



THE BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

The Biology department is one of the departments within the Science curriculum area, which provides A level courses in, Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science and Physics as well as GCSE science. In Biology, the A-level course follows the Eduqas specification. In the last OFSTED inspection, the Science area was awarded a Grade 1 and described as 'outstanding'.

Biology is a very popular and successful subject with students consistently achieving outstanding results at A Level, both raw and value-added. Students are monitored from the start of the course using ALIS, Minimum Target Grades and Aspirational Grades.

The person appointed will be expected to help maintain this record of high achievement as well as demonstrating an enthusiastic commitment to ensuring students enjoy the subject. Due to the changes of qualifications, the current GCSE science course will be replaced by GCSE Biology and therefore a willingness to help develop this course would also be expected.

There are currently 11 first year and 8 second year groups of A-level Biology and 3 groups at GCSE. Generally teaching groups are between 20 and 24 in size and are taught in four laboratories. The biology department is made up of five teachers, all of whom have had many years of experience. The post would therefore be suitable for newly qualified teachers looking for a supportive environment in which to develop their teaching skills.

All members of the Department work as a team to provide the best learning environment for the students. Emphasis is placed on staff supporting each other and sharing good working practice. This takes place informally and more formally in the context of implementing consistent departmental practice. The Biology department has a large stock of resources (notes, worksheets, exam papers etc.) many of which are available to the students via the college VLE. All resources and schemes of work are regularly updated and improved. A full-time technician provides expert support for practical work and the department has a good stock of apparatus and chemicals.

Biology staff play a full part in the support and guidance structure of the College, principally acting as personal tutors. The successful candidate will be expected to participate in this important aspect of College life.