



St George's School
Aim Higher

Sixth Form Options

Biology

A Level Course - AQA



Mrs M Evans
*Director of learning
– science
BSc (Hons) Biology*



Mrs Dodds
*Subject Specialist -
Biology
BSc (Hons)
Applied Biology -*



Dr P Hess
*Ph D in Biomedical
sciences*



Mrs Wadhams
*BSc (Hons)
Sport and
Exercise Science*



Mrs Morrison
*BSc (Hons)
Human Biology*



Mrs Sandhu
*Senior Science
Technician
BSc (Hons)
Applied
Biochemistry*

Why choose Biology?

I am fascinated by how the living world works

It will help me with my future career plans

I am interested in how biology helps solve problems

I enjoy it

It will keep my Post 18 options open

I am excited by new areas of research

It will give me transferable skills

Why choose Biology at St George's School

A level Biology - Team



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Sport and
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Mrs Morrison
*BSc (Hons)
Human Biology*



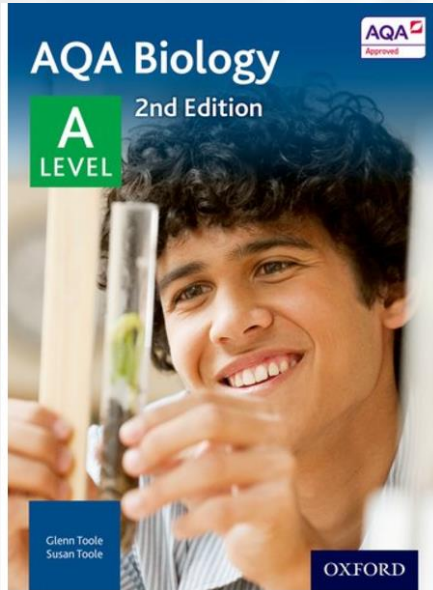
Mrs Sandhu
*Senior Science
Technician
BSc (Hons)
Applied
Biochemistry*

Experienced and enthusiastic team of teachers and technicians.

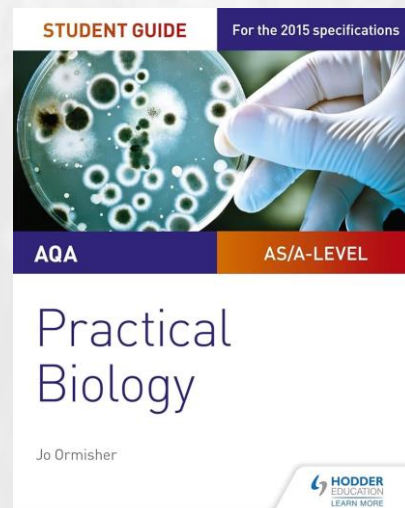
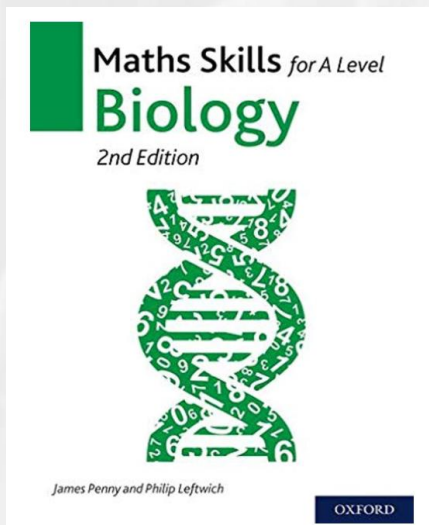
Students are supported in and outside of the classroom

Students consistently achieve excellent results

The Course



- ❖ We follow the **AQA** Biology course
- ❖ No coursework or practical exam
- ❖ 12 Mandatory practical activities completed
- ❖ A minimum of 10% maths



Entry requirements

6-6 in trilogy (combined)
Science?

OR

666 in Separate
Science?

YES

YES

6 in Mathematics?

