North Herts
Education Support Centre

Course Title
KS4 Biology
Overview
Students in Key Stage 4 study towards the AQA qualification in Biology. At NHESC our core aim is develop the students scientific understanding through enquiry, questioning and application of scientific methods. We want to inspire our students and provide them with a key understanding of the science that underpins the world we live in.
Outline of the Course
The whole course consists of 7 units. 1. Cell biology 2. Organisation 3. Infection and response 4. Bioenergetics 5. Homeostasis and response 6. Inheritance, variation, and evolution 7. Ecology Within the course there are 10 required practical activities that are completed. Questions in the exam will draw on the knowledge and understanding students have gained by carrying out these practical activities. These questions count for 15% of the overall marks of the qualification. They cover the key ideas in biology and are also designed to; • Support and consolidate scientific concepts • Develop investigative skills • Build and master practical skills
Assessment details
Students are assessed using both formative and summative assessments. Where the students complete regularly purple sheet tasks within lessons to consolidate previous learning. In addition to having end of unit assessments. Students also partake in mock exams throughout the year before their final biology exams at the end of year 11.
Staff Roles
Teacher – Miss Oliver
Equipment/Health and Safety
All necessary equipment is provided by the centre in lessons and basic classroom health and safety expectations apply. Following all instructions in a practical lesson is paramount to people's safety. Students' safety is vital in science and working together will be appreciated.
How will it be examined
Formal Exams take place at the end of year 11: **Paper 1; Tests topics 1-4** • 1 hour 45 minutes • 100 marks (50% of the GCSE) • Multiple choice, structures, short answer and open response **Paper 2; Tests topics 5-7** • 1 hour 45 minutes • 100 marks (50% of the GCSE) • Multiple choice, structures, short answer and open response

Appeals process
The appeals process is as outlined on the AQA website. If a learner wishes to appeal their final grade NHESC can trigger a clerical re-check of the paper(s) by AQA. If the centre believes that the exam grade awarded is too low we will ask for a review of the exam paper at our expense.

Curriculum Plan – Units covered	
• B1-Cells structure and transport • B2-Cell division • B3-Organisation and the digestive system • B4-Organising animals and plants • B5-Communicable diseases • B6-Preventing and treating disease • B7-Non- Communicable diseases • B8-Photosynthesis • B9-The human nervous system • B10-Hormonal coordination	• B11-Hormonal coordination • B12-Homeostasis in action • B13- Reproduction • B14-Varaition and evolution • B15-Genetics and evolution • B16-Adaptations, interdependence and competition. • B17-Organsing an ecosystem • B18- Biodiversity and ecosystems.