



# NOWER HILL HIGH SCHOOL



## BIOLOGY A LEVEL - OCR

### Who is the course for?

A level Biology is suitable if you:  
Have an interest in and enjoy Biology and want to find out about how things work in the biological world by application of imaginative, logical thinking.  
Want to use Biology to progress onto further studies in Higher Education, support other qualifications or enter biology-based employment  
Are taking A-Levels in the other sciences and / or mathematics or other relevant courses such as Physical Education and want to take another course that will support those studies.

### What are the entry requirements?

Students must achieve grade 6 or above in GCSE Biology and grades 5 or above in both GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics OR at least grades 8-7 in Combined Science.

Due to the difficult nature of this subject a test will be set after the first three weeks of teaching. This will be based on GCSE content, summer work and content covered in class during the first three weeks. One re-sit opportunity will also be given but if a student does not pass this test then it will not be possible to continue on this course. This test has been introduced based on clear evidence which shows that students who struggle with the initial content often fail to attain a GCE pass at E or above.

### How will I be assessed?

OCR A Specification.  
Exams 100% and a practical endorsement.

A level consists of 3 papers at the end of year 13.  
The AS qualification can be awarded at the end of year 12 following **two** exams sat at the end of the year 12 for students who choose not to continue to study Biology in Year 13.

### What will I study?

The course consists of the following main topics.  
Biological Molecules  
Cells and Microscopy  
Exchange and Transport in Plants and Animals.  
Disease and Immunity  
Biodiversity, Classification and Evolution.  
Students will be expected to demonstrate knowledge and understanding, application of content, investigative, analytical, evaluative and numerical skills throughout the course. All written exams will be in May or June.  
There is a compulsory residential field trip which is required for this course.

### How will I be taught?

There are 5 hours of lesson time per week and a further 5 hours of private study. Lessons consist of teacher explanation, practical work, student questioning and exam preparation.

Homework: 5 hours - Two pieces per week – one from each teacher. The work will include short and longer answer exam questions, Maths skills exercises, experimental write up, notetaking and reading.

### What equipment or materials do I need?

Text books to purchase will be advised prior to commencing the course.

### What can it lead to?

Biology leads on to a wide range of courses and careers. This could include:  
An undergraduate degree in life sciences, medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, environmental science, forensic science and related courses.  
Employment, for example in the areas of biological testing, biotechnology, independent research, careers within the medical field and the food industry.