



## Aylesbury High School | #AHSWalksTall

Developing uniquely talented young adults, who are independent, strong and confident

---

Dear Parent/Carer,

As students embark on their Biology A Level, we thought it would be useful to share an overview of the course.

### **Key Stage 5 Biology Lessons:**

Each class has 2 teachers who cover separate areas of the course. Each topic has a booklet, to guide students through the course and highlight key information and concepts. We encourage students to produce their own detailed notes in their own style, this allows them to develop independence and initiative. Question practice is strongly encouraged as this quickly develops the ability to apply new concepts to problems, in addition to increasing confidence in critical thinking, analytical and evaluative skills.

### **Practicals:**

The practical aspect of the course is taught and assessed via PAGs (practical assessment groups). They cover a range of topics and skills, increasing in complexity from Year 12 to Year 13. Every student must take part in these and ensure that each skill is checked off by the end of the course. The skills learnt are then assessed in the final exams, particularly Paper 3. Each year, we organise a trip for Year 12 biologists to a local field centre to complete an Ecology PAG. They put their theory into practice and meet individuals working in Biology-related careers.

### **Homework and feedback:**

Homework and independent study, up to five hours per week, is expected in order to prepare for lessons, consolidate knowledge, understanding and skills. It may take the form of a written or practical piece and may be teacher, self or peer marked. Feedback is given in line with the school marking policy and exam board assessment criteria.

### **Revision and assessment:**

Revision may be: taught revision sessions, resourced individual study or completely independent work. Students have access to textbooks, revision guides and topic booklets, as well as the myriad online resources we recommend on the Google Site and in lessons. Each student is encouraged to try multiple revision methods to find the way they learn best. Through regular assessment, students secure learning and skills needed for the A Level Biology examinations.

### Co-curricular Biology:

- We currently run a weekly clinic open to all students if they have queries or need help.
- AHS Biology Symposium is run by our enthusiastic Ambassadors and provides an opportunity for like minded students to discuss and learn more about Biology.
- We encourage students to take part in competitions such as the British Biology Olympiad
- Ambassadors run House competitions
- We regularly host speakers in school and online so students can experience Biology in a wider context.

More information can be found on the [Biology page](#) of the school's website.

The OCR A level Biology specification can be found [here](#)

If you have any queries, please get in touch.

Kind regards, Ms Lucy Sowah

Biology Subject Leader | Science Faculty Coordinator | [lsowah@ahs.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:lsowah@ahs.bucks.sch.uk) | [#biologyislife](#)