

Biology

I believe that you are considering taking A'Level Biology...

Firstly, great choice! It is a very good, facilitating subject and is more scientifically rigorous than the GCSE.

Secondly, we don't usually have a reading list because as long as you have good Science (esp Chemistry) and Maths grades we can do the rest... We usually just encourage you to enjoy your break and keep current with popular Science ideas in the news etc.

These are strange times however and I have therefore put together a brief list of ideas...

- 1) Make sure that your GCSE Science understanding really is as good as it needs to be... You are choosing to study Biology as you like it and are good at Science, so it shouldn't be a hardship to work through all the quizzes on the BBC Bitesize (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects>).

Also if you completed the Combined Science, this is an ideal opportunity to explore the extras that those completing the triple Science GCSE Biology have done. Whilst we won't be reliant on the extra content it does add breadth to your understanding.

- 2) Overall, at least 10% of the marks in assessments for biology will require the use of mathematical skills. These skills will be applied in the context of biology and will be at least the standard of higher tier GCSE mathematics.

You need to ensure that your Maths is good enough, as we will not have time to teach maths and the Biology...

These links should take you to the AQA work sheets designed for people studying A'Level Sciences... [Units](#), [Ratios](#), [Standard form](#) and [Indices](#)... You should be able to work through these independently... If you can't this is your chance to develop your maths skills.

- 3) Enjoy Science... Use the time and chance to read widely...There is no specific reading list for Biology, but it is all around you...

Try looking at site like https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science_and_environment or <https://www.ted.com/topics>

Maybe try to find out or think about how the Covid-19 virus causes so many issues...

What is a virus? How could soap and water render it inactive (it's not living so isn't killed!)?

Why does the virus infect respiratory tract cells and not skin cells, what's the difference?

How do vaccines work? What is herd immunity?

Enjoy the time you currently have off from specific school work. You are unlikely to ever have this much spare time ever again... If you get the chance to go out for daily exercise, then take the chance, but be mindful of all the living things around you, how they survive...

Hopefully see you in September

Kind regards

Mr Housego

(Head of Biology)