

Physics

Qualifications

Exam board: OCR B H157 (AS) H557 (A2)

End of Year 13 – A Level (two year course only)

Entry Requirements

A minimum of 5 passes at grade 5 or grade C (including English and Maths). A minimum of 2 grade 6's in Science is required.

Skills Required

This A Level requires students who have a real passion for Science and a desire to learn more about how Physics plays a part in many aspects of our everyday lives. An attention to detail when carrying out practical work and the ability to discuss, analyse, draw conclusions and evaluate is essential if progress is to be made.

Students will need to have the discipline to devote themselves to the necessary independent study work in order to reinforce ideas and gain new knowledge. An interest in current Physics developments and the discoveries that continue to be made will allow the student to gain a better understanding of the role that Physics plays in the modern world.

Course Outline

We have chosen to follow the OCR A Level Physics B (Advancing Physics) course. Its origins are in a collaboration between the Institute of Physics and the Institution of Engineering and Technology. The course places knowledge and understanding firmly in the context of problem solving of real applications of physics and technology. In addition to terminal examinations students will carry out a practical endorsement for Physics.

Student Testimony

"Physics at A Level can be rather challenging at times, but equally as rewarding. The course allows many fundamental principles to be investigated both theoretically and practically, as well as establishing the link between these ideas and real world applications. Our class had the opportunity to visit CERN in Geneva, which was one of the most valuable, unforgettable experiences of my life so far."

Career Paths & Degree Courses

As well as learning about how the universe works, you'll get a broad training in skills that all employers value – an ability to grasp concepts quickly, a determination to find coherent answers, not to mention problem-solving, analytical, mathematical and IT skills. If you choose to continue your Physics studies there are a wide range of Physics and engineering degrees that you have access to. Equally, you could look to take up an Advanced Apprenticeship in industry, e.g. aerospace, nuclear power generation or electrical power distribution. Even if you don't end up working in a physics-related industry, these skills are still highly regarded. Studying Physics is a good way of keeping your options open and earning a good salary.

Year 12	Year 13
Paper 1 - Foundations of Physics 1½ hour written examination 50% of AS	Paper 1 - Fundamentals of Physics 2 hour 15 minute written examination 41% of A level
Paper 2 - Physics in Depth 1½ hour written examination 50% of AS	Paper 2 - Scientific Literacy in Physics 2 hour 15 minute written examination 37% of A level
	Paper 3 - Practical Skills in Physics 1½ hour written examination 22% of A level