



Westcliff High School for Boys

UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL

Careers across the curriculum

in BIOLOGY

Soft Skills Development (these are the skills we are committed to developing in the Careers Department)	
All Years	We develop communication and teamwork by working on required and additional practicals in pairs or groups, where students report on their results in both a verbal and written manner.
Years 8, 9, Middle School and Sixth Form	We develop time management skills by completing practicals to obtain suitably accurate results within time limits, and by pupils adjusting their practical method to enable sufficient results to be obtained. Students also need to plan their time appropriately so practical reports can be submitted on time and are detailed and analytical in nature.
Year 9, Middle School and Sixth Form	We develop creative thinking by carrying out research tasks in order to develop an appropriate method and to explain the metabolic processes which underlie the results obtained in practicals.
In Middle School	We develop problem solving by pupil adjustment of a given method to obtain accurate results, as well as interpreting data and graphs.
In Sixth Form	We develop networking by visits to university laboratories where students are given the opportunity to discuss the subject with research colleagues. There is also the opportunity to join the Royal Society of Biology where students meet with academics and peers at exclusive events.

Development of Subject Specific Skills which are Relevant to Next Steps / the Workplace

Students at KS4/5 develop practical skills in biochemistry, microbiology, genetics and in the health sciences. The department also develops skills in risk assessment, data tabulation, data analysis, graph construction, accurate drawing of biological diagrams and how to reference research material.

The department also provides a varied collection of books focusing on different career paths and areas of scientific research.

Online university courses and university lectures that students are provided with also nurture these skills.

Many KS4/5 practicals reference the particular workplaces where certain skills are required, and we also provide a significant number of hands-on healthcare equipment experiences.



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Extra-curricular Opportunities	
Biology Challenge	To engage pupils in a competition which rewards them for going beyond the specification by reading biology related books, watching natural history programmes and viewing news media for items of biological interest.
Biology Olympiad	The Olympiad challenges and stimulates students with an interest in biology to expand their knowledge beyond the curriculum, allowing for opportunities to qualify for international competitions.
A-Level Science Live Lectures	To experience lectures from a range of academics from various fields of research.
KCL Neurodegenerative Disease Brain Bank visit	To introduce students to the topic of neuroscience in a research setting and be able to experience a modern-day genetics laboratory.
Biology lectures and reading programme	To introduce students to the latest developments in biological research by the watching of online lectures from many academics and reading books which review these developments.
KS3 Science Live Lectures	To experience lectures from a range of academics from various fields of research in biology, chemistry and physics.
Science Enrichment Day (Year 8)	Pupils develop their communication and teamwork skills by working in small groups to complete forensic science style practical experiments. They further develop their time management skills by ensuring that they complete the practical on-time and achieve sufficient results within a given time frame.