

Biology

Ms. Aoife Curtis



Biology Course

- 41 chapters in total
- (23 chapters covered in 5th year)
- (18 chapters covered in 6th year)

- 22 mandatory experiments
- (14 covered in 5th year)
- (8 covered in 6th year)

- Cover 60% of Leaving Certificate course in 5th year
- Students who work consistently throughout 5th year tend to be the students who achieve the highest grade in their Leaving Certificate Examinations. For this reason it is essential for students to develop effective study skills during 5th year.



Studying Suggestions - In School

- ACTIVE LEARNING!!!! Paying attention in class and asking questions about concepts he is unsure of will make studying for exams a lot easier and faster.
- Highlight key parts of information in textbook
- Take notes in note copy
- Participate in class discussions – get involved!



Studying Suggestions – At Home

- Spend 10-12 minutes reading over material covered in class – very important!! Your son should then test himself briefly by writing down the main point from what he has learned, then compare this with his book to see what he has missed.
- This will help your son reaffirm what he has already learnt in class, making it easier for him to study before tests, as oppose to trying to learn it all from scratch.
- Also if your son has questions about the chapter, he can ask me the next day.



Long term and short term goals

- Tests will be given after each major topic covered. This means that there will be a test at least every 2-3 weeks, if not more often.
- It is important for your son to keep a record of his results for each of these tests.

E.g. Human Nutrition – 66% (C1) – October

Enzymes – 79%(B2) – November

There are two reasons for this:-

- Firstly it allows your son to identify which topic he is weakest and strongest in, so when he's making a study plan for November, March and summer exams he'll know which area to focus on
- Secondly, it helps him to set and accomplish long term and short term goals.



Long term and short term goals

- Short term goals are small achievable goals such as achieving 5% more in a class test than he did in the previous one. These make accomplishing long term goals easier.
- Long term goals include desired results for major exams such as aiming for a B1 in your summer exams.



Studying Methods - Notes

- Writing up notes is a very important part of studying,
- Being able to pick out relevant points in paragraphs is a vital part of learning.
- Notes should be neat and concise, and should be filed away and kept after they are written as a future study aid.
- A study timetable is also an excellent assistance when studying.
- A study timetable may have to be redone several times before a format that works can be found.