



Biology Curriculum Plan

Intent:

Year	What will students learn?	Rationale	How will students be assessed?	Real world (disciplinary knowledge / careers / local area)
7	 Cells a. animal, plant and specialised cells b. levels of organisation c. diffusion Reproduction a. Plant reproduction b. Male & female reproduction b. Male & female reproduction c. Fertilisation, implantation & development of the foetus d. Menstrual cycle Systems in the human body a. Digestive system: Digestion, 	Our key stage 3 scheme of work is based on the national curriculum for key stage 3. The aim is to provide the breath and depth required to transition students from different experiences at primary schools and to foster their enthusiasm and enjoyment for the subject. We aim to have a 'hands on' practical approach to Science. Cells are the building blocks of life. Teaching cells first enables students to have basic information on the variety of cells within the body and how cells function together to form tissues, organs and organ systems which are the later topics. The knowledge of cells allows reproduction to be taught on a cellular level with fertilisation of specialised cells (egg and sperm) and leading to the development of the foetus. The way cells form organs then organ systems, allows students to piece together prior knowledge and understand 'how the	Formative assessment within lessons through questioning, mini whiteboards quizzes etc. Recall questions at the start of each lesson Summative assessment is one test for every two topics: • Cells & reproduction (autumn/spring term dependent upon order of class teaching) • Systems of the body & healthy lifestyles (spring/summer dependent upon order of class teaching)	Develop general practical skills including use of general laboratory equipment (e.g. glassware) and a specific focus on how to measure volumes precisely using measuring cylinders of correct size and or/pipettes.to measure set volume. Develop specific skills on how to use a microscope, varying the magnification and learning how to focus cells on microscope slides. Learning how to prepare microscope slides using thin specimens so light passes through and using mounted needles to minimise air bubbles.





	enzymes & food tests b. Respiratory system: Gas exchange & breathing c. Circulatory system: Heart structure & function d. Skeletal system:	body works' in greater detail. This includes how the stomach and pancreas help breakdown the food we eat, how the lungs aid breathing, how the heart pumps blood, how the muscles allow movement. The knowledge and understanding of these systems allow students to gain an understanding of the influence of what lifestyle choices can be made about the food they eat, exercise they do and how these can		
	 b. Respiratory system: Gas exchange & breathing c. Circulatory system: Heart structure & function 	breakdown the food we eat, how the lungs aid breathing, how the heart pumps blood, how the muscles allow movement. The knowledge and understanding of these systems allow students to gain an understanding of the influence of what lifestyle choices can be made about the food they eat, exercise they do and how these can		
	system: Gas exchange & breathing c. Circulatory system: Heart structure & function	aid breathing, how the heart pumps blood, how the muscles allow movement. The knowledge and understanding of these systems allow students to gain an understanding of the influence of what lifestyle choices can be made about the food they eat, exercise they do and how these can		
	exchange & breathing c. Circulatory system: Heart structure & function	how the muscles allow movement. The knowledge and understanding of these systems allow students to gain an understanding of the influence of what lifestyle choices can be made about the food they eat, exercise they do and how these can		
	breathing c. Circulatory system: Heart structure & function	The knowledge and understanding of these systems allow students to gain an understanding of the influence of what lifestyle choices can be made about the food they eat, exercise they do and how these can		
	c. Circulatory system: Heart structure & function	systems allow students to gain an understanding of the influence of what lifestyle choices can be made about the food they eat, exercise they do and how these can		
	system: Heart structure & function	understanding of the influence of what lifestyle choices can be made about the food they eat, exercise they do and how these can		
	structure & function	lifestyle choices can be made about the food they eat, exercise they do and how these can		
	function	they eat, exercise they do and how these can		
	d Skeletal system:	have a magative and magitive immagt of their		
		have a negative and positive impact of their		
1	Movement &	lifestyle.		
	joints	Within the scheme of work, practical activities		
	4. Healthy lifestyles	are built in to support theory and develop		
	a. Balanced diet	students' problem solving and analytical skills.		
	b. Smoking &			
	alcohol			
8	1. Staying alive	Year 8 course continues from year 7 with new	Formative assessment within	Continue to develop
	a. Aerobic		lessons through questioning,	•
	respiration			including use of general
	b. Anaerobic			laboratory equipment (e.g.
	respiration		Recall guestions at the start	
	•		-	
	, 2. Variation			Formulate hypothesis /
	a. Types of variation	_	Summative assessment is one	predictions before carrying
	b. Structure of DNA			
			· · ·	•
	c. Natural selection	, , ,		,
8	 Staying alive Aerobic respiration Anaerobic respiration Immune system Variation Types of variation Structure of DNA & genes 	Year 8 course continues from year 7 with new content being taught to enabling us to cover topic areas giving a basic understanding required before moving onto GCSEs. Respiration is covered in year 8 along with photosynthesis giving students a biochemical overview of these reactions. These are taught in year 8 as the concepts are complicated and needs to build on fundamental principles of cells and systems covered in year 7.	lessons through questioning, mini whiteboards quizzes etc. Recall questions at the start of each lesson	glassware). Formulate hypothesis /





