BIOLOGY

At The Maynard School we offer Salters-Nuffield A-level Biology (SNAB) from Edexcel. The specification has been divided into eight topics. The course has been designed to show how an understanding of many contemporary issues requires a grasp of fundamental biological ideas.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The qualification builds on the knowledge, understanding and practical skills that you gained in GCSE Biology or in GCSE Combined Science. You should have at least a grade 7 in GCSE Biology (or7,7 grades in Combined Science). You should have at least a grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics, as numerical and mathematical skills are important in Biology and form 10% of the assessment, and at least a grade 7 in English Language as you will need to be able to communicate effectively. In this course you will learn to plan and carry out research and to think critically about problems.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Pursuing a career in Biology can be immensely rewarding and exciting. Studying Biology teaches us to ask questions, make observations, evaluate evidence and solve problems. Biologists learn how living things work, how they interact with one another, and how they evolve. They may study cells under a microscope, insects in a rainforest, viruses that affect human beings, plants in a greenhouse or lions in the African grasslands. Their work increases our understanding about the natural world in which we live and helps us address issues of personal well-being and worldwide concern, such as environmental depletion, threats to human health and maintaining viable and abundant food supplies. There are many career paths you can follow as a Biologist, including research, health care, environmental management and conservation, education, biotechnology and forensic science.

COURSE CONTENT

Exam Board: Edexcel

Lower 6 topics:

- Lifestyle, health and risk
- Genes and health
- Voice of the genome
- Biodiversity and natural resources
- A field course to Slapton Ley Field Studies Centre

A-level:

The A-level examination consists of three papers:

Paper 1: 2 hours

- On the wild side
- Immunity infection and forensics
- All Lower 6 Topics
- Experimental methods/core practicals

Paper 2: 2 hours

- Run for your life
- Grey matter
- All Lower 6 topics
- Experimental methods/core practicals

Paper 3: 2 hours

This is a general paper assessing topics across the A-level qualification. There are questions on a pre-release article and questions on experimental methods that will draw on students' experiences on the core practicals.

Science Practical Endorsement:

Students will also be assessed for a separate qualification known as the Practical Endorsement. It is internally assessed and externally moderated by Pearson Edexcel. Students must show practical competency by completing 18 core practicals throughout the course. Students will be given opportunities to use relevant apparatus and techniques to develop and demonstrate specific practical skills throughout the two years.