



Shrewsbury  
Summer School

# Darwin Bioscience Course

A scientific journey through Biology  
inspired by Charles Darwin

July 2026



# Course Introduction

**Our Darwin Bioscience Summer School is a fantastic scientific journey through Biology inspired by Old Salopian Charles Darwin.**

This course will encourage students to grow their scientific skills, allowing them to develop inquisitive minds ready for the next level of study at school and at university.

Charles Darwin, who went on to become one of the most influential scientists of all time, was born in Shrewsbury and was a pupil at Shrewsbury School in 1818. His theory of Natural Selection is the single most powerful and unifying idea in all of Biology and helps us to truly understand what life is and the place of humanity in the universe.

Through studying this course students will learn the importance of observation and curiosity, developing their

understanding of Biology, and expanding their wider scientific knowledge and enhancing their analytical processes. This outstanding course aims to develop a passion within students to pursue a rewarding career of scientific discovery themselves.

Inspired by Darwin's ground-breaking discoveries, taught through lessons and dazzling trips that are serious fun, students will be enriched with new scientific skills and motivated to think curiously, challenging themselves to create their own globally distinctive careers.

This is a course that only Shrewsbury can offer.



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**Ages : 12 - 15**

**Date : 5 - 18 July**

**Price: £3,950**

# The Course

This course is designed to be delivered to students between the ages of 12-15.

The course will be based in our Biology building with outstandingly good facilities - modern laboratories, excellent microscopes and other apparatus - as well as being home to the school's natural history museum, showcasing a wealth of specimens for students to study.

To begin the course, students will be introduced to Darwin and learn about his time at Shrewsbury, as well as his university days and his trip around the world on HMS Beagle. They will then go on to learn about his early research, before moving on to the theory of Natural Selection and his great work On The Origin of Species and his ongoing interests in human evolution. To conclude the course students will look at Darwin's legacy, and how it has shaped modern thought in Biology and beyond.



Successful completion of this course includes the awarding of The Shrewsbury School Darwin Bioscience Certificate.

*This course is for those with advanced English skills who wish to improve their English vocabulary and fluency through the study of science.*



# Course Overview

## Darwin Bioscience Summer School

## Week 1 Example Timetable

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
7.30 - 8.30	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
Morning Session	<p><b>Darwin at Shrewsbury School</b> School / Fac tour inc. Darwin Statue Library: Darwinalia</p> <p><b>Exploring the Darwin Building</b> Tours and activities in the Biology Department.</p>	<p><b>Darwin at University</b> Darwin at Edinburgh and Cambridge; includes dissections of rats and locusts.</p> <p><b>The Age of the Earth</b> Including making a geological timeline and investigation of radiocarbon dating methods.</p>	<p><b>Trip:</b> <b>Wenlock Edge</b> A world class site for fossil hunting</p>	<p><b>The Voyage of the Beagle</b> Exercises include role-playing the crew of the Beagle, and charting the voyage on a map.</p> <p><b>The Galapagos</b> Including a practical to understand the evolution of the Galapagos finches.</p>			
12.30 - 1.30	Lunch	Lunch		Lunch			
Afternoon Session	<p><b>Trip:</b> <b>Mount House</b> Darwin's childhood home</p>	<p><b>Trip:</b> <b>Darwin in Shrewsbury</b> Darwin's early life</p>	<p><b>Palaeontology</b> Including a mock excavation, and how fossils form in sedimentary rock; also observations of the department's fossil collection.</p>	<p><b>Theory of Natural Selection</b> Including various activities to demonstrate the process of selection.</p>		<p><b>Evidence for Evolution</b> Investigating comparative anatomy by building skeletons.</p>	<p><b>Leisure activities at School</b></p>
6.00 - 7.00	Supper	Supper	Supper	Supper			
7.00 - 9.00	Evening activity	Evening activity	Evening activity	<p><b>Evening Session: The Great debate</b> An opportunity to role play the great Oxford debate.</p>			

Course example timetables may be subject to change.

# Course Overview

## Darwin Bioscience Summer School

## Week 2 Example Timetable



Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7.30 - 8.30	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	
Morning Session	<p><b>Trip:</b> <b>London</b> Including the London Natural History Museum to see Darwin collection, Imperial College London, and an Open Bus Tour.</p>	<p><b>Evolution of antibiotic resistance</b> Set up microbial cultures to demonstrate evolution of antibiotic resistance.</p> <p><b>The Modern Synthesis</b> Including an introduction to genetics a DNA extraction and a mutation game.</p>	<p><b>Trip:</b> <b>Long Mynd - Biological surveying</b></p>	<p><b>The Future</b> Are humans still evolving? We also look at natural selection in technology, engineering, AI.</p> <p><b>Interesting examples of evolution</b> Including observations of specimens and an eye dissection.</p>	<p><b>Trip:</b> <b>Chester Zoo</b> To look at biodiversity and examples of evolution.</p>	Transfers and travel
12.30 - 1.30		Lunch		Lunch		
Afternoon Session		<p><b>The Modern Tree of Life</b> We query online database to build a phylogenetic tree.</p>		<p><b>Great Debate Finals</b></p>	<p><b>Conclusions</b> Darwin's legacy</p>	
6.00 - 7.00		Supper		Supper	Supper	
7.00 - 9.00		Evening activity		Evening activity	Evening activity	

*Course example timetables may be subject to change.*

# Course Features

On this course, through a series of engaging, practical lessons, students will be inspired by Darwin's life and influences, whilst they learn about modern science techniques to prepare them for further study or careers beyond learning.

## Excursions:

As part of this course students may have the opportunity to visit key locations across the UK, such as:

- ✦ Oxford University, Oxford
- ✦ Natural History Museum, London
- ✦ Shrewsbury School's own Darwinia (things owned by Darwin) Collection
- ✦ Shrewsbury and Shropshire
- ✦ Imperial College London
- ✦ Longmynd
- ✦ Royal Arboretum

## Activities:

Afternoon and evening activities will allow students to mix socially and enjoy fun sessions. Below is a list of examples of sessions for 2026:

- ✦ Bubble football
- ✦ BBQs
- ✦ Movie nights (some outdoors)
- ✦ Swimming
- ✦ Water sports
- ✦ Local walks
- ✦ Art
- ✦ Dance
- ✦ Sports - football, badminton basketball, cricket, plus an introduction to fives and rowing

*All of the above course features are included in the price of the course but may be subject to change.*



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## Accommodation

Shrewsbury School has a beautiful green-hearted campus site on the banks of the River Severn within one of the most historic county towns in England.

Our Houses make for the perfect place to come back to after a day of learning. Each boarding house has a common room providing ample space for pupils to relax and unwind, study areas for them to continue their educational journey as well as social areas with televisions, games, table tennis and other activities that will allow students to bond outside of the classroom.

Boys and girls will be separated in accommodation and allocated age-appropriate rooms for their stay, with experienced pastoral care on site.

## Catering

Meals at Shrewsbury are enjoyed in our purpose-built catering hall, Kingsland



Hall ('KH'), where students will choose from a wide variety of freshly prepared dishes and then eat with their friends and tutors from the courses.

Food is provided by our contract catering company who are committed to the provision of delicious meals that bring both ingredients and cultures to life. Students with special dietary needs such as dairy/lactose intolerance, vegan, vegetarian or gluten-free diets and halal food can also be catered for.

*Course content and trips may be subject to change.*

## Registering Interest:

To register interest in Shrewsbury School's 2026 Summer School courses, please use the QR code to access and complete our registration form.

