

skin

an education program
for secondary schools

Glossary

Acne	A skin condition also known as pimples that occurs when sebaceous glands become blocked or inflamed to varying degrees.
Antibacterial	A compound which works by killing or reducing the numbers of bacteria.
Anti-inflammatory	A compound which works by reducing the inflammatory response i.e. the redness.
Apocrine sweat glands	Glands which become active only after puberty and are found in the armpits and groin area. They produce an oily fluid which produces a musky smell when it comes into contact with the air.
Atopic	A tendency to suffer from a group of conditions including eczema, asthma and hayfever.
Atopic eczema	An itchy inflammation of the skin which causes a dry, red, flaky or scaly rash (also called atopic dermatitis).
Atopy	The inherited tendency to be very sensitive to the environment and suffer from eczema, asthma or hayfever.
Blood vessels	Pathways in the body (rather like hoses) through which blood travels.
Comedones	Plugs blocking the oil secreting glands (known as blackheads if they are open and whiteheads if they are closed).
Common wart	A wart mainly found on the hands, fingers and knees.
Contagious	Infectious. Can be transmitted from one person to another or from one part of the body to another.

Cyst	A fluid filled lump in the skin.
Dermatologist	A skin specialist.
Dermis	The layer of skin below the epidermis containing the hair follicles, sweat glands sebaceous glands, nerves, blood and lymph vessels.
Eccrine sweat glands	Glands which are found all over the body, but most prominently in the armpits, forehead and palms. They secrete sweat which is made up of 99% water and 1% mineral salts.
Epidermis	The outermost layer of the skin. It protects and waterproofs the body.
Epithelial cells	Cells which make up the epidermis. Also called epidermal cells.
Hair follicle	A narrow tube in the skin which contains cells that produce hair.
Immunity	The resistance to disease that the body develops so that the disease cannot be caught.
Inflammation	Swelling of the skin which is red and painful.
Melanin	A substance found in the skin that protects the skin from the sun and gives the skin its colour.
Nodule	A deep lump in the skin.
Oral medication	Medication, such as an antibiotic, which is taken by mouth.
Plane wart	A wart with a flat top and usually brown in colour. They are usually found on the face, neck and limbs of children.
Plantar wart	A flat and often painful wart on the sole of the foot, commonly referred to as a papilloma.
Pores	Small openings of glands onto the surface of the skin.

Sebaceous glands	Glands attached to the hair follicle that produce oil to keep your skin supple.
Sebum	Oil produced in the sebaceous gland to keep the skin supple.
Tinea capitis	A contagious inflammatory skin infection found on the scalp which is caused by a fungus (commonly known as ringworm).
Tinea corporis	A contagious inflammatory skin infection found on the body, such as the trunk and limbs which is caused by a fungus (commonly known as ringworm).
Tinea pedis	A contagious inflammatory skin infection found on the foot which is caused by a fungus (commonly referred to as athlete's foot).
Topical preparation	A product applied directly to the skin. For example, creams, lotions, gels and ointments.
Wart	A viral infection that grows on the skin and is caused by the Human Papilloma Virus.