Subject

Stage 1 Biology – Semester 1

Course Content

This program aims to provide a basis for Stage 2 Biology as well as for other Stage 2 science subjects. The main focus of this program will be on the knowledge and understanding of important biological concepts, the application of these concepts in a variety of social and environmental contexts and on the continued development of practical and investigation skills.

This will be the first experience of senior Biology for the students and so considerable emphasis will be given to the development of communication skills, particularly the need for correct use of biological conventions and for precise and appropriate expression in scientific communication. There will also be an emphasis on the correct presentation and analysis of practical findings, in particular the importance of accuracy, precision and the recognition of errors.

The students will be encouraged to take an active part in lessons and, in the first semester particularly, there will be flexibility in content to cater for different levels of student ability. The contextual approach, and practical and investigation activities aim to develop the capacity of the students to be questioning, reflective and critical thinkers.

The program focuses on the introduction and development of the following key concepts:

- The origin and classification of life
- Microscopy
- Cellular biology
- Biological molecules
- Energy and cells

Assessment

Assessment will include a range of the following, both as individual and group tasks:

- Tests
- Practical investigations
- Assignments
- Research
- Folios
- Other tasks as directed by the teacher