satisfactory completion of all 12 practicals.

**For further information, please contact Mr Cockcroft or Mrs Shakespeare**