

BIOLOGY YEAR 8

Curriculum Content

Five topics are taught in this year.

The topics are :

- Cells and cell specialisation.
- Body systems – levels of organisation. Organ systems within the human body and their function, stem cells and their uses.
- The breathing system – the structure of the breathing system. Gaseous exchange. Smoking and its consequences.
- Nutrition and digestion – structure and function of the digestive system. A balanced diet, including the nutritional values of food. Food tests. Digestive enzymes.
- Muscular skeletal system.

Knowledge, skills and understanding

Throughout the course, girls will develop their understanding of "How Science Works" through a series of integrated tasks.

Experimental skills

Practical work is designed to develop the following practical skills

- *Planning*: being able to plan a simple practical scheme, making a fair test, making a prediction of the possible outcome of the experiment and using preliminary work to aid planning
- *Obtaining and presenting evidence*: following written instructions, working safely and using equipment to measure and observe results. Recording results in labelled tables and drawing line graphs of the results
- *Analysing results*: using tables and graphs to find patterns in the results and draw a conclusion for an investigation. Explaining the conclusion using what they know about science
- *Evaluation of the investigation*: suggesting improvements to the investigation, giving reasons

Assessment opportunities

The experimental skills are developed and assessed by practical work including practical investigations.

Knowledge and recall are assessed by tests at the end of each topic and by the examination at the end of the year.

Understanding and the ability to process information are assessed by homework exercises and by the examination at the end of the year.