NATIONALS IN A NUTSHELL

The National Parent Forum of Scotland National 5 Summary

NATIONAL 5

Biology

SCIENCES

What skills will my child develop?

- A deeper knowledge and understanding of biology
- A deeper understanding of biology's role in scientific issues
- An understanding of biology in society and the environment
- Scientific inquiry skills to plan and carry out experiments
- Scientific analytical thinking skills in a biology context
- The ability to use technology, equipment and materials, in scientific activities
- Problem-solving skills in a biology context
- Use and understand scientific literacy, to communicate ideas and issues
- Finding associations and investigating models in real-life contexts
- Information-handling skills (selecting, presenting, processing information)
- The knowledge and skills for more advanced learning in biology
- The ability to review science-based claims in media reports
- An understanding of the importance of accuracy
- Evaluating environmental and scientific issues
- Risk assessment and decision-making

WHAT WILL MY CHILD EXPERIENCE DURING THE COURSE?

- Active and independent learning through self and peer evaluations, setting targets, using feedback
- A blend of classroom approaches including more challenging experimental, practical, investigative approaches, whole class, small group, one-to-one discussions, interactive teaching
- Collaborative learning: working with others in group or partner activities; cross-curricular learning e.g. with other sciences, mathematics, social studies, technologies or RMPS; with organisations such as STEMNET
- Space for personalisation and choice: the assignment can be on a topic agreed by the learner and the teacher
- Applying learning
- Embedding literacy and numeracy skills: researching, processing and presenting information (using calculations and units); evaluating; recording, displaying and interpreting data; using technology.

ASSESSMENT

- The course will be assessed through a question paper (exam) and an Assignment, which will be marked by the SQA and graded A to D.
- The question paper makes up 80% of the total assessment mark. It will have two sections: section one is multiple choice and section two requires more structured and in-depth responses to questions.
- The assignment makes up 20% of the total assessment mark. Learners will be required to demonstrate that they are capable of gathering data from experimental work/fieldwork, as well as research, analysis and report writing skills.

National 5 progresses onto Higher Biology

For more detailed course information:
SQA: Biology National 5: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47427.html
Education Scotland: www.education.gov.scot/nationalqualifications
Curriculum for Excellence Key Terms and Features Factfile:
www.education.gov.scot/parentzone/Documents/CfEFactfileOverview.pdf

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