Advanced Higher Biology

Course Overview

Entry Recommendations: A or B at Higher

What is in the course?

Description: The course is split into 3 units worth ~75% and a project worth ~25%.

1- Cells and proteins 2- Organisms and Evolution 3- Investigative Biology

AH Biology is a natural progression from Higher Biology with an aim to prepare our students for life at university. The course content requires a deeper level of understanding and develops problem solving skills. If your child has struggled with problem solving and the application of content in different contexts prior to this course, we recommend extra self study at home using past papers provided on Sharepoint (see below with how to access).

Unit 2 is taught July-October, and Unit 1 October- January. Unit 3 is skills based and interspersed throughout the year to develop investigation skills alongside the project. Students will be assessed with a progress test at the end of each unit.

The project

This is a significant piece of work that is 3000-3600 words and will be conducted independently by students. Students must decide upon their own topic of investigation, come up with a title, carry out background research using scientific journals, and write up the project largely in their own time. There is additional information on Sharepoint if you would like to find out more.

Students have the opportunity to conduct their studies either in the field, at Lagganlia Field Studies Centre, or in the laboratory. Lagganlia residential will take place at the beginning of October and costs ~£300. Students must design their investigation before they go. Letters are given out in August with additional details.

Students carrying out laboratory projects will design their pilot study whilst other students are in Lagganlia and they must conduct these in October. They must bear in mind that requests need to be submitted to our technician 2 weeks in advance as some materials may need to be ordered in, so they should take this into consideration when planning their experiment.

All projects require high levels of self motivation and organisation as class time allocated for project work is limited. A timeline has been provided to help you support your child during this process. Any student studying more than one science should bear in mind that they will have a project for each subject, so sticking to the timeline will be of paramount importance.

How can I support my child in their learning?

Lesson resources for each topic are available to pupils on the school SharePoint. Homework will be issued when appropriate throughout the topics. Students can access these by:

1. Going to Tinyurl.com/edi365
2. Entering their school login number and password
3. Selecting SharePoint (If a JGHS page does not come up at this point, search for the school name using the search bar)
4. Selecting Faculties > Biology > AH Biology

Key Dates* 2019- 2020

* Please note that these dates are a guideline to support you and your child with structuring their home studies. They are subject to change depending on how quickly the class progresses through the course. Your child will be given notice before upcoming tests and deadlines.

Date	Content	Additional Information
June- July 2019	Unit 2.1 and 2.2	As well as covering class content, students must choose a project title in this time and decide whether they would like to go to Lagganlia or conduct a laboratory based experiment. Lagganlia notes of interest must be given.
August- September 2019	Unit 2.2-2.5	All of Unit 2 is completed by October, and students will be tested at the end of each Unit. Project preparation is ongoing. Only 1 hour per week is allocated to this, the rest must be done in their own time.
Fri 13th Sept	Project	**Introduction and Underlying Biology** should be **completed** and submitted to class teacher.
Fri 27th Sept	Project	**Pilot study and method** should be submitted by students going to Lagganlia
Fri 11th Oct	Project	Pilot study and method should be submitted by students conducting lab projects and pilot study should have been carried out.
4-8th Nov	**Unit 2 test**	This will give us an indication as to how well your child is performing. A resit will be available 2 weeks after the initial test.
November- January	Unit 1	Class time will be spent learning unit 1, but students should be continually working on their projects, analysing their data. A **full first draft** of their project should be submitted by **Friday 13th December.** This gives them time to focus on Prelims in January.
Feb- March	Unit 1.2, 1.6 and Unit 3	**Unit 1 and Unit 3 will be tested** in February and March respectively.
Mon 2nd March	Project	This will be the **final deadline to submit projects**, although we hope that most students who organise their time well will submit it before then, to enable them to focus on revision.

If you would like to be removed from the mailing list for this newsletter or have any other questions or feedback please email: Jennifer.McKenna@jamesgillespies.edin.sch.uk. Thank you for your support!