

## **Why study Biology?**

Biology has always been seen as the most accessible of the three sciences and we believe that this should be considered its greatest strength. The science you study in biology has very tangible, real-world applications that affect us now and are at the forefront of some of the most exciting discoveries and technologies currently happening. Understanding and potentially manipulating gene expression, studying our impact on ecosystems and how our own body reacts to different stimuli all offer incredibly useful insights into our world.

Those who study Biology at university open up a wide range of career options, which include the pharmaceutical industry, research, medicine, sports-science and teaching to name a few. Furthermore, the analytical and problem solving skills you develop studying any science degree will open up many more doors, for example into consulting or marketing.

## **What will you study in Biology?**

We have chosen to follow AQA. This is because it is context-free. A context free approach means we can tailor our approach to our students, some of whom may benefit from learning through applications of biology and others who may prefer the straight theory.

All students will study the full A level but be entered for the AS level exams at the end of the first year . This will give universities a genuine and useful indicator of progress rather than relying on GCSE results, which do not reflect differences between top students.

## **Why study Biology at Hackney New Sixth Form?**

There are three reasons why you should study biology at HNSF.

- Specialist teachers and technicians - There is a shortage of specialist teachers in STEM subjects in the whole country, and London is no different. At HNSF you will be taught subjects by teachers who actually studied them. Our support staff is no different - our technician studied chemistry at Imperial College.
- New facilities and equipment - Our school was completed in September 2015. This means that all the science labs (and practical equipment) are brand new. With the focus on required practicals in the new specifications, we have invested tens of thousands of pounds over the last few years to ensure our

labs are well stocked, with everything from data loggers to infra-red cameras. Come for a visit at the open evening and see some of it for yourself.

- A focus on study skills - Universities have been very vocal over the last few years about how ill prepared they feel new students have been for degree-level study. At HNSF you will be taught study skills to help you prepare for university, both in lessons and the way you do homework but also in dedicated slots. We do more than just teach you the content, aware that the two years between GCSE and University is our chance to make sure that bright students are ready for further study.

## What are the entry requirements for studying Biology at Hackney New Sixth Form?

### Entry requirements

[A/A\\* in Biology or AA-A\\*A\\* in Core and Additional Science. B+ in Mathematics](#)

### How will I be assessed?

All courses are now linear. This means you will be assessed by exams at the end of the year. See below for detail of breakdown. There will be no coursework. Instead, there will be 12 required practicals for students to develop skills necessary for those wishing to study biology at university. These skills and knowledge of these practicals will be tested in exam paper 3 (along with a longer written essay-style question).

### Assessments

Paper 1	+	Paper 2	+	Paper 3
<b>What's assessed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any content from topics 1– 4, including relevant practical skills</li> </ul>		<b>What's assessed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any content from topics 5–8, including relevant practical skills</li> </ul>		<b>What's assessed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any content from topics 1–8, including relevant practical skills</li> </ul>
<b>Assessed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>written exam: 2 hours</li> <li>91 marks</li> <li>35% of A-level</li> </ul>		<b>Assessed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>written exam: 2 hours</li> <li>91 marks</li> <li>35% of A-level</li> </ul>		<b>Assessed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>written exam: 2 hours</li> <li>78 marks</li> <li>30% of A-level</li> </ul>
<b>Questions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>76 marks: a mixture of short and long answer questions</li> <li>15 marks: extended response questions</li> </ul>		<b>Questions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>76 marks: a mixture of short and long answer questions</li> <li>15 marks: comprehension question</li> </ul>		<b>Questions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>38 marks: structured questions, including practical techniques</li> <li>15 marks: critical analysis of given experimental data</li> <li>25 marks: one essay from a choice of two titles</li> </ul>