d. Selective breeding	Variation introduces the idea of DNA and its	Photosynthesis &	Skills to plot a graph are
e. Genetic	importance and the final ecosystems topic	relationships in	further developed and
engineering	allows students to gain an overview of the	ecosystems	guidance is given to focus
3. Photosynthesis	environmental impact on organisms.		on different aspects of
a. Classification of			graph drawing e.g. focus on
plants			joining points as a line of
b. Photosynthesis			best fit not just dot-to-dot.
reaction			
c. Transpiration			Risk assessments
d. Maximising plant			considered looking at what
growth			safety precautions need to
4. Relationships in			be taken for practicals in
ecosystems			general (e.g. goggles) and
a. Sampling			specific safety precautions
b. Food chains,			(e.g. using bacteria).
webs, pyramids			
c. Bioaccumulation			Microbiology using agar
d. Competition			plates – learning how grow
			bacteria safely and use
			aseptic techniques.
			Using lamps to vary light
			intensity in photosynthesis.
			Graph skills again
			developed, with particular
			focus on independent and
			dependent variables and
			which is placed on the x





				and y axis along with calculation and plotting of mean values. Learning how to use quadrats to sample
				populations effectively within the grounds of Notre
				Dame. Fieldwork safety is considered and the use of
				keys to identify plants and invertebrates is
				undertaken.
				Discontinuous & continuous variation is explained with examples and is plotted on a graph further developing graph skills.
9 Combined	 Cell Biology Organisation 	The GCSE order of topics is based upon the specification. The textbook used to support	Formative assessment within lessons through questioning,	Continue to develop general practical skills
science – Trilogy	 Infection & response (part topic) 	learning is endorsed by the exam board and written by curriculum experts. This aids	mini whiteboards quizzes etc.	including use of general laboratory equipment (e.g.
	(student independent learning as they can	Recall questions at the start	glassware).
		access the textbook online using the Kerboodle platform.	of each lesson Mid topic multiple choice quiz	Further develop specific skills on how to use a





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	The lessons begin with the cells topic, building		microscope in a required
	from key stage 3 and moving on from basic	Summative assessment is one	practical. Identifying parts
	cell structure and function to more complex	test for each topic following	of cell, varying the
	cellular interactions.	the same structure as a GCSE	magnification and learning
	Organisation of systems allows a greater	exam paper	how to focus cells on
	depth of knowledge and understanding of		microscope slides.
	how the body works with a greater emphasis		Further development of
	on practical work including dissections of		skills to prepare microscope
	heart and lungs.		slides using thin specimens
	The first part disease covers the different		so light passes through and
	disease including bacterial and viruses as		using mounted needles to
	pathogens.		minimise air bubbles.
	Required practicals are done within the		Osmosis required practical
	context of the theory lessons and this		provides the opportunity to
	supports students learning, putting theory		plot a more complex graph
	into practice and continuing to develop		with positive and negative
	practical and analytical skills.		scales along with
	, ,		developing practical skills of
			measuring volumes of
			solutions.
			Use of pestle and mortars
			to prepare food samples for
			testing for a required
			practical.
			producui.





