THE WORTHGATE SCHOOL
CANTERBURY

COURSE DESCRIPTOR

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

HIGHER LEVEL AND STANDARD LEVEL BIOLOGY

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

As one of the three natural sciences in the IB Diploma Programme, Biology is primarily concerned with the study of life and living systems. Biologists attempt to make sense of the world through a variety of approaches and techniques, controlled experimentation and collaboration between scientists. At a time of global introspection on human activities and their impact on the world around us, developing and communicating a clear understanding of the living world has never been of greater importance than it is today. Through the study of DP biology, students are empowered to make sense of living systems and develop an understanding and awareness of the living world around them.

PRIOR LEARNING REQUIRED

There is no formal requirement for prior knowledge of Biology to study IBDP HL or SL biology. Your interest and curiosity in the fascinating realm of biology are essential for a successful journey through this subject. GCSE or equivalent knowledge of Biology or Combined Science is recommended. A good understanding of Mathematics at GCSE or equivalent is also beneficial to your learning.
Language: IELTS 5.5 or equivalent

EXAM BOARD

International Baccalaureate

COURSE CONTENT

Year 1	Year 2
Origins of cells and cell structure Biological molecules Nucleic acids, DNA replication and protein synthesis Respiration and photosynthesis Classification, biodiversity and conservation	Body systems Chemical and neural signalling Homeostasis Defence against disease Reproduction and inheritance Completion of the internal assessment

ASSESSMENT

Assessments take place each half-term, and End of Year exams take place in May of the first year.
Grades are determined by final IB external examinations, which take place in May/June at the end of the two-year course, and the IB internal assessment (IA) which involves planning and carrying out a scientific investigation.

Paper	Length of paper	Weighting
Paper 1A—Multiple-choice questions Paper 1B—Data-based questions	1 hour and 30 minutes SL 2 hours HL	36% of final grade
Paper 2 - Short-answer and extended-response questions on standard level material only.	1 hour and 30 minutes SL 2 hours and 30 minutes HL	44% of final grade
Internal assessment	10 hours	20% of final grade

THE WORTHGATE SCHOOL
CANTERBURY

TEXTBOOKS/REVISION GUIDES

Title	ISBN	Author
Biology Course Companion 2023 Edition	**1382016336**	Allott and Mindorff
Biology Study Guide 2023 Edition	**1382016433**	Allott
Biology for the IB Diploma Workbook	**1009039709**	Tully and Broderick

HIGHER EDUCATION PATHWAYS

Biology will enhance your skills in demonstrating and applying the knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, processes and techniques, as well as developing skills in the analysis, interpretation and evaluation of scientific ideas and evidence. These skills are highly valued by universities and employers. Biology is popular with students who wish to study courses such as Medicine, Pharmacy and Zoology at university and to enter relevant careers.

Previous students have studied:

University of Sheffield – Biomedical Engineering

Hull York University – Medicine

Brunel University – Biomedical Sciences

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS OF STUDY

Maths, Chemistry, Psychology

CURRICULUM DIRECTOR

Ms. Emma Lock