

A Level Biology

Exam Board: OCR

Qualification: A Level Biology

Course code: H420



Longdean School
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In September, you will be starting the Biology.

- 1) If you were in for the transition day, you should have a copy of the CGP Head start to A Level Biology book and transition work booklet (which is summarised below)
- 2) Please sign up to the following on-line resources
 - a) Seneca (please use the class code below)
- 3) There is transition exercises that have been designed by the department that should be completed before the beginning of term
 - a) If you were in for the transition day, you should have a copy of the 'Head start to A level Biology' book. If you were not able to be in then please, if possible, order the following book and work through it. 'Head Start to A-Level Biology' published by CGP. This book is a summary of the basics that we require at A-level. We build on this prior knowledge. If there is any area that you don't quite know, please go through it in more detail. You can use online resources to help as well.

Please do the questions at the end of each page and mark them using the answers in the back of the book.

This is going to be vital at ensuring your basic knowledge is secure.

- b) Please sign up the A level transition class on Seneca learning.

Please use your school email address to sign up to Seneca if you do not have an account.

The class code is **7g4zt51sm5**

There are 3 tasks for you to complete:

- Task 1: GCSE refresher
- Task 2: Misconceptions
- Task 3: Mini assessment

- 4) You are encouraged to start reading the following books for insight and background

Charles Darwin *The origin of species*

Matt Ridley *Genome: The Autobiography of a Species in 23 Chapters*

Richard Dawkins *The Selfish Gene; The Blind Watchmaker*

Steve Jones *Y: The Descent of Men; Almost Like a Whale; Coral*

James Watson *DNA: The Secret of Life; The Double Helix*

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Lewis Thomas *The Lives of a Cell; The Medusa and the Snail*

Barry Gibb *The Rough Guide to the Brain*

Armand Marie Leroi *Mutants: On the Form, Varieties and Errors of the Human Body*

David S. Goodsell *The Machinery of Life*

Ernst Mayr *This Is Biology: The Science of the Living World* George C. Williams *Plan and Purpose in Nature*

Steve Pinker *The Language Instinct*

Edward O Wilson *The Diversity of Life*

Richard Leaky *The Origin of Humankind*

- 5) There are also magazines, journals and websites that will be of interest

<http://nobelprize.org> – Details of the history of the best scientific discoveries

<http://nature.com> – The site of the scientific journal

<http://royalsociety.org> – Podcasts, news and interviews with scientists about recent scientific developments

<http://www.nhm.ac.uk> – The London Natural History Museum's website with lots of interesting educational material

<http://www.bmj.com> – The website of the British Medical Journal

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science_and_environment - The BBC news page for Science and the Environment

There are a range of TED talks that may interest you

<http://www.ted.com/talks?sort=newest&topics%5B%5D=science>

New Scientist

Scientific American

Nature

Science

Biological Sciences Review

British Medical Journal

HuffPost Science

- 6) Also watching the following movies might be of interest to you

Still Alice

My Sister's keeper

Gattica

The immortal life of Henrietta Lacks Histology

Finding Nemo

Please come to the course with an open and inquisitive mind set and look forward to the delights of Biology.

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See you in September.