10	2	Infection & response	The later part of disease covers the way the	Formative assessment within	Photosynthesis required
Combined	5.	(topic continued)	body defends against disease including white	lessons through questioning,	practical builds on earlier
science –	4.	Bioenergetics	blood cells, antibodies, vaccinations. The final	mini whiteboards quizzes etc.	skills of following written
Trilogy		Homeostasis (part topic)	part covers drug discovery and finishes with		practical instructions and
THOgy	5.			Decall questions at the start	
			non-communicable diseases from lifestyle	Recall questions at the start	results analysis with graph
			choices e.g., drug and alcohol misuse, linking	of each lesson	plotting.
			back to key stage 3.		
				Mid topic multiple choice	Assess safety
			Biogenetics covers photosynthesis, aerobic	quiz	considerations when
			and anaerobic respiration which they have		testing leaves for starch.
			the basic knowledge from key stage 3. It then	Summative assessment is one	
			moves onto homeostasis and the nervous	test for each topic following	Reaction time practical
			system, allowing students to understand the	the same structure as a GCSE	provides opportunity for
			principles of how systems work together to	exam paper	students to use a
			allow us to respond to the environment. This		standardised conversion
			also contributes to students gaining a greater	Mock exam – paper 1 during	table for what they
			depth of how the body works.	summer term	measure during the
					practical (cm) to a value of
			The start of biological responses and genetics		time (seconds) that can be
			will follow the homeostasis topic of blood		plotted.
			glucose and diabetes and then link back to		
			key stage 3 for the menstrual cycle and		
			extend the knowledge to controlling fertility		
			by use of hormones.		
			Dequired presticals are done within the		
			Required practicals are done within the		
			context of the theory lessons and this		
			supports students learning, putting theory		





		into practice and continuing to develop practical and analytical skills.		
11 Combined science – Trilogy	 5. Homeostasis (topic continued) 6. Inheritance, variation & evolution 7. Ecology 	The later section of biological responses and genetics focuses on inheritance including meiosis and DNA inherited disorders. The knowledge of DNA allows students to apply this to mutations and the realisation this can be beneficial and help evolution occur in the variation and evolution section. The topic continues with how organisms interact within an environment, with an emphasis on ecology.	Formative assessment within lessons through questioning, mini whiteboards quizzes etc. Recall questions at the start of each lesson Mid topic multiple choice quiz	Distribution required practical continues learning how to use quadrats to sample populations.
		Required practicals are done within the context of the theory lessons and this supports students learning, putting theory into practice and continuing to develop practical and analytical skills. Required practical 9 is done in September of Y11 to ensure students are able to go outside to gain the relevant skills for sampling.	Summative assessment is one test for each topic following the same structure as a GCSE exam paper Mock exam autumn term 2 – paper 1 Mock exam before Easter in class – paper 2	
9 Triple science - Biology	 Cell Biology Organisation Infection & response 	The GCSE order of topics is based upon the order set out in the textbook. The textbook is endorsed by the exam board and written by curriculum experts. This aids student independent learning as they can access the textbook online, following the correct sequence.	Formative assessment within lessons through questioning, mini whiteboards quizzes etc. Recall questions at the start of each lesson	Continue to develop general practical skills including use of general laboratory equipment (e.g. glassware).





	Mid topic multiple choice	Further develop specific
The lessons begin with the cells topic, building	quiz	skills on how to use a
from key stage 3 and moving on from basic	Summative assessment is one	microscope in a required
cell structure and function to more complex	test for each topic following	practical. Identifying parts
cellular interactions.	the same structure as a GCSE	of cell, varying the
Organisation of systems allows a greater	exam paper	magnification and learning
depth of knowledge and understanding of		how to focus cells on
how the body works with a greater emphasis		microscope slides.
on practical work including dissections of		Further development of
heart and lungs.		skills to prepare microscope
		slides using thin specimens
In the disease topic, different diseases,		so light passes through and
including bacterial and viruses as pathogens		using mounted needles to
are studied. The way the body defends		minimise air bubbles.
against disease including white blood cells,		
antibodies, vaccinations is covered along with		Use of agar plates to grow
drug discovery focusing on clinical trials and		bacteria further refined
the discovery of antibiotics. The topic finishes		with students using aseptic
with non-communicable diseases from		techniques to grow bacteria
lifestyle choices e.g., drug and alcohol misuse,		and investigating the effect
linking back to key stage 3.		of antibiotics.
Required practicals are done within the		Osmosis required practical
context of the theory lessons and this		provides the opportunity to
supports students learning, putting theory		plot a more complex graph
into practice and continuing to develop		with positive and negative
practical and analytical skills.		scales along with
		developing practical skills of
		0





