ARCHBISHOP ILSLEY CATHOLIC SCHOOL SIXTH FORM

Embrace your future

A Level Biology

Exam Board: OCR Biology A

Subject Specific Criteria:

- **Grade 6, 6 In GCSE Combined Science/Triple Biology**
- **Grade 5 in Maths**

Through A-Level Biology, you will learn about life as it exists now and how evolution has allowed life to come to this point. Key topics covered include:

- Cells, membranes, biological molecules
- Anatomy including nervous system, endocrine system and transport systems
- Evolution, classification and biodiversity
- Diseases
- Genetics
- Plant biology

There is a practical component to the course which makes your A-Level a bit more valuable. There are 12 Practical Activity Groups (PAGs) to complete, each with multiple experiments, ranging from more advanced versions of GCSE level experiments to dissections and even planning your own from scratch. This will indicate to future employers/ educational institutes your skills in this area of science.

Assessment:

The following 3 tests contribute towards your A-Level:

Paper 1: Biological Processes, 100 marks assessing modules 1,2,3 and 5. 15 Marks of multiple-choice questions. 1 hour 45 minutes

Paper 2: Biological Diversity, 100 marks assessing modules 1,2,4 and 6. 15 marks of multiple-choice questions. 1 hour 45 minutes

Paper 3: Unified Biology, 70 marks assessing modules 1-6. 1 hour 45 minutes

The following component will influence the grade of your exam paper.

Component 4: Practical Endorsement in Biology, a series of practicals measured separately from the A-Level.

Skills Required:

- **Independent learning**
- **A good level of written English**
- **A good understanding of GCSE Mathematics**
- **An interest in biology**
- **An analytical mindset**

Course Information:

Multiple assessment objectives make up the assessments you will take part in. They are as follows:

AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, processes, techniques and procedures.

AO2: Apply knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, processes, techniques and procedures:

- in a theoretical context
- in a practical context
- when handling qualitative data

AO3: Analyse, interpret and evaluate scientific information, ideas and evidence, including in relation to issues, to:

- make judgements and reach conclusions
- develop and refine practical design and procedures.

Future Opportunities:

Biology is a very popular science at many universities around the country. It can lead into much more specialised aspects of biology, from interests such as Evolutionary Biology to careers such as Medicine. While biology is not always necessary for medicine degrees, it is very helpful and provides a start into the types of anatomy you will look at.

Subject Enrichment:

- Opportunities for a residential field trip to examine the ecology side of the PAGs (PAG3)