

### Aims of the course

During this course you will have opportunities to:

- Develop greater understanding of biological facts together with an appreciation of their significance in new and changing situations.
- Develop greater expertise in the area of practical work and the link between theory and experimental work.
- Continue to enjoy a personal interest in the study of living organisms.
- Recognise the responsible use of biology in society.
- Develop a deeper awareness of biology in the changing world and its importance.

### What are lessons like?

You will study this subject for five hours a week in a science laboratory. Opportunities are given for students to study some aspects of the course at Hull University.

### The two approaches to the content of the specification are:

- A concept-led approach. This approach begins with a study of the theories and models of Biology and finishes with an exploration of their practical applications.
- A context-led topic approach. This approach begins with the consideration of an application that draws on many different areas of biology and then moves on to the underlying biological concepts.

Both approaches enable the use of motivating, up-to-date, contemporary contexts and are well resourced with published course materials.

These units develop a broad based understanding of Biology and form an excellent platform for a range of undergraduate courses.

### Course Content

Topic Titles:

**Topic 1:** Lifestyle, Health and Risk

**Topic 2:** Genes and Health

**Topic 3:** Voice of the Genome

**Topic 4:** Biodiversity and Natural Resources

**Topic 5:** On the Wild Side

**Topic 6:** Immunity, Infection and Forensics

**Topic 7:** Run for your Life

**Topic 8:** Grey Matter

### **What are the exams like?**

Students will take A Level examinations during the summer of Y13. In addition, there will be the opportunity to earn a practical skills endorsement over the two years.

### **Recommended Prior Learning and Entry Requirements**

This course builds on the knowledge and understanding from the GCSE Science suite of courses. It is expected that you will have achieved a **GCSE grade 6 or above in this subject from a higher tier paper**. During the course you will need to be able to communicate effectively and research information from a variety of sources. You will also be expected to handle and interpret data so a secure understanding of GCSE **Mathematics (grade 6)** and **English (grade 4)** is expected.

### **Recommended Additional Reading**

- [www.edexcel.org.uk](http://www.edexcel.org.uk)
- Head start to AS Biology - CGP
- Edexcel A Level Biology - Hodder
- A Level Biology Revision Guides (Edexcel) - CGP

### **Where can this course lead to?**

- Follow a degree course in, for example, biology, environmental science, medicine, nursing, dentistry, psychology or pharmacy. UCAS handbooks will give you further guidance about the wide range of courses to which you can progress.
- Enter a higher national course in biological science or a related programme - Take up employment in one of many related employment areas, for example pharmacy.

### **Why choose to study Biology at St Mary's?**

Biology is a wonderful science that gives you the opportunity to go onto many areas, with dentistry, veterinary science, medicine to name a few. The course is delivered by four members of staff that have a great deal of expertise in delivering the subject. Many students will be able to study in the secure knowledge that the department knows you from KS4 lessons and that, most importantly, you know them! We also welcome new students from all schools and colleges who help us to provide the diverse, fresh and stimulating learning environment we strive for.