				measuring volumes of
				solutions.
10 Triple science - Biology	 Bioenergetics Homeostasis Inheritance, variation & evolution 	Biogenetics covers photosynthesis, aerobic and anaerobic respiration which they have the basic knowledge from key stage 3. It then moves onto homeostasis and the nervous system, allowing students to understand the principles of how systems work together to	Formative assessment within lessons through questioning, mini whiteboards quizzes etc. Recall questions at the start of each lesson	Use of pestle and mortars to prepare food samples for testing for a required practical. Photosynthesis required practical builds on earlier skills of following written practical instructions and results analysis with graph plotting.
		 allow us to respond to the environment. New concepts are studied including the brain and the eye. This also contributes to students gaining a greater depth of how the body works. Biological responses follow the homeostasis topic of blood glucose and diabetes and then link back to key stage 3 for the menstrual cycle and extend the knowledge to controlling fertility by use of hormones. Other homeostatic mechanism is also studied such as control of body temperature and the 	Mid topic multiple choice quiz Summative assessment is one test for each topic following the same structure as a GCSE exam paper Mock exam – paper 1 during summer term	Assess safety considerations when testing leaves for starch. Reaction time practical provides opportunity for students to use a standardised conversion table for what they measure during the practical (cm) to a value of time (seconds) that can be
		kidney's role in maintaining water content of the blood. The kidney is studied in more		plotted.





		detail, focusing on transplants and dialysis. The topic also acknowledges that plants have mechanisms to control growth and how this can be used commercially.		Growing seedlings practical investigates the effect of light on germination of seeds.
		Genetics focuses on inheritance including meiosis and DNA inherited disorders. The knowledge of DNA allows students to apply this to protein synthesis and mutations and the realisation this can be beneficial to help evolution. This is extended to understand how mutations can affect human development. More in depth concepts of genetic engineering and cloning are also studied.		
		Required practicals are done within the context of the theory lessons and this supports students learning, putting theory into practice and continuing to develop practical and analytical skills.		
11 Triple science – Biology	7. Ecology	The evolution topic builds on Darwin's ideas of natural selection and links with ideas of mutations from the precious topic. Knowledge and understanding are extended to cover how organisms interact within an environment, with an emphasis on ecology.	Formative assessment within lessons through questioning, mini whiteboards quizzes etc. Recall questions at the start of each lesson	Distribution required practical continues learning how to use quadrats to sample populations. Decay required practical improves identification techniques looking at a





		Required practicals are done within the	Mid topic multiple choice	colour change as an end
		context of the theory lessons and this	quiz	point to a reaction. These
		supports students learning, putting theory		data are plotted on line
		into practice and continuing to develop	Summative assessment is one	graph and the effect of
		practical and analytical skills.	test for each topic following	temperature n enzymes can
			the same structure as a GCSE	be concluded.
		Required practical 9 is done in September of	exam paper	
		Y11 to ensure students are able to go outside		
		to gain the relevant skills for sampling.	Mock exam autumn term 2 –	
			paper 1	
			Mock exam before Easter in	
			class – paper 2	
12	Section 1: Biological	The A level biology course and order of topics	Formative assessment within	The development of
	molecules	is based upon the order set out in the	lessons through questioning,	practical skills starts with
	1. Biological molecules	textbook. The textbook is endorsed by the	mini whiteboards quizzes etc.	the food test practical and
	2. Nucleic acids	exam board and written by curriculum		allows the identification of
		experts. This aids student independent	Recall questions at the start	food groups in an unknown
	Section 2: Cells	learning as they can access the textbook	of each lesson	sample allowing students to
	3. Cell structure	online, following the correct sequence.		develop analytical skills.
	4. Transport across cell		Exam questions within	
	membranes	A Level biology starts with a biochemistry unit	lessons	Different CPAC criteria are
	5. Cell recognition &	that sets off the fundamentals of biological		assessed throughout the
	immune system	molecules such as carbohydrates, proteins	Homework booklets using	required practicals
		and lipids. The interaction of these molecules	past exam questions (teacher	including use of syringes to
	Section 3: Organisms	forms the basis of many reactions and	marked)	measure volumes precisely,
	exchange substances with	processes within the body. DNA is also		calculations of dilutions of
	their environment	studied in more detail than GCSE, looking at		solutions using





