BIOLOGY

A LEVEL

OCR

Entry Requirements	**Trilogy Science 6-6 or 6 in Biology for Triple science. GCSE Maths Grade 5 (Higher) essential, GCSE English Grade 5 desirable**
Head of Department or Course Contact	**Miss H Moore**
Contact E-Mail Address	**hmoore@stedmunds.org**

Brief introduction to subject:

The A level course is designed to provide a suitable preparation for degree courses. As well as developing biological knowledge and understanding the course emphasises the way biologists work and the contributions they make to modern society.
The course builds on concepts and skills that will have been developed in the new GCSE science specifications. It presents biology as exciting, relevant and challenging.

Progression to Career/ University Courses:

Biological sciences, microbiology, genetics, molecular biology, ecology, environmental sciences, medicine, veterinary sciences and sport sciences.

Year 12

Module 1 - Development of practical skills: (planning, implementing, analysis and evaluation)
This module underpins the whole of the specification, and covers the practical skills that students should develop throughout the course. The practical skills in this module can be assessed within written examinations.

Module 2 - Foundations in biology
Includes: Cell structure; Biological molecules; Nucleotides and nucleic acids; Enzymes; Biological membranes; Cell division, cell diversity and cellular organisation

Module 3 – Exchange and Transport	**Module 4 Biodiversity, evolution and disease**
Includes: Exchange surfaces Transport in animals, Transport in plants	Includes: Communicable diseases, disease prevention and the immune system Biodiversity Classification and evolution

Information regarding Assessment: The AS award is assessed by two examination papers :

Paper 1: Breadth in Biology: 70 mark total (1hr 30 mins) weighting: 50%
Section A – Multiple choice (20 mark)
Section B – Structured questions covering theory and practical skills (50 mark)

Paper 2: Depth in Biology: 70 mark total (1hr 30 mins) weighting: 50%
Structured questions and extended response questions covering theory and practical skills (70 mark)

Year 13

Module 1 - Development of practical skills: (planning, implementing, analysis and evaluation)
This module underpins the whole of the specification, and covers the practical skills that students should develop throughout the course. The practical skills in this module can be assessed within written examinations and (for A Level only) within the Practical Endorsement.

Module 5 **Communications, homeostasis and energy**	**Module 6** **Genetics, evolution and ecosystems**
Includes; Communication and homeostasis Excretion as an example of homeostatic control Neuronal communication Hormonal communication Plant and animal responses Photosynthesis Respiration	Includes Cellular control Patterns of inheritance Manipulating genomes Cloning and biotechnology Ecosystems Populations and sustainability

Information regarding Assessment: The A Level award is assessed by three examination papers

Paper 1: Biological processes: 100 mark total (2hr 15 mins) weighting: 37%
Section A - Multiple choice (15 mark)
Section B - Structured questions covering theory and practical skills (85 mark)

Paper 2: Biological diversity: 100 mark total (2hr 15 mins) weighting: 37%
Section A – Multiple choice (15 mark)
Section B – Structured questions covering theory and practical skills (85 mark)

Paper 3: Unified Biology: 70 mark total (1hr 30 mins) weighting: 26%
Structured questions and extended response questions covering theory and practical skills (70 mark)

Non Exam assessment.
In addition to the A Level reported grade. A separate statement called **Practical Endorsement for Biology** - **Pass/ Fail** will be included on the certificate. This will be awarded when the student has successfully completed the twelve practical tasks set out in module 1. This is a teacher assessed, moderated component.