

Dear Year 11,

I hope you and your families are all well.

Should you be taking Biology as a subject next year, I've included a selection of reading and websites you may find useful in your preparation.

These are only suggestions so please don't feel that you need to look at them all. Above all remember Biology is an endlessly fascinating subject. Reading around it will allow you to get to know the subject, not just the facts!

[Big Picture](#)

This website is very useful (explore resources section)- it explores lots of the topics you will study at A level. Why not look at the cells section or any other that you are interested in?

We will study cells as one of the first topics in Year 12. Also the Immune system and Number crunching are very topical at present.

[Biological Sciences Review - School of Life Sciences](#)

This is a magazine that keeps you up to date with what's new in Biology and how it applies to what you are learning. If you wish to become a subscriber, you will have to pay, but you go to the resources section and read about the interesting developments in Biology. This is aimed at A level students so it's content isn't too complicated.

Other interesting websites include:

1. **Cells Alive.** Animations, images and interactives about cell biology.
<http://www.cellsalive.com>
2. **DNA Interactive.** Video footage and animations that bring our understanding of DNA replication and expression to life. [DNA Interactive: Discovering the DNA Structure and beyond](#)
3. **Learn.Genetics.** Animations and interactives that bring genetics, bioscience and health to life. [Learn Genetics \(Utah\)](#)

If you prefer to read books, here is a small selection of my favourite:

1. *The Incredible Unlikeliness of Being*, Alice Roberts. Alice Roberts combines embryology, genetics, anatomy, evolution and zoology to tell the incredible story of the human body
2. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, Rebecca Skloot. How one woman's cancer cells changed the medical world forever, and became a multi-million dollar industry.
3. *Bad Science*, Ben Goldacre. Looking objectively at popular science reporting.
4. *Life Ascending*, Nick Lane. Where does DNA come from? How did the eye evolve? A reconstruction of evolutionary history through ten of its greatest landmarks.
5. *Genome*, Matt Ridley. 23 human chromosomes in 23 chapters.

Finally, you can watch clips on [the latest research in biology](#)

Enjoy exploring!

Take care

Mrs Grennan