YES

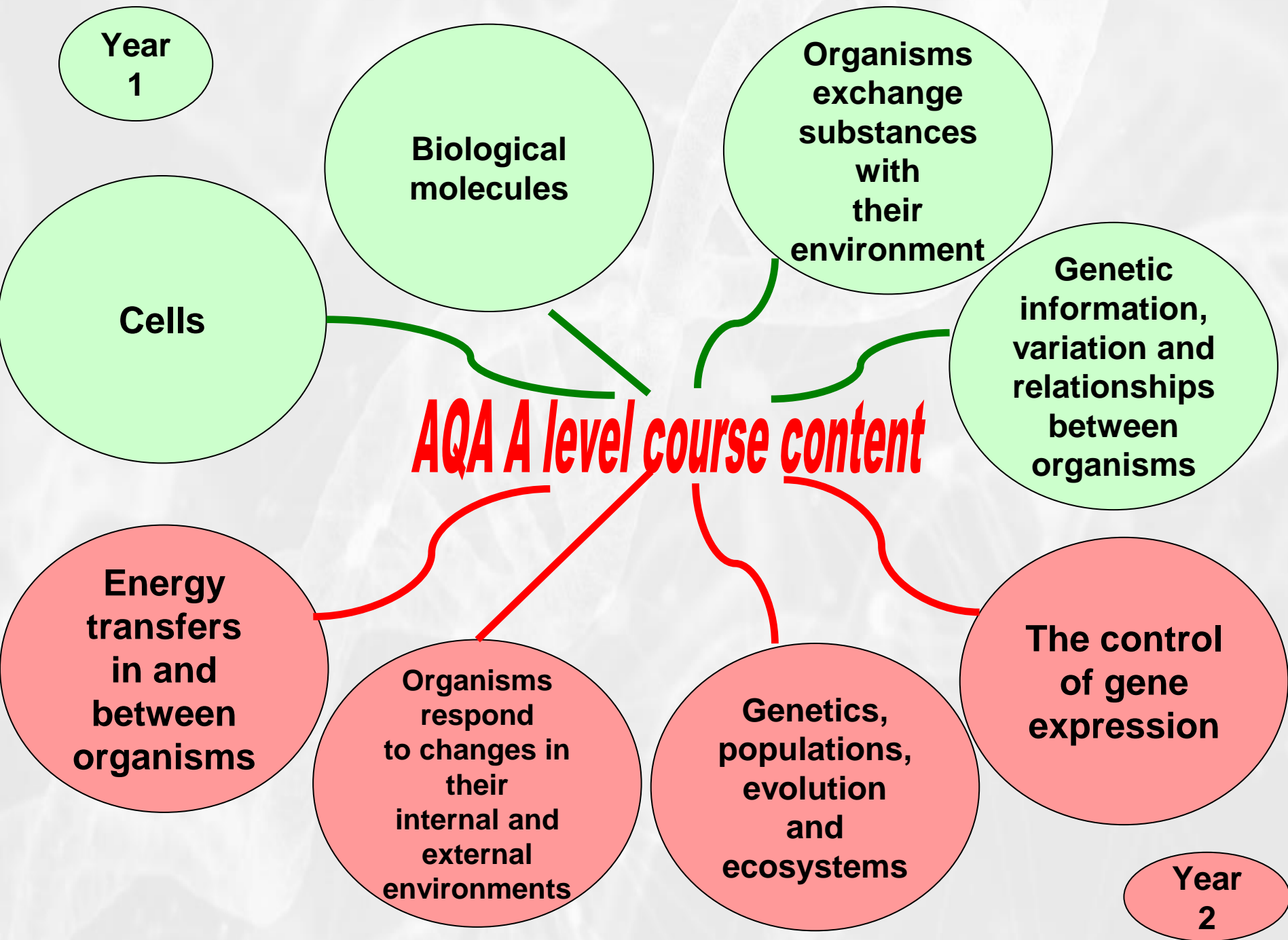
Taking either **Chemistry, Physics, Maths, Geography, Design & Technology, Psychology or PE** at A level?

YES

***Then you can do A level
Biology!***

Assessment

- ❖ Paper 1 - year 1 topics
- ❖ Paper 2 - year 2 topics
- ❖ Paper 3 - all topics and a 25 mark synoptic essay
- ❖ All 3 include questions on the mandatory practical activities



Practical skills



❖ 12 mandatory practicals (6 in each year)

❖ Assessed by teachers for your **PRACTICAL ENDORSEMENT**

❖ Does not go towards you're A level grade but understanding tested in your final exam



12 MANDATORY PRACTICAL ACTIVITIES

1. Investigation into the effect of a named variable on the rate of an enzyme-controlled reaction

2. Preparation of stained squashes of cells from plant root tips

3. Production of a dilution series of a solute to produce a calibration

4. Investigation into the effect of a named variable on the permeability of cell-surface membranes

5. Dissection of animal or plant gas exchange or mass transport system or of organ within such a system

6. Use of aseptic techniques to investigate the effect of antimicrobial substances on microbial growth

7. Use of chromatography to investigate the pigments isolated from leaves of different plants,

8. Investigation into the effect of a named factor on the rate of dehydrogenase activity in extracts of chloroplasts

9. Investigation into the effect of a named variable on the rate of respiration of cultures of single-celled organisms

10. Investigation into the effect of an environmental variable on the movement of an animal using either a choice chamber or a maze

11. Production of a dilution series of a glucose solution and use of colorimetric techniques to produce a calibration curve with which to identify the concentration of glucose in an unknown 'urine' sample

12. Investigation into the effect of a named environmental factor on the distribution of a given species

Science is also a practical subject.

