

Why study this subject at Hayesfield?

Has your GCSE left you with unanswered questions? How do your muscles move? What really is inside a cell? How do plants convert light into chemical energy? How do you build a body from your food? How can tiny changes in your DNA lead to cancer or the evolution of a new species?

At Hayesfield, students have the opportunity to learn in modern laboratories, on a course filled with cutting edge science delivered by a dynamic team of teachers. If you want to know more about how all organisms live, develop, function and interact then this is the course for you.

Course content - Year 12

Year 12 is designed to delve deep into the core biological concepts. Students study the inner workings of a cell, how DNA leads to the production of proteins, how new species really evolve and how different organisms interact in their environment. All topics are supported with a wide range of stimulating experiments.

Course content - Year 13

In Year 13 we build upon the key concepts from Year 12 and investigate how every thought you've had has been controlled by the movement of sodium ions, how you have inherited your characteristics, how and why we clone living organisms and how cells talk to each other. All of which provides an excellent springboard for study beyond Sixth Form.

Assessment

Internal assessments at the end of Year 12. Three exam papers at the end of Year 13.

Your practical skills are assessed continuously throughout the course and leads to a separate practical qualification.

Our Biology students have an opportunity to study topics such as epigenetic and stem cell therapies, which are at the cutting edge of modern science. The course has a strong practical element and includes a field trip at the end of Year 12 leading to outstanding outcomes.

Entry requirements and subject specific skills

Two Grade 6s at GCSE if taking Combined Science and a Grade 6 in Biology and another science if taking separate sciences. Mathematics Grade 6 is desirable.

This subject works well with

Chemistry, Maths, Physics, Psychology, Health and Social Care, Applied Science.

Extra/Super curricular activities

At the end of Year 12 students complete an ecological field course where they have the opportunity to investigate the interplay between the environment and the organisms within it. We run a biannual turtle conservation trip to Greece to work alongside researchers to collect data about loggerhead turtles and help with nest protection and turtle tagging. We also work closely with local universities and @Bristol to run workshops, invite visiting speakers and carry out practical work.

Future Pathways

An A Level in Biology can open up a wide range of opportunities following your time at Hayesfield. Many of our students go on to study medicine, nursing, veterinary sciences, cell biology, marine biology, environmental science, forensics and food technology.

Recent exam success in 2017

A*- B - 53%. A*- C - 68%. A*- E - 100%.