



13 October 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Be Prepared for GCSE Biology

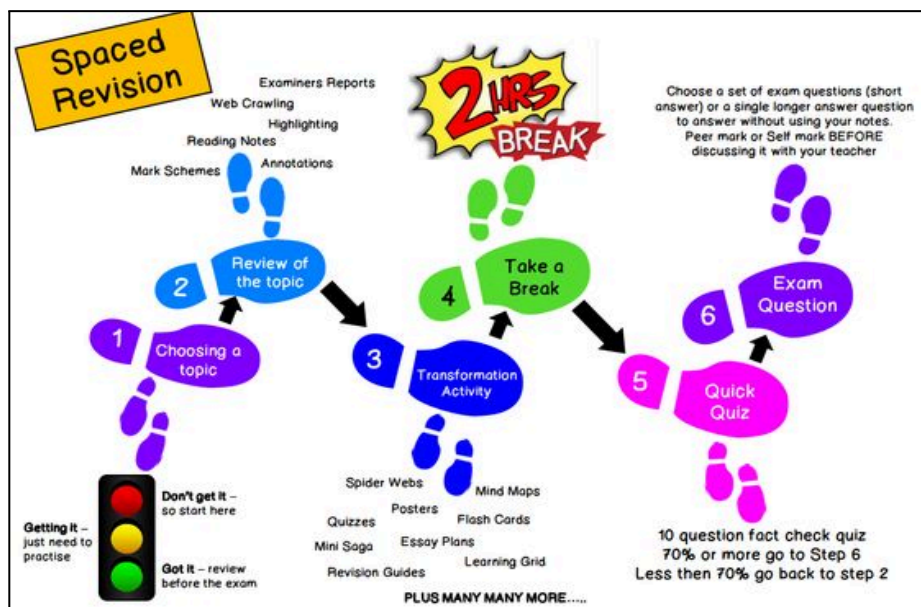
Detailed below is some helpful information to support your daughter with their GCSE Biology course.

This has been shared with students, but you may find it helpful to review with your daughter.

Routine consolidation

- **Finish** any work you didn't complete in class. **Catch up** if you have been absent. All assignments are on the GC.
 - **Read ahead**, in preparation for future lessons.
 - **Create your own notes/mindmaps/flashcards/slides**. Use different colours/drawings to help remember your notes. Try a range of methods to find what works best for you.
 - **Use quizzes** to learn specialist terminology and key ideas: e.g. Quizlet. Review your flashcards routinely.
 - **Talk to people** about what you have learned, even if they know nothing about the topic. Get them to ask you questions and see if you can explain the content in simple terms.
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Revision activities



- **Choose a topic**
 - **RAG rate** different topics, prioritising revision of those you find most difficult. Use the checklists in your booklets.
- **Review the material**
 - **Reading** - If you haven't understood something or want a refresher, re-visit lesson slides, or see [Physics and Maths Tutor](#) for useful summaries.
 - **Videos** - As an alternative to reading, watch [Free Science Lessons](#) or [Cognito](#)
- **Engage with the material**
 - **Blurt**: Blurt topic content on a whiteboard/A3 paper. Use a textbook to spot the gaps.
 - **Create mindmaps/flashcards/slides**. Use different colours/drawings to help remember your notes. If you find it difficult to remember evaluation points, then prioritise these.
 - **Talk** to a friend/family member about your work - explaining ideas to a novice is a great way to see how much you have understood.
 - **Write 6-marker plans** - Plan 6 mark responses.
 - **Seneca Learning** - A quick and interactive way to review key content. Access for free [here](#).
- **Take a break - then practise retrieving your knowledge!**
- **Quick Quiz**
 - Use Quizlet multiple choice quizzes or your own flashcards to check your understanding of a topic and your confidence with specialist terminology.
- **Exam Questions:**
 - You can download past exam papers and mark schemes via the AQA website. Use the mark schemes to help further your understanding. Also, find exam questions by topic on the [Physics and Maths Tutor](#) website.

Extension activities

- **Wider Biology Reading:** [AHS Biology GCSE Recommended Reading List](#)
- **Magazines in the Library:** such as Focus Magazine, New Scientist, Biology Today
- **Podcasts:** [AHS Biology Recommended Podcasts](#)
- **Jstor:** AHS has an online subscription to the academic database JSTOR, which provides access to more than 12 million academic journal articles, books, and primary sources in 75 disciplines.
- **Research videos:** [AHS Biology Recommended Research Videos](#)
- **Apply Biology to everyday life:** When you see or hear claims about plants, animals and ecology made by friends/in the news/on social media, ask yourself:

Claim: What is the claim that is being made here?

Support: What evidence is being presented? How valid/reliable/generalisable is it?

Question: What questions do I have? How could I research this?

Core Resources

- [AHS Biology Google Site](#)
 - [AOA Biology GCSE Specification](#)
 - [GCSE exam structure](#)
 - [Y11 GCSE Topic List TEMPLATE](#)
 - [Keyword Lists](#)
 - [Learning mats](#)
 - [PMT Mindmaps](#)
 - [Biology Grade Descriptors KS4](#)
 - Online Textbooks on Kerboodle
 - CGP Revision Guides and Flashcards
 - [BBC Sounds GCSE Bitesize Biology \(10 minute podcast summaries\)](#)
 - Biology Clinic (Wednesdays)
 - [Biology Clinic ON DEMAND](#) (book time with staff or Ambassadors)
 - Y12 and Y13 Student Tutors
 - [National Biology Competitions](#)
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Interested in A Level at AHS?

Key Stage 5

Students choose A Level Biology because they have a keen interest in Biology as an academic subject and/or they wish to pursue a career in a Biology related discipline.

The OCR A level course builds on any KS4 Biology course and develops further the mathematical, practical, analytical and evaluative skills in each topic.

Students also complete a series of practical assessments to enhance their experimental skills. These assessments contribute to the award of a Practical Endorsement.

- Requirements:
 - Meet AHS entry criteria (44 points from top 8 GCSEs)
 - Either: 7 in GCSE Biology
 - Or: Grade 7 in the Biology components of Trilogy (double science)
 - If you have 7 or lower for Maths, you are required to do the bespoke AHS Statistics in Context course
- [OCR A Level Biology A \(H420\) Specification](#)
- [A Level Biology at AHS Presentation](#)

If you would like to discuss any details further, please contact office@ahs.bucks.sch.uk and ask for your email to be forwarded to your daughter's class teacher.

Kind regards,

Ms Lucy Sowah

Head of Biology