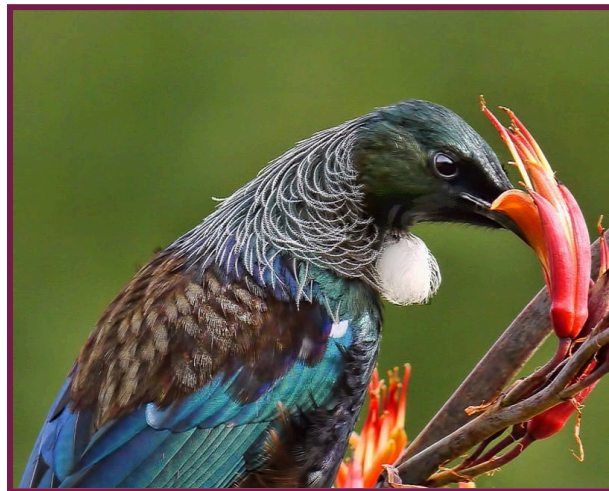


Year 12 Biology Course Outline

Department Vision

The biology department is committed to creating a positive and supportive learning environment.

As a department that is passionate about biology we encourage students to be reflective and think critically about information. Students will be provided a range of opportunities such as the chance to work in groups, to meet and hear from interesting members of our community who are actively involved in scientific research, carry out practical work and take part in discussions and creative pursuits. Through these opportunities students will gain an appreciation for biology as they learn key principles and processes of biology involved in our current understandings of animal biology, genetics, population change and cellular processes. We will discuss the impacts this knowledge has, has had and will have on society.



Students will gain knowledge, skills and experience to:

- identify and describe cell processes and how these relates to overall functioning of organisms
- understand life processes and examine how they vary in animal species
- demonstrate an understanding of the way in which genes are expressed and the effects of mutations and the environment
- describe the cause of genetic variation and how this contributes to population change

While we teach for educational purposes we are acutely aware of the importance of academic success in setting up possible pathways for the future. Below is a list of what assessment will weave into the course.

LEVEL TWO NCEA BIOLOGY ASSESSMENT

Standard	Description	Credits	
AS 91155 V2	Demonstrate understanding of adaptation of plants or animals to their way of life	3	Assessed internally. See assessment calendar.
AS 91156 V2	Demonstrate understanding of life processes at the cellular level	4	External : this paper counts towards writing credits [not reading]
AS 91157 V2	Demonstrate understanding of genetic variation and change	4	External : this paper counts towards writing credits [not reading]
AS 91159 V2	Demonstrate an understanding of gene expression	4	External

The school practice examinations in Term 3 will include each of the three externally assessed papers.

The official NCEA L2 biology examination is Friday 20th November 2026. This is a written exam.

ASSESSMENT POLICY 2026

- *Authenticity: all work must be the student's own work. Work is carried out during biology lessons. There will be compulsory milestones.*
- *Appeals: At Epsom Girls Grammar School students have the right to appeal against grades given in an internal assessment task. Any student who wishes to protest their grade is welcome to fill out the specific paperwork necessary.*
- *Extensions: if a student wishes to ask for an extension they must go and see the head of department to see if an alternative can be arranged. The HOD will consult with the NZQA officer Dr Steel and the Dean. Should no alternative be found to suit or to be fair for all students, the student in question will not gain credits for that topic.*
- *Reassessment opportunity. These will not be offered due to the time constraints in the program.*

Staff

In the biology department for 2026 we are very fortunate to have Mrs Julie Waddell, Ms Mariam Al-Ali, Mr Ben Himme, Mrs Deepika Chand, Ms Sam Dugdale, Ms Lucy Pearse, Ms Belle Park, Mr Scott Evans, Dr Gavin, Ms Courtney Watkins and me.

I hope all of the students enjoy learning about biology this year and I trust many of the stories will be shared with whanau and friends at home.

Happy 2026, Rachel rheeney@eggs.school.nz

Ko au te Pou o te kaupapa Mātai Koiora | Head of Biology