You need think like a scientist!

Workload

- ❖ 4 lessons per week — each will set about 1 hour of homework
- ❖ Independent study — an additional 1-2 hours work per week, set in advance and self-marked
- ❖ Between 2-3 hours of additional reading, revision and question practice per week

Chapter 3 Cell Structure Independent Learning Record Sheet

Compulsory work	Tick when completed
Print out Keyboole objective sheet and put in folder	
Keyword - Fill in the blank sheet	
3.1 - Summary questions	
3.2 - Summary questions	
3.3 - Summary questions	
3.4 - Summary questions	
3.5 - Summary questions	
3.6 - Summary questions - Recognising the stages of mitosis	Score /24
3.7 - Application questions	
3.8 - Summary questions	
Chapter 3 Practice questions	
Optional Extension Tasks	
3.7 - Extension questions - The importance of cancer	
3.8 - Extension questions - Treating cancer	
List other additional independent work you have carried out e.g. Constructing mind maps/past paper questions/wider reading	

Completed by the end of the topic and MUST be filed into your folder to be viewed by your teacher when your folder is checked



A level Biology Results 2024

% number of students				
Grade	A*	A*/A	A*-B	A*-E
2024	20	47	75	100
2023	18	36	55	100
2022	21	55	71	100
2019	17	33	53	100

Grade	2024 No. of students
A*	10
A	14
B	14
C	3
D	8
E	2

% number of students					
2024	A*	A*/A	A*/B	A*-C	A*-E
St George's School	20	47	75	100	20
Similar Centres	9	26	48	96	9
All AQA centres	9	28	50	96	9

A level Class of 2024

Biomedical Engineering
Biological Sciences
Osteopathy
Sport Foundation Year
Midwifery: Registered Midwife
Physiotherapy
Medicine with a Gateway Year
Medicine
Medicine and Surgery
Pharmacy

Dentistry
Cancer Biomedicine
Biology
Animal Science
Veterinary Medicine
Animal Behaviour and Conservation
Biological Sciences (Biotechnology with Enterprise)
Liberal Arts and Sciences
Forensic Science and Criminology

25 of our Year 13 leavers have gone on to study a biology related degree.

(5 medicine and 4 other medical/healthcare related courses)

A level Class of 2024

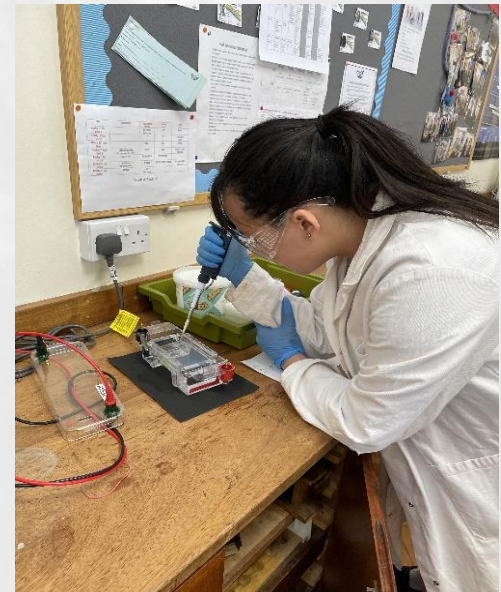
25 of our Class of 2024 have gone on to study a biology related degree, 16 of them at Russell Group University

King's College London
University of East Anglia
Swansea University
Northumbria University
University of Surrey
The University of Edinburgh
University of Liverpool
University of Birmingham
University of Leicester
University College London
University of Oxford

University of Nottingham
University of Cambridge
University of Leeds
University of Bristol
University of Birmingham
University of Manchester
Lancaster University
Queen Mary University of London
University of Bedfordshire
Manchester Metropolitan University
University of Dundee

What else do we offer?

- Full day visit to Amersham Field Studies centre
- Opportunity to enter the Biology Olympiad in year 12 and year 13.
- Amgen Biotech Experience
- Half day visit to the Rothamsted Institute



Student perspective



Final words from the class of 2025

“I have gained independent learning skills”



“Biology has overlaps with A-level Chemistry and maths which makes my subject easier”

“Content heavy – challenging to remember and understand”

“Biology has really helped me develop my scientific thinking”

“What have I learnt or gained – perseverance, resilience, lifelong friends ”

“I have gained such an in depth understanding and appreciation of the natural world around me”