

The Biology Department

- Biology is always a popular option at Pate's with over 170 students taking the subject at A-level.
- Biology lessons are taught by five different teachers, some are part-time or have additional responsibilities within the school. Most of the teaching takes place in one of our four labs and staff are ably served by one dedicated full time technician.
- We follow the OCR Biology A course (H420) at A-level and last year 60% of students attained an A grade or above. Additionally, we regularly enter students Year 13 into the UK Biology Olympiad as a means of challenging our more able pupils and encourage Year 12 to enter the Intermediate Biology Challenge. Many of our students progress on to study Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science at universities including Oxford and Cambridge.
- At Key Stage four students are currently following the AQA Biology GCSE course (8461). We teach this as a three year course, beginning in Year 9. We offer students the opportunity to sit the Biology Challenge as a means of extending more able students.
- Pupils in Years 7 & 8 are taught Science in forms and have six lessons per fortnight, all of 60 minutes. At Key Stage 3 most pupils achieve the equivalent of the old Level 7 with many reaching Level 8.
- In September 2019 pupils in Year 9 will be taught Biology in five groups (which are not ability based), and will have three 60 minute lessons per fortnight.
- In Years 10 & 11 pupils have four 60 minute Biology lessons per fortnight. Class sizes reduce in Year 10 as we add an extra group, but these continue to be of mixed ability. Last year 95% of students gained a 9 or an 8 grade in GCSE Biology.
- Over half the sixth form take A Level Sciences.
- The Biology department runs a wide array of extra-curricular activities and trips, including a residential Fieldcourse in Year 12. The Science Department as a whole, gives students opportunities to enter a wide range of competitions every year, from Lego League to Olympiads.

The Candidate

- You will be a graduate with extensive subject knowledge
- You will be a qualified teacher willing to embrace the challenge of teaching gifted students
- You will have an enthusiasm for your subject, and the ability to communicate that enthusiasm
- You will be able to maximise attainment for all students
- You will enjoy working as part of a departmental team
- You will be a form tutor with an enthusiasm for pastoral care
- You will be the sort of person who enjoys being part of the life of a busy and lively school, and you will want to contribute to the extra-curricular activities of the department and the school.
- You are likely to teach across the full age range, with a substantial number of exam classes at GCSE and A level.