

PHYSICS (OCR: A-Level H556)

Physics provides an insight into the fundamental phenomena around us. From the tiniest sub-atomic particles, to the enormity of the cosmos, Physics offers new ways of viewing things. It provokes whole new ways of thinking. So, as an A-Level subject it supplies an excellent range of skills for degrees such as maths, science and engineering. An A-Level in Physics strongly supports university applications for medicine, architecture, law and the financial sector.

The first year of the course is intended to build on knowledge gained during GCSE, exploring familiar topics such as the laws of motion, waves and electricity at a greater intellectual depth. In addition, new subject areas including deformation of solids and quantum physics are introduced.

The second year builds on these concepts, looking at how forces produce circular motion and oscillations, and how the interaction of objects can be described by magnetic and gravitational fields. The second year also brings in whole new areas of interest, such as medical imaging and cosmology. The A-Level is assessed by a combination of written exams which are taken in May/June of the Upper Sixth and there is a practical endorsement that fits around the subject material of the course over the course of the year.

We always try to organise a few trips during the course. We have taken excursions to the Diamond particle accelerator facility in Oxfordshire, which proved to be fascinating. Interested students are also encouraged to participate in the week-long Headstart engineering courses stationed at different universities around the country.

Physics can be a rewarding subject for those who take it, for the love of the subject itself, as a passport to certain careers or simply as an interesting and stimulating challenge. Whatever course in higher education is eventually chosen, a good pass in Physics will be highly thought of by university admissions tutors.

An ideal A-level Physics candidate should have a grade 7, 8 or 9 in Maths and either Physics or Combined Science GCSE.

WHERE NEXT?

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Engineering at Warwick University

Studied Physics, Maths, Further Maths and Art in the Sixth Form. Finalist in the Talent 2030 National Engineering Competition for Girls

