

Job Title: Teacher of Biology and BTEC Science**Department information:**

The Biology department is housed together with Chemistry and Environmental science in a purpose-built centre comprising 18 laboratories, 2 large preparation rooms, student workrooms, 3 staff workrooms and a lecture theatre.

There are currently 16 Biology teaching staff delivering GCE Eduqas A level Biology and BTEC Applied Human Biology. As a consequence of curriculum reform this latter course is being discontinued and we are likely to offer BTEC Applied Science in September 2025 instead. In addition to the main courses, we offer a variety of biologically based enrichment activities and contribute to the college delivery of Extended Project and HE+. Teaching is carried out to a common scheme of work, students are issued with support booklets containing centrally produced work sheets and stimulus material for lessons and independent study. There is also an extensive Biology Google suite for students, which includes sets of homework questions to be completed on a weekly basis. Marks from these and centrally produced topic tests are recorded on the college electronic mark-book which is visible to students. Key assessment marks are also visible to parents throughout the two years of the course.

PowerPoints and other resources for all topics are available for staff to adapt to suit their teaching style and there are common practical exercises to allow completion of the Biology practical endorsement. The vast majority of students are hard-working, bright and keen to learn. Some teaching staff act as personal tutors and are involved in the College enrichment programme that includes sport and other activities. Teachers take part in INSET activities to support their professional development and contribute to the development of educational resources within the department.

Facilities are extremely good. The accommodation is well-furnished and well maintained. All laboratories have digital Smartboards. A large preparation room houses the apparatus and equipment that is both modern and sufficient for our needs. There is also a student workroom in which workshop support is available to students on all days. An efficient team of technicians prepare materials, construct necessary basic apparatus, ensure that equipment is well maintained and generally do the numerous other things that keep us running smoothly.

Examination results

| Year | % pass rate | % grades A*-A | % grades A*-B | Number of students |
|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 2023 A level | 99.3 | 37.1 | 67.7 | 412 |
| 2024 A level | 97.7 | 37.4 | 57.9 | 430 |

Points of interest:

There are approximately 1000 students currently studying Biology at Peter Symonds College. The value-added scores at A level are consistently in the top 10% nationally. We attribute our success in part to the high standards of teaching but also to the systems and resources that the department has adopted. Staff are timetabled consultatively and, wherever possible, have only 2 different course elements to deliver as this allows time for high quality preparation. The average size of a teaching group is approximately 22 students. The department was one of the few subjects selected to receive a "deep dive" in the recent OFSTED inspection which received a grade of Outstanding.

Special requirements:

A degree in Biology or an allied subject is essential, together with a teaching qualification. Team working skills, enthusiasm and the ability to gain the confidence of students whilst stimulating their interest in biology is vital.

Feel free to email us directly if you have any specific questions at hosbiology@psc.ac.uk

Charlie Barker and Sharon Haly (Heads of Biology) January 2025.