6. Exchange	how the molecule has its specific alpha helix	Test yourself past exam	mathematical skills to
7. Mass transport	structure and how this helps in its role of	questions (pupil marked)	calculate volumes,
	providing the code for genes.		dissection skills improving
Section 4: Genetic	The second section covers cells and builds	Required practical write up	identification skills and
information, variation and	upon existing knowledge of different types of	(teacher marked)	motor skills to cut organs
relationships between	cell but then delves deeper into the		open in a specific way, use
organisms	ultrastructure of cells and organelles, and	Summative assessment is one	of specific equipment such
8. DNA, genes & protein	how these can be seen with different types of	test for each topic	as cork borers, centrifuge &
synthesis	microscopes. It naturally progresses into how		colorimeters, use of aseptic
9. Genetic diversity	molecules can move into cells and then how	Mock exam summer term -	techniques and using liquid
10. Biodiversity	the specific cells of the immune system	paper 1	bacterial cultures to
	interact giving us immunity to certain		investigate the effect of
	pathogens.		antibiotics on bacterial
			growth.
	Section 3 begins to see the body as a whole		
	rather than on a cellular and molecular level		Mathematical skills are
	and looks at how substances travel around		further developed in
	the body or plant. Some of these systems		various ways including
	include circulatory, respiratory in mammals		graph drawing, results table
	and movement of water and minerals and		creation, use of standard
	sugars in plants.		form, interpretation of data
			presented in tables and
	The final section builds on the basic structure		charts and use of given
	of DNA and how the genetic code allows		formulas to calculate
	proteins to be produced. Mutations are		values, areas and ratios.
	introduced and this is linked with diversity		
	and variation within organisms and the		
	environment.		





		Required practicals are done within the context of the theory lessons and this supports students learning, putting theory into practice and continuing to develop practical and analytical skills. These practicals also cover mathematical skills. There are 6 required practicals in the year 12 course which are assessed using CPAC criteria set by the exam board. If the field course is attended in July, the section on ecosystems (see below for details)		
		is studied before attending.		
13	Section 5: Energy transfer in and between organisms 11. Photosynthesis 12. Respiration 13. Energy & ecosystems	Key life processes of photosynthesis and respiration are studied on a biochemical level, looking at the different reactions that occur to give one overall reversible reaction. Once the energy is released, there are many energy losses and these affect ecosystems so this is	Formative assessment within lessons through questioning, mini whiteboards quizzes etc. Recall questions at the start of each lesson	Fieldwork skills is developed in detail over the course of the fieldtrip where students plan and carry out a required practical in ecology and
	Section 6: Organisms respond to change in their environment 14. Response to stimuli	studied to explain where energy losses occur. Seeing the body as a whole is further continued by the teaching of the nervous	Exam questions within lessons	analyse data. Mathematical skills from year 12 are added to by use
	15. Nervous coordination and muscles16. Homeostasis	system. How we respond to our environment, transmit nerve impulses and cause a response is key to how we survive. Homeostasis of blood glucose and osmoregulation is also studied and the problems that can occur	Homework booklets using past exam questions (teacher marked)	and interpretation of 3 different statistical tests to analyse data.





Section 7: Genetics,	when the body cannot maintain a	Test yourself past exam	Practical skills are broader
populations evolution and	homeostatic mechanism is covered within the	questions (pupil marked)	and still focus of CPAC that
ecosystems	context of diabetes.		students need. These
17. Inherited change	To inherit characteristics links with the	Required practical write up	involve use of quadrats and
18. Population &	genetic code and protein synthesis studied at	(teacher marked)	randomisation of
evolution	year 12. The probability of inheriting certain		placement when sampling
19. Population &	characteristics is studied in detail moving on	Summative assessment is one	and a systematic approach
ecosystems	from a simple monohybrid cross studied at	test for each topic	using a transect, handling
	GCSE to more complex dihybrid crosses and		organisms ethically, use of
Section 8: Control of gene	the influence of codominant genes.	Synoptic essays	chromatography and
expression			calculation of Rf values, use
20. Gene expression	The studying of populations in their	Mock exam 1, February -	of indictors and redox
21. Recombinant DNA	environment linking to survival and evolution	paper 1	reagents to identify
technology	is a fundamental part of Biology. Darwin's		electron transport and
	theory of natural section is still the basis for	Mock exam 2, April – paper 2	plotting and using a
	evolution, but more recent research into DNA		calibration curve.
	and gene expression shows there was some	Mock exam 3, paper 3; in	
	science in Lamarck's theory which was	class when content finished	
	disregarded for many years.		
	The advances in DNA technology have led to		
	sophisticated medical testing and diagnosis,		
	paternity tests and forensic science research		
	to name a few. The previously little known		
	'PCR' test process is studied in detail and how		
	it has become a useful tool in medical		
	diagnosis.		





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