**BIOLOGY**

S3 and S4

During S3 pupils work on overtaking the 3rd and 4th level Curriculum for Excellence outcomes with progression towards either presentation at National 4 or National 5 by the end of S4.

Assessments

Over both S3 and S4 pupils will be assessed through staged internal assessments each lasting 45 minutes focussing on both knowledge and problem solving skills. In S3 pupils will sit a 90 minute S3 exam in March that will cover the course content for S3. In S4, National 5 pupils will sit a prelim in November lasting 2hours along with completing their SQA assignment in September.

How can you support your child?

All assessment dates and homework information will be posted by class teachers on Show My Homework along with revision links and materials- which can be accessed by parents and carers at any time. All course materials, including notes, homeworks and revision materials can be accessed via the google classrooms setup by the class teacher. In addition the following web links provide general support information.

[BBC Bitesize National 4](https://www.bbc.com/education/subjects/z3ykjxs)

[BBC Bitesize National 5](https://www.bbc.com/education/subjects/zync87h)

[National Parent Forum for Scotland](https://www.npfs.org.uk/)

The National 4 and 5 courses have three mandatory Units.

*Pupils will study:*

**Cell Biology**

In this unit, pupils will investigate the key areas of cell division, DNA, genes, properties of enzymes and photosynthesis — limiting factors, factors affecting respiration, and controversial biological procedures.

**Multicellular Organisms**

In this unit, pupils will investigate the key areas of reproduction, survival of species, commercial use of plants and biological actions in response to internal and external changes to maintain stable body conditions.

**Life on Earth**

In this unit, pupils will investigate the key areas of how animal and plants species depend on each other, impact of population growth and natural hazards on biodiversity and learned behaviour in response to stimuli linked to species survival.

S5 and S6

Pupil in S5 and S6 study either Higher or Advanced Higher courses that are delivered in a single academic year with prelim examinations taking place in January and February.

**Higher**

Higher Biology is challenging, stimulating and rewarding. Even if you are not considering further study, Higher Biology provides an excellent background to an understanding of scientific discoveries. It is a one year course taken in S5 or S6.

Assessment

Pupils will complete staged internal assessments throughout the course and progress will be tracked and communicate to home via Show My Homework. In addition the formal SQA assessments are detailed below with the assignment assessment taking place in December.



**Advanced Higher**

Advanced Higher Biology offers to those who have been successful in Higher Biology an opportunity to study topics at a deeper level than was possible in Higher Biology. There is an emphasis on independent study and on taking personal responsibility for learning. Practical work is a major component of the course and students are expected to maintain an accurate record of their practical work.

Assessment

Pupils will complete staged internal assessments throughout the course and progress will be tracked and communicate to home via Show My Homework. In addition the formal SQA assessments are detailed below with the project assessment taking place in November and December.

The Course assessment will consist of two Components: a question paper and a project.

Component 1 — question paper 100 marks (77% of the total mark).

 Section 1 will contain objective questions and will have 20 marks.

Section 2 will contain extended response questions and will have 80 marks.

Component 2 — project 30 marks (23% of the total marks)

The purpose of the project is to allow the learner to carry out an in-depth study of a biology topic. The topic will be chosen by the learner, who will individually investigate/research the underlying biology. This is an open-ended task which may involve a significant part of the work being carried out without close supervision.