

Biology Department

Williamwood High School



Welcome to the first edition of our Biology Department Newsletter.
We hope that you find the information interesting and informative.

Biology Teachers

- Mrs McFadzean (PT Biology)
- Miss Mortimer (PT Development)
- Mrs Gibson (DHT)
- Miss McBride
- Miss Regan
- Miss Skelly
- Miss Haxton
- Mrs Rose
- Dr Stephenson
- Mrs Watson



Homework Policy:

Pupils receive a homework task every time they attend a biology class. Teachers provide regular and varied feedback to pupils in response to their homework.

Pupils must embed regular home study time for their assigned homework tasks and revision of class notes. This will ensure that students consolidate their learning and are prepared for assessments.



Courses offered within our department:

- National 3 Biology
- National 4 Biology
- National 5 Biology
- National 5 Health Sector
- Higher Biology
- Advanced Higher Biology
- Human Body Structure and Function



Personal Learning Tools:

Pupils are encouraged to create their own personal learning tools for each key area of their course. These learning tools greatly assist their home learning. Examples of these study techniques are:

- Mind mapping
- Creating questions
- Study cards
- Teaching someone else
- Making summaries of notes in various formats
- SQA past paper practice, using official marking schemes
- Study groups with peers



Further support for study skills can be found [HERE](#).

Biology Supported Study

All S3 - S6 biology pupils are invited to attend supported study on Thursday afternoons at 3.45pm in Science 11. This informal learning forum provides pupils with the opportunity ask questions, practise SQA questions or to study with the support of biology teachers.



S3 Ecology Experience

In September, S3 biology pupils visited Culzean Castle Country Park to take part in an ecology experience.



Pupils hunted for sea life in the rock pools and carried out sampling techniques in woodland ecosystems.



This unique opportunity complemented their current biology curriculum and pupils enjoyed the hands-on experience.



Health Sector Careers Day

Our Health Sector class hosted a health careers day earlier this month. Pupils in S4, S5 and S6 were invited to see a range of health care science resources and find out about some interesting health related careers.



Pupils had the opportunity to speak with a medical physicist and a clinical scientist, along with a representative from the children's hospice CHAS - Rachel House. This event helped develop a range of skills for all pupils involved, particularly those involved in the organisation of the event.



S4 National 5 Information Evening

To access the resources used at the recent S4 National 5 Information Evening, click [HERE](#). Teachers shared the SQA curriculum and assessment updates with parents and provided information on how parents can assist in their child's home study.

S5 and S6 Higher Information Evening for Parents of Pupils Sitting Highers

This event will be held on **Tuesday 7 November**. Teachers will showcase the biology department's expectations of pupils sitting higher biology. It will also provide parents with the opportunity to discuss how they can support their child's learning at home.

S5 and S6 Reports

Parents will receive a full written report of their child's progress in biology w/b **6 November 17**.

S5 and S6 Parents' Evening

This event will be held on **Tuesday 14 November**. Parents, pupils and teachers will be able to share progress and to discuss next steps in learning.

S4 Biology

Pupils have now completed their biology assignment assessment which contributes 20% of their final grade. The focus of this research assignment was 'enzymes'. Any pupils who have been absent will have the opportunity to finish their assignment over the next few weeks.

S4 pupils are soon to complete the 2nd unit of the course and their next assessments will be w/b 27 November



Advanced Higher

Pupils have been working hard in planning and obtaining their experimental data for their 3000 word project. The final submission for this investigation assessment is w/b 18 December 17. This assessment will be marked externally by the SQA and contributes to 25% of the final grade.

Advanced higher pupils will be sitting their first unit assessments at the end of October.



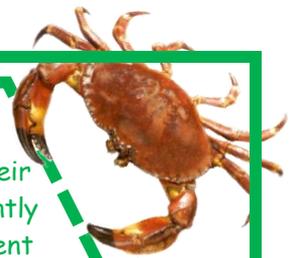
Health Sector

We have recently launched this exciting 'Skills for Work' course in which pupils learn about the many jobs within the Health Sector. They will also develop a range of employability skills. In addition, pupils are working towards a level 6 First Aid qualification.

S3 Biology

Pupils have settled well into their S3 classes and they have recently sat their first formal assessment and evaluated their progress. Details of this will be noted in the yellow assessment pages of the pupil's planner.

The pupils thoroughly enjoyed their ecology experience at Culzean Castle.



Higher

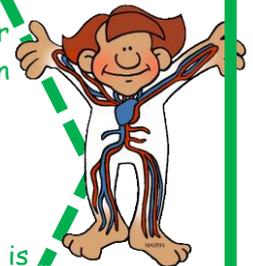
Pupils have completed Unit 1 of the course, sat the assessments and evaluated their progress. This information is logged in the yellow assessment pages of the pupil's planner. Pupils have carried out their assessed practical and will submit their report before the end of October.

The higher assignment assessment process is now underway. Pupils will complete this assessment (which contributes 17% of their final grade) in class w/b 13 November.



Human Body Structure and Function

S6 pupils with a desire to follow a career in the medical profession have the option to study this vocational course in partnership with West College Scotland. Visiting lecturer, Mrs Morrow delivers a challenging practical course which pupils find enjoyable and engaging. This course is a valuable experience in aiding the transition to university and supporting future aspirations.



Parent Voice

If you have any questions, comments or feedback, we would really like to hear from you. We would also be keen to hear from you if you would like to support the work of the department in any way. Please contact Louise McFadzean at schoolmail@williamwood.e-renfrew.sch.uk