



The Biology Department

Housed in the impressive Thomson Building along with the Chemistry and Physics departments, Biology is a well-established, well-equipped and successful department. There is a strong academic ethos which takes advantage of the School's location in Cambridge, including active links with the University of Cambridge's Genetics Department when conducting *Drosophila* breeding experiments. We also have long established links with the Wellcome Institute, enabling inspirational insights into the fast-changing field of Genomics. For the green-fingered, the famous Botanical Gardens are a stone's throw away and the department now enjoys using a sizeable area of the campus dedicated to conservation and environmental projects. It is a lively and interesting place to work amongst highly qualified and professional colleagues who place an emphasis on the enjoyment of Biology for both pupils and teachers alike. Consequently, as much practical work as possible is performed and a large amount of visually stimulating and educational displays are on show. New ideas for promoting Biology are always welcomed and the department makes good use of Twitter.

There are currently five subject specialist teaching members of staff and a Biology technician. There are three laboratories, one of which is part of the more recent Great Hall project, a modern building housing the Science extension, Theatre and more. In addition, the department has two classrooms, one of which is used as a sixth form study. The vast array of equipment and resources ranges from PCR and gel electrophoresis machines to investigate crime scenes to the maggots or locusts one might use to investigate respiration rates.

Years 7 and 8 are taught through an "in-house" combined science course, predominantly practical and skills based, overseen by The Lower School Science Co-ordinator. GCSE courses begin in Year 9. There are five groups, currently taught for two 50 minute periods a week. In Years 10 and 11 pupils are currently taught in five sets for eight 50 minute periods over three weeks. Most pupils study separate Sciences, with Double Science for one group. Previous GCSE results have been excellent.

The take up of Biology by pupils in the Sixth Form remains buoyant and results are excellent. The department is also committed to entering pupils for the various Biology Olympiads with some pupils gaining Gold awards.

Biology Department Personnel

Paul Davies	Head of Department
Denzil Fernandes	Lower School Science and Biology teacher
William Unsworth	Biology (and Physics) teacher
Oli Peck	Biology teacher and Director of Studies
Agata Markowicz	Technician