

Stepney Green Sixth Form. A Level. Biology. Curriculum Statement

Intent

- Our KS5 Biology students have a high percentage progression onto STEM related subjects and we have also retained a high proportion of students to study KS5 Biology and many of our students aspire to Medicine, Biomedicine and other Biology related degrees

Implementation

- A Level Biology follows OCR A and all subject follow a well thought out and structured syllabus that builds on their knowledge.
- Each class will have two teachers (where possible), One teacher will be the majority teacher and see students for two double lessons and this teacher will take the majority of the responsibilities when it comes to tracking and monitoring students. The minority teacher will see them for one double lesson per week. The teachers of each class will offer constant support and will continuously support and communicate the progress of our students. Each teacher will follow different pathways each of which will compliment and support each other complement.
- You will be provided with a textbook and folder which must be brought to every single lesson at the beginning of the lesson and must stay organised and up to date. Textbooks and folders should also be taken home and used during independent study and textbooks are provided to students at a cost if lost or damaged.
- You should expect a 2-week induction to introduce skills and practice skills with the main focus on independent study and how you should plan your time effectively.
- We have a large focus on independent study and we expect you to follow a structured timetable for this and all assignments will be posted on MS teams. This I/S plan also takes into account spaced retrieval, so we leave longer and longer periods of time between each sub-chapter review task.
- Our teachers are incredibly passionate about Biology and regularly read and share research and interesting articles.
- Biology lessons follow a very collaborative approach and you will work together on an array of tasks whether that be discussions, debates, interpretations, exam questions or practical investigations and every person in the group must have a role and must contribute.
- Every year our students take part in the British Biology Olympiad and this is always a great competition to participate in.
- In Biology we really encourage you to study beyond the syllabus to create and develop more passion and interest by sharing articles, discussing the news, reading more books from the library.
- Reflection is really important in Biology and we have dedicated time in the year to have 1 to 1 discussions with you to discuss your progress and aspirations and how you can be better supported.
- Finally, every year Year 13 Biology students also attend a 4-5 day residential where you will practice your survey skills and put everything you have learnt into practice.

Impact

- We have a high recruitment for KS5 Biology and we have improving and stronger exam results year on year.
- Many of our students have gone on to study Medicine, Biomedicine, Biology, Environmental Conservation, Neuroscience and other Biology related degrees at Oxford University, Imperial, UCL, Kings and other Russell Group universities.