KS4 Curriculum Overview (GCSE BIOLOGY)

YEAR 10

Year 1 GCSE/BTEC Option Subjects

TERM 1 TOPIC/s	*Key Skills/Subject Links	*Career links & BV
Disease and bioenergetics:	Interpreting graphs;	Career links
B5 Communicable diseases	correlation and cause.	Health Sector e.g., doctor, public health nurse,
(continued)		microbiologist, pharmaceutical industry, drug
B6 Preventing and treating disease	Growing bacteria on agar	development.
(continued)	plates.	
B7 Non-communicable diseases	Investigating and calculating	British values
	the effect of disinfectants	Mutual Respect and Tolerance:
	and antibiotics on bacterial	Students learn about scientific discoveries
	growth.	from a diverse range of people from our
		culture and other cultures, e.g., Ignaz
	Stages involved in testing	Semmelweis and Louis Pasteur.
	and trialing new drugs.	Students learn about the continual evolution
		of scientific ideas which occurs through the
	Evaluate the effect of	acceptance that different people have
	lifestyle choices on diseases	different ideas about a concept, e.g., spread of
	such as obesity, cancer and	disease.
	COPD.	Opportunities to consider conflict between
		religious beliefs and scientific understanding
	History Link – History of	with respect and acceptance of people's
	medicine.	values, e.g., HIV/AIDS, vaccinations, antibiotics
	Health and Social care Link -	and pain killers.
	Smoking and pregnancy.	Individual liberty: Enforced/voluntary
		Isolation to prevent the spread of
		communicable diseases, e.g., Ebola, cholera,
		covid.
		Students learn about the continual evolution
		of scientific ideas which occurs through the
		acceptance that different people have
		different ideas about a concept e.g.,
		vaccination, and herd immunity.
		Opportunities to discuss lifestyle choices and
		disease.
		Rule of Law:
		Regulations surrounding the development and
		use of new drugs.

TERM 2 TOPIC/s	*Key Skills/Subject Links	*Career links & BV
Disease and bioenergetics:	Practical skills: Investigating	Career links
B7 Non-communicable diseases	photosynthesis.	Food production industry, farming,
(continued)	Testing a leaf for starch.	horticulture, Sports scientist, sports
B8 Photosynthesis	Evaluating the interaction of	performance analyst, medical profession,
B9 Respiration	factors of photosynthesis.	sports medicine, personal fitness instructor.
	Practical skills: Investigating	British Values
	respiration	Rule of Law:
	Understanding and	Students follow laboratory rules for the safety
	interpreting breathing rate	of all.
	and heart rate graphs.	
	PE Link – aerobic and	
	anaerobic respiration,	
	oxygen debt and lactic acid	
	(sports performance)	
TERM 3 TOPIC/s	*Key Skills/Subject Links	*Career links & BV
Disease and bioenergetics:	Evaluate the advantages and	Career links
B9 Respiration (continued)	disadvantages of using eye	Neurologist, psychiatrist, Speech pathologist,
Biological responses:	surgery and glasses to	optician.
B10 The human nervous system	correct vision.	
		British values
	Psychology Link – The	Rule of Law: Opportunity to discuss
	Human nervous system.	regulations surrounding the use of technology
	Physics Link – The eye:	and medicine in eye surgery.
	lenses, focusing light,	Individual Liberty:
	correcting common eye	Opportunity to discuss treatment in terms of
	defects e.g., short sight	patient choice.
	(myopia).	
TERM 4 TOPIC/s	*Key Skills/Subject Links	*Career links & BV
Biological responses:	Compare the effectiveness	Career links
B11 Hormonal coordination	of types of contraception.	medicinal research, endocrinologist, diabetes
	Explain and evaluate the role	nurse.
	of artificial hormones in	
	overcoming infertility.	British values
		Rule of Law:
		Laws relating to age of consent,
		Landan Caranda DVE
		contraception, and IVF.
		Individual Liberty:
		Individual Liberty:
		Individual Liberty: Opportunity to debate issues where students

TERM 5 TOPIC/s	*Key Skills/Subject Links	*Career links & BV
Biological responses:	Construction of Punnett	Career links
B12 Homeostasis in action	squares to determine sex	Dialysis nurse, medical research,
Genetics and reproduction:	inheritance.	endocrinologist, gynecologist, sonographer,
B13 Reproduction		midwife, medical receptionist.
	Health and social care Link –	
	reproduction.	British values
	PE Link – hydration.	Rule of Law:
		Regulation of transplants.
		Regulation of genetic engineering.
		Mutual respect and tolerance:
		Opportunity to discuss the ethics of dialysis
		and kidney transplants.
		Opportunities to consider conflict between
		religious beliefs and scientific understanding
		with respect and acceptance of people's
		values e.g., genetic engineering, cloning and
		gene editing of embryos.
		Individual Liberty: Opportunity to discuss
		ethics, including donor cards and forced organ
		donation, embryo screening, genetic
		engineering.
TERM 6 TOPIC/s	*Key Skills/Subject Links	*Career links & BV
Ecology:	Use of quadrats to measure	Career links
B16 Adaptations, interdependence,	the distribution of living	Botanist, Biomedical engineer.
and competition	things.	
	Math Link – Mean, median	
	and mode.	