

A Brief Introduction to A level Biology at Lady Lumley's School

In order for you to be armed and ready for the Biology course you will be embarking on, we would like you to refresh your knowledge and clear up doubts before you arrive. Think about why you want to do biology and what you want to achieve in terms of grades and how it would be useful to your career path.

The transition from GCSE to A level can be a big step for some and to make this smoother and to give you the best possible start, we have prepared this transition pack for you. You are expected to read through the resources and complete all the questions. If you require more space then you can use lined paper. Many of the topics are GCSE topics which you should have already covered. You will need secure knowledge of these topics before you start the course in September. In addition to this there are several questions that require you to research a topic so that you become familiar with new vocabulary and concepts.

At the beginning of the course you will be given a test to check how well you have understood the topics. There is an intervention and support plan to help those of you who have gaps in your knowledge.

What we expect you to come with:

- A well organised lever arch A4 folder and A4 lined paper, plastic wallets
- A scientific calculator – bring to every lesson!
- Home learning when set to be submitted on or before the deadline

Key to your success will be:

- Good attendance
- Doing your best at all times – active participation in class
- The ability to be self-driven and becoming an independent learner
- Independent learning / making notes on the day's lessons and weekly reviews
- Keeping up with home learning
- Respond to feedback to enable you to make progress
- Ask if you are stuck – DON'T leave it for later!
- To use resources available – peers, books, internet, staff when needed
- To attend the drop- in sessions and support sessions after school.
- To set out work neatly – be proud of your work

Although there is no course work, the core practicals carried out in class are examined in the AS and A level examinations. Regular assessments will take place during lessons at the end of each topic and also at the end of each unit. The tests will have a synoptic component to reflect the nature of the A level exams.

Useful websites:

<http://vbio.weebly.com/aqa-unit-1-revision-pack.html>

<http://www.s-cool.co.uk/a-level/biology>

<http://www.biologymad.com/>

<http://www.biologyguide.net/about/>

<http://www.hodderplus.co.uk/myrevisionnotes/a-level-biology/AQA-AS-Biology/index.asp>

All you need to know about the course:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/as-and-a-level/biology-7401-7402/teaching-resources>

Transition revision booklet: Head Start to A Level Biology Published by CGP

Text book: AQA Biology A Level Student Book ISBN: 9780198351771