BIOLOGY

"I like to define biology as the history of the earth and all its life – past, present and future."

Rachel Carson

Curriculum Leader

Dr N Mellor

nmellor@theferrers.org

Teachers

Dr N Mellor

Exam board

AQA

www.aqa.co.uk

The Ferrers Sixth Form

Why study biology?

Biology is a popular A Level subject that opens the doors to many opportunities in a scientific and/or medical field. Biology is the study of living things and the world in which we live, giving insight into the complexities of the human body and how we function. This is an engaging subject with plenty of opportunities for practical work. Many students who study biology go on to study biology or a medically related field at university.

What will you study?

Year 12

Throughout Year 12 you will have the opportunity to build on GCSE knowledge to explore further the structure of cells and biological molecules. You will develop knowledge of the immune system and advance your knowledge of how organisms exchange substances with their environment and mass transport systems. You will also build understanding of genes, protein synthesis and biodiversity.

Year 13

Year 13 will build on knowledge from Year 12, allowing you to explore further genetics, inheritance and DNA technologies. You will build an in-depth knowledge of photosynthesis and respiration as well as principles in homeostasis and how nerves and muscles work. You will also build a greater understanding of ecosystems and populations and how organisms respond to their environment.

How will you study?

Practical skills will be developed throughout the year with regular practical work alongside written assignments and frequent exam practise.

How will you be assessed?

Throughout the two years there will be termly assessments and examinations. The three written public examinations will all take place at the end of Year 13:
Paper 1 - written examination, 2 hours (35% of qualification)
Paper 2 – written examination, 2 hours (35 % of qualification)
Paper 3 – written examination, 2 hours (30% of qualification)
Practical skills will be assessed with 12 compulsory required practicals throughout the two-year course.

What do I need to study the course?

Entry requirements: APS of 5.5+. Grade 6 in biology. Grade 6 in maths and English
Skills and attributes: Ability to learn independently, an attention to detail with good analytical skills.

Which subjects combine well with biology?

Chemistry, maths, psychology.