

# **BIOLOGY**

## **AT ADVANCED LEVEL ( A/S AND A2 )**

Our Course: **New AQA, Specification**

### **Summary of Subject Content**

The new course is designed to build on the Biology taught as part of the student's GCSE science course.

Among the many benefits, this new specification is designed to encourage candidates to:

- Have an enthusiasm for Biology.
- Develop practical skills alongside understanding of concepts and principles.
- Have an appropriate and relevant foundation of knowledge and skills for the study of Biology in Higher Education.
- Develop an ethical understanding of how the scientific method works.

### **First Year**

- AS:**   **Unit 1:**       Biology and Disease
- Unit 2:**       The Variety of Living Organisms
- Unit 3:**       Practical and Investigative Skills

### **Second Year**

- A2:**   **Unit 4:**       Populations and Environment
- Unit 5:**       Control in Cells and Organisms
- Unit 6:**       Practical and Investigative Skills

### **Assessment:**

The AS course will be assessed by two examinations counting for 80% of the marks and an assessment of the student's practical and investigative skills via an assignment set by the exam board. The A2 course will be assessed in a similar way. Short answer questions, essay questions and data handling questions will be used in the examinations.

### **Aptitudes, skills or qualities you will need:-**

You need good GCSE Science grades and an interest in current biological issues. The ability to retain and apply knowledge is essential.

### **Value of the subject for higher education and future careers:-**

Biology students progress to a variety of courses and careers. Many students opt to study medically-related courses at university, while a large number move into science-based careers and courses. However many students progress into non-biological courses but find the key skills developed in their studies are directly transferable.