



2026

# SELBORNE COLLEGE

*HEAD OF LIFE SCIENCES: MR G VAN HEERDEN*

## LIFE SCIENCES



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# SELBORNE COLLEGE

## LIFE SCIENCES MORE THAN A SUBJECT

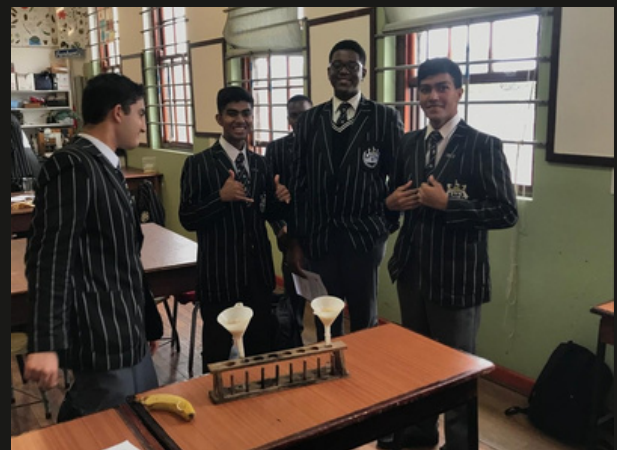
Although Life Sciences is a content heavy subject it is not just about cells, organisms and ecosystems. It provides young boys with the opportunity to learn about their own bodies and how the world around them functions.

Life Sciences instils the importance for a logical, structured approach to any problem. The skills developed in Life Sciences are not necessarily subject specific, and can be applied across a variety of subjects.

They will be given many chances to strengthen characteristics important in the development of young men with integrity. Critical thinking skills; by analysing/interpreting evidence given to them (truth matters). Accountability; as results from investigations/practical activities need to be accurate. Collaboration; as science is rarely done alone. Intellectual humility; as data may challenge assumptions and respect for different viewpoints

The wide range of topics covered in Life Sciences lends itself to the development a well-rounded young man. They will be required to think about where exactly humans fit into the natural world and the responsibilities we have as such, and also to consider the ethical dilemmas we face in a modern world.

In a world of misinformation, biotechnology, climate change and rapid medical advances, scientifically literate men are essential.



## THE SELBORNE APPROACH

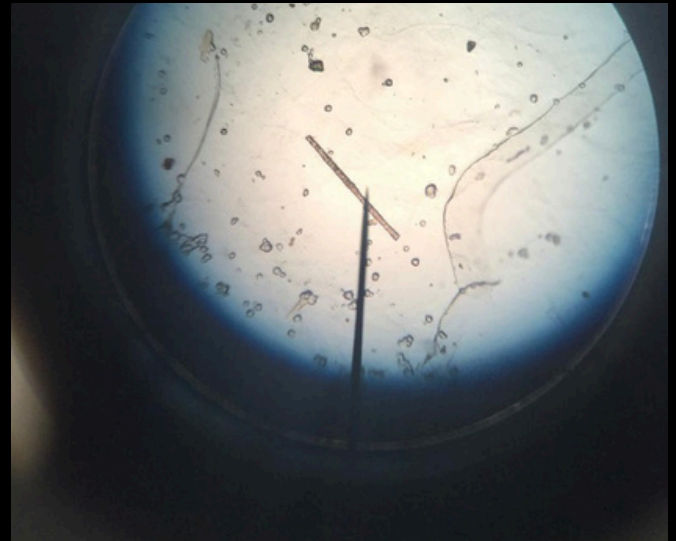
Selborne's academic culture is built on high expectations, structured teaching, and the deliberate development of independent thinkers. Life Sciences aligns strongly with this philosophy.

A practical approach to learning is particularly important for boys. They need to get their hands on the material, make mistakes during the process and adjust accordingly. This is where the real life-long learning happens.



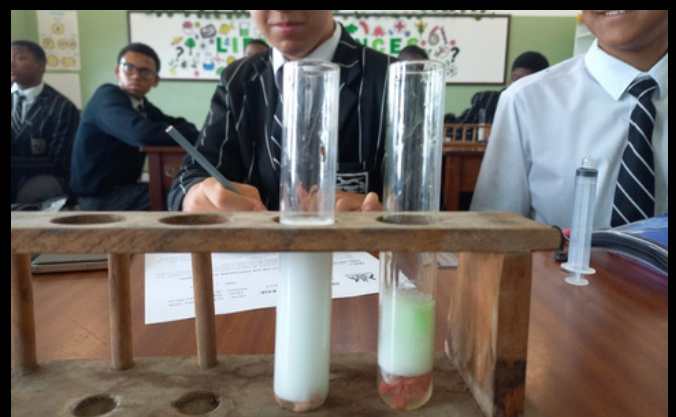
We follow a clear progression of concepts from Grade 10 – 12. We focus on the explicit teaching of scientific literacy (correct terminology, precision, and analytical writing).

A great deal of emphasis is placed on interpreting data and applying knowledge to new unseen situations. Boys are not simply taught content — they are trained to think scientifically.



Life Sciences in particular requires learners to make careful observations, use logical reasoning, give evidence-based arguments and be accurate in practical work. These habits cultivate an attitude of mental toughness and academic resilience.

At Selborne College, excellence is encouraged beyond the syllabus. Life Sciences provides opportunities for learners to be exposed to current issues in biotechnology and genetics and to engage with contemporary environmental challenges.



Learners will get the chance to compete against others in Olympiads and our high-achieving learners are encouraged to take part in Science Expo's gaining invaluable experience.

This prepares boys for the competitiveness in tertiary pathways in medicine, veterinary science, physiotherapy, biotechnology and environmental science.



## EXCELLENCE IN ACTION

Often Life Sciences is viewed as the easier option to Physical Sciences, this is most certainly not the case.

The in depth knowledge of a broad range of topics, and the ability to see the “big picture” and make connections between the individual topics/concepts discussed is a challenge for the young brain to handle.

We are very proud of the results achieved by our department. For the years 2019 - 2024 we achieved an overall subject average of 60%, a average pass rate of 97% and an average distinction rate of 17.5%.

In particular we can commend the class of 2025. With an overall average for Life Sciences of 70%,

Selborne College placed second in the BCM district. We had a record number of 15 distinctions (24%) and a subject pass rate of 95 %, a marked improvement across all aspects.

Most of our learners earn themselves places at prestigious universities and many of those go on to become a wide range of scientists; doctors, physiotherapists, biokinetics, veterinarians, conservationists, microbiologists and many more.

## BEYOND BIOLOGY

At Selborne College, learning does not stop when the bell rings. Life Sciences extends beyond the classroom to create real-world exposure, leadership formation and intellectual vitality. This is where knowledge becomes experience.

Fieldwork transforms theory into reality. We aim to incorporate ecosystem and biodiversity studies in local reserves, Coastal ecology investigations and exposure to laboratory equipment. Through this boys learn to make observations under real conditions and a respect for the scientific process. The goal is to not merely read about ecosystems – but to stand in them.

Life Sciences provides natural avenues for meaningful community outreach and service. Through initiatives like Environmental clean-ups, Biodiversity awareness campaigns and Health awareness projects, boys learn leadership through service and responsibility beyond self.

This provides platforms for boys to develop essential leadership qualities by being involved in environmental committees and mentoring younger students.





**SELBORNE**  
COLLEGE

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# THE SELBORNE MAN

At Selborne College, we are not merely preparing boys to pass examinations, win fixtures, or collect accolades. We are forming young men.

## **A Selborne man is:**

- **Intellectually Disciplined**  
He thinks carefully. He questions respectfully. He pursues understanding rather than surface familiarity. He is not afraid of rigour.
- **Morally Grounded**  
He understands responsibility. He acts with integrity when no one is watching. He knows that character is revealed in pressure.
- **Courageous in Effort**  
He does not withdraw from difficulty. Whether in the classroom, on the field, or on the stage, he learns to persist.
- **Articulate and Thoughtful**  
He can express his ideas clearly. He listens as well as he speaks. He engages the world with curiosity rather than cynicism.
- **Committed to Brotherhood**  
He understands that strength is built in community. He supports others. He leads by example.
- **Prepared for the Future**  
He leaves Selborne adaptable, capable, and ready to contribute meaningfully to society. Every subject, every sport, every society exists to shape these qualities.

That is the Selborne standard.

