



Bloxham School

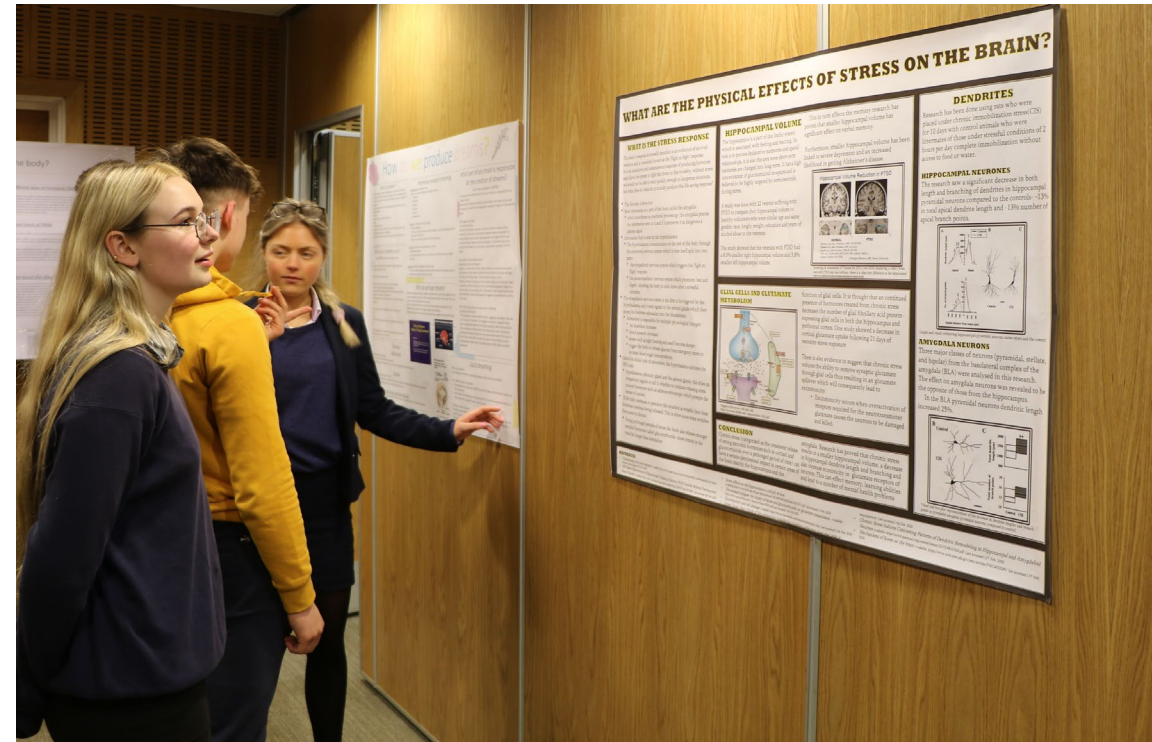
Biology

A Level



Why choose this subject?

- You enjoy Biology and have a genuine interest in it!
- It is essential for your chosen university course or career
- You want to study a challenging subject which helps you to develop research, problem solving, organisation and analytical skills





The nature of the course

- Examination board: CIE International A Level
- Course contents:

Year One	Year Two
Cell structure	Energy and respiration
Biological molecules including enzymes	Photosynthesis
Cell membranes and transport	Homeostasis
The mitotic cell cycle	Control and coordination
Nucleic acids and protein synthesis	Inheritance
Transport in plants	Selection and evolution
Transport in mammals	Classification, biodiversity and conservation
Gas exchange	Genetic technology
Infectious disease and immunity	

Examination structure



- Students undertake both AS and A2 Level exams which are combined to give an overall A Level grade

Year 1

Paper 1 - 40 Multiple choice questions (40 marks - 1hr 15min) (15.5%)

Paper 2 – AS level structured questions (60 marks - 1hr 15min) (23%)

Paper 3 – Advanced practical skills (40 marks - 2hr) - examined practical work and structured questions (11.5%)

Year 2

Paper 4 – A level structured questions (100 marks – 2hr) (38.5%)

Paper 5 – Planning, analysis and evaluation (30 marks – 1h 15min) (11.5%)



What do we expect from candidates?

- Academic traits: A Level Biology is an exciting but demanding subject, so students would be expected to have a strong pass in:
 - GCSE Biology (typically grades 7-9)
 - GCSE Double Science (7/7- 9/9)
- Enthusiasm, determination, initiative and consistent hard work.
- Willingness to move beyond learning facts to apply concepts to unknown situations and ask questions that probe ideas further.
- Wider independent reading around the subject and participation in related extracurricular activities are essential.



With which subjects can it be combined?

- Biology is most frequently combined with one or more of the following:
 - Chemistry
 - Physical Education
 - Mathematics
 - Physics
 - Psychology
 - Geography.
- Other combinations are possible, although some candidates will find parts of the course very demanding when studied without the support of at least one other science.
- If you have a specific course or career path in mind, it is crucial that you research the entry requirements before selecting your A Level subjects.



Higher Education and Careers?

- A Level Biology is required for applications to Medicine, Veterinary Science or Dentistry.
- It is also strongly recommended for
 - Biomedical/Biological Sciences
 - Biochemistry
 - Agriculture and Horticulture
 - Environmental Health
 - Pharmaceutical, Food, Drink, Agrochemical and Fertiliser Industries
 - Technical and Medical Sales.
- It is also hoped that many students will appreciate the wider benefits of their biological education in employment not directly related to their studies.

Teaching Staff

- Dr K.A. Perera (Head of Department)
- Mr G.N. Webber
- Mr J.H. Lear
- Mr D W Fowler

