

NORTHGATE
SIXTH FORM
CENTRE IPSWICH



PHYSICS

A-LEVEL

2019-2020

A Level Physics

Which Physics course do we offer?

We offer the OCR GCE Physics A course, which leads to the A Level qualification in two years.

Entry Requirement

You need a grade 6 (or better) in GCSE Combined Science or a grade 6 (or better) in Physics as a single GCSE subject, along with a grade 6 (or better) in Maths.

Is there a big jump from GCSE Science?

We believe that the course is an excellent follow-on for our students. The work covered initially in Year 12 builds on the knowledge and understanding acquired in the GCSE Science courses. Teachers and students work together to gain a good understanding of some of the basic principles required during the course, before moving on to more unfamiliar material.

Like all A Levels, our course is not an easy option, and we expect our students to spend at least five hours every week on Physics outside of lessons.

What other subjects go well with Physics?

Students in the past have found that complements a wide range of