TITLE

BIOLOGY (A LEVEL)

BOARD

AQA

INTRODUCTION

The course is a mixture of traditional topics such as cell biology and biochemistry, and recent topics such as genetic engineering and other DNA technologies.

COURSE STRUCTURE The first year course consists of four modules:

- 1. Biological molecules
- 2. Cells
- 3. Organisms exchange substances with their environment
- 4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

The second year course consists of four further modules:

- 1. Energy transfers in and between organisms
- Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments.
- 3. Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
- 4. The control of gene expression.

ASSESSMENT

The A level is assessed by three written papers taken at the end of Upper Sixth. A separate endorsement of practical skills will be taken alongside the A level.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Biology or Trilogy Science GCSE is required for this course. Modern Biology consists mainly of biochemical topics and, being a quantitative science, confidence with <u>Maths</u> and <u>Chemistry</u> is essential. 10% of the marks in assessment will require the use of mathematical skills, including some A level statistical tests.

PROGRESSION

This course is suitable as an end in itself. However, it is an excellent foundation for Higher Education courses in Biological Sciences, Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing and Veterinary Science.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

In order to study A level Biology you will need to have at least grade 6 in GCSE Biology or GCSE Trilogy Science 6-6.

It is recommended that you have at least a grade 6 in GCSE Maths and GCSE Chemistry.

If you have any questions regarding A level Biology course, please see Mrs Hunter.