

BIOLOGY

at SCGSG

Head of Department:

Mr D. Pockson

AQA - Specification 8461

How is the course taught?

Students have four lessons of Biology a fortnight in Years 10 and 11, with a wide variety of learning experiences. Particular focus is given to practical work, both class practicals and teacher demonstrations, both of which develop students' understanding of key ideas and of how scientists develop their ideas.

The course content consists of 7 theory topics. It is designed so that students start off with cellular biology and by Year 11 covers the more global aspects of Biology.

What will I study?

The topics we cover at GCSE are:

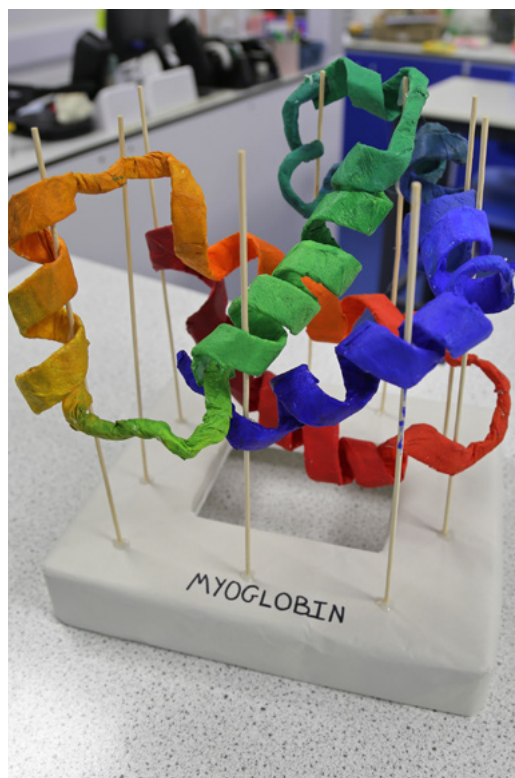
1. Cell Biology
2. Organisation
3. Infection and response
4. Bioenergetics
5. Homeostasis and response
6. Inheritance, variation and evolution
7. Ecology

How will I be assessed?

The GCSE Biology qualification is assessed by written examinations at the end of Year 11.

There will be two examinations of 1 hour and 45 minutes for GCSE Biology. Each examination paper will cover half of the subject content.

Paper 1 covers topics 1-4 and Paper 2 covers topics 5-7. There will also be questions on practical work in the examination papers. Each paper is worth 50% of the final mark.



Where might Biology take me?

After studying at GCSE, many of our students choose to continue at our Sixth Form and take the OCR A-Level Biology course.

Our students have gone on to study: Biological Sciences, Medicine, Dentistry, Optometry, Biomedical Sciences, Neuroscience, Veterinary Science, Pharmacy, Aerospace Engineering, Law and History.

Previous destinations include: Aston, Birmingham, Nottingham, Durham, Bristol, UCL, Oxford, Cambridge, Kings, Hull, Sheffield, Cardiff, York, Manchester, Leeds, Warwick, Loughborough, Portsmouth, Keele, Lancaster.

Other notes:

- A plethora of textbooks are available in the school library.
- Lots of resources can be found in the shared area/science and also shared with classes via Microsoft Teams.

There are eight practical tasks that must be completed during the course. These must be completed as part of the GCSE and may form the basis of some questions within the written papers.