

Week 5 Biology Newsletter

Year 9 – Strawberry DNA Extraction

Our Year 9 students have been learning about the building blocks of life in a very hands-on way this week. Using strawberries, everyday kitchen ingredients, and a little patience, they successfully extracted real strands of DNA that they could see with the naked eye! This practical gave students an exciting first glimpse into molecular biology and the universal language of genetics.



Year 10 – Enzymes through Stop-Motion Videos

In Year 10, students have been exploring the fascinating world of enzymes. Instead of just reading about how enzymes work, they brought the concepts to life by creating their own stop-motion animations. These creative videos demonstrated enzyme action, specificity, and the effects of temperature and pH. It was a brilliant way to combine science with creativity and reinforce tricky concepts in a memorable way.

Year 11 – The Eye (Dissections Coming Up!)

Year 11 students are currently studying the structure and function of the human eye. This week they have been preparing for an exciting practical: eye dissections next week! By examining the anatomy first through diagrams and models, students are building the knowledge they'll soon apply in the lab. The upcoming dissection will give them a rare chance to see the complexity of this organ up close and consolidate their understanding of how vision works.

Year 12 – Testing for Biological Molecules

Our A-Level Year 12 biologists have been working on practical skills that are essential for higher-level study. This week, they carried out a range of biochemical tests to identify different reducing and non-reducing sugars. These classic experiments not only help them practise careful lab technique but also lay the groundwork for understanding biological molecules in greater depth.

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Year 13 – Chlorophyll Chromatography

Finally, Year 13 students have been investigating photosynthesis by separating the pigments found in chlorophyll. Using chromatography, they were able to see that chlorophyll is not just one pigment, but a mixture of different molecules that all play a role in absorbing light energy for photosynthesis. This practical tied together their theoretical learning with a visual demonstration of the complexity of plant biology.

