



Entry Requirements:

Grade 6 at least in GCSE Combined Science or Grade 6 or above in GCSE Physics. Grade 6 or above GCSE Mathematics (Higher).

Students narrowly missing the requirements will be considered at interview.

A-level Course Summary:

First year of study towards the Full A-level

- Core content split into five modules.
- No practical examination but practical skills will be examined in the theory papers.
- Six set practicals to be completed in year one.

Second year of study:

- Three further modules PLUS an option subject which will be either Astrophysics or Engineering Physics. We intend to teach the option that most students wish to study.
- Three examinations of three hours duration, each.
- All papers examine the whole syllabus of eight modules (including those from year one)

Paper 1: Year one plus the further mechanics from year two.

Paper 2: Year two main content plus cross syllabus content from paper 1.

Paper 3: Practical skills. There is no practical examination but practical skills will be examined in the third paper.

There are six further set practicals to be completed in year two.

A course practical record will be kept and students who successfully complete the skills required across the two years will receive a practical accreditation on their A-level.

Physics

Exam Board: AQA

Physics appears in many areas of work, it is a key part of science and technology. It deals with how and why things behave as they do. It is used to solve problems: environmental problems, social problems, technological problems and more. It is about practical things but also involves ideas such as the origin of the universe and the tiniest building blocks of all materials.

The applications of physics are apparent in many of the things we see and use at home, at school or at work: computers, CD players, microwave ovens and body scanners are just some of the recent innovations that have become available to us through physics. Current physics research makes it possible to develop sophisticated products for tomorrow's world.

It is not compulsory for a student studying Physics to also be taking Mathematics. As you will see if you read the syllabus in detail, it is "self-contained".

This means that no specialist A-level Mathematics content is required to take Physics. However, experience shows that students studying A-level Mathematics and Physics together find that the subjects complement each other very well. There is some overlap in subject content and there can be no doubt that studying the subjects together is an advantage. The new curriculum requires that 40% of all marks awarded at A-level Physics are for the use of higher maths skills and it is therefore important that higher maths has been studied at GCSE.

Who is the course for?

- Students wishing to pursue higher education in Physics or in other subjects such as courses with a technological and engineering base. Physics and Mathematics are often compulsory A-level selections for entry to a university engineering programme.
- Students who wish to pursue careers where a background in Physics would be an asset. These might include electrical and mechanical engineering, medical services, the civil service, armed forces, teaching and telecommunications. Possibly via a higher apprenticeship route as an alternative to a university programme.
- Students who are taking A-levels in other Sciences and/or Mathematics or other relevant courses such as Design and Technology and want to take Physics to support their studies.