OCR Biology
Level 3: AS / A2

PROGRAMME AIM: Biology aims to give students a thorough grounding in the essential concepts of Biology, and basic Biochemistry. This will give students the option to go on study associated disciplines at university or to go into industry. It is also intended to instil in students a love of the subject for itself and not just to see Biology as a stepping stone to another course.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS / SUITABILITY:
GCSE Science Core and Additional or GCSE Biology Grade 6 or above. Mathematics Grade 6. Students need excellent communication skills both verbally and written, an inquisitive mind and good mathematical skills. The course suits those with a passion for investigation, learning and exploring different phenomena in the fields of Biology. Students will be expected to work independently, with and without supervision.

CONTENT:

Module 1: Development of Practical Skills in Biology

Module 2: Foundations in Biology

Module 3: Exchange and Transport

Module 4: Biodiversity, evolution and disease

Module 5: Communication, homeostasis and energy

Module 6: Genetics evolution and ecosystems

LEADS TO:

Biology is a fascinating subject, and the course content gives a good grounding for students wishing to study any Biological Science further. Biology is valuable for Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine, Human Medicine and Physiotherapy.

ASSESSED / EXAMINED:

Two AS examinations: Breadth in Biology, Depth in Biology. These examinations comprise questions covering all of the AS Biology course, including practical skills.

Three A2 examinations: Paper 1: Biological Processes; Paper 2: Biological Diversity, and Paper 3: Unified Biology. These examinations comprise questions covering all of the A2 Biology course, including practical skills.

There is also the *Practical Skills Endorsement*, for which students carry out and evaluate experimental investigations throughout the AS and A2 course. Although this work does not contribute to the final A Level grade, it is a requirement of the course.