**Welcome to A-level Biology transition.**

Please read this document first before you begin any of the tasks. This is an outline of the course we offer at KNGS

Entry requirements

Our usual entry requirements for the course are a grade 7 in separates biology or combined science and a grade 6 in maths.

Exam board

The course is **OCR Biology A**

Over the course of 2 years you will study 6 modules as outlined below.

**Module 1- Development of practical skills in biology**

**Module 2 – Foundations in biology**

2.1.1 Cell structure 2.1.2 Biological molecules 2.1.3 Nucleotides and nucleic acids 2.1.4 Enzymes 2.1.5 Biological membranes 2.1.6 Cell division, cell diversity and cellular organisation

**Module 3 – Exchange and transport** 3.1.1 Exchange surfaces 3.1.2 Transport in animals 3.1.3 Transport in plants

**Module 4 – Biodiversity, evolution and disease** 4.1.1 Communicable diseases, disease prevention and the immune system 4.2.1 Biodiversity 4.2.2 Classification and evolution

**Module 5 – Communication, homeostasis and energy** 5.1.1 Communication and homeostasis 5.1.2 Excretion as an example of homeostatic control 5.1.3 Neuronal communication 5.1.4 Hormonal communication 5.1.5 Plant and animal responses 5.2.1 Photosynthesis 5.2.2 Respiration

**Module 6 – Genetics, evolution and ecosystems** 6.1.1 Cellular control 6.1.2 Patterns of inheritance 6.1.3 Manipulating genomes 6.2.1 Cloning and biotechnology 6.3.1 Ecosystems 6.3.2 Populations and sustainability

Assessment

Throughout the course you will be assessed regularly, including weekly knowledge tests and longer end of topic tests. Within the first few weeks of studying A-level biology you will be assessed on your transition work and an assessment of the course so far. The final exams at the end of Y13 are structured as outlined below.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Title**  | **Modules assessed** | **Duration of exam** | **Number of marks available** | **Proportion of A-level** |
| **Biological processes** | 1,2,3,5 | 2 hour 15 minutes written paper | 100 | 37 % |
| **Biological diversity** | 1,2,4,6 | 2 hour 15 minutes written paper | 100 | 37 % |
| **Unified Biology**  | 1,2,3,4,5,6 | 1 hour 30 minutes written paper | 70 | 26 % |
| **Practical endorsement** | Non exam assessment  |   |   |   |

The practical endorsement is awarded following the students keeping a log book documenting the practical experiments completed during the course.

Expectations during the course

Attend all lessons (catch up when ill) on time and fully equipped with all notes and homework. (You may be turned away from lessons if you have not completed tasks required for the lesson)

If you have any problems with work or deadlines that you see your teachers before the next lesson Learn knowledge facts and attain pass rate in weekly knowledge tests (80% pass)

Attend subject clinic when asked or placed on success plan

Hard work, effort and determination put into every lesson and your independent work!

Reflect/respond to any feedback given

Teaching

You will have two specialist biology teachers, each is timetabled to teach you for 5 hours a fortnight and set you 5 hours of homework. The teachers make themselves available during a subject clinic after school one evening a week and by email at other times, or break and lunch by appointment.

Note keeping

Over the course, you will be given lots of handouts, worksheets, assessments, homework etc. This needs to be organised into a lever arch folder. There will be regular folder checks, the example layout of your folder and organisation is saved in this folder also. (Please note this is an example only)

If you have any questions or concerns please email me at screwe@kngs.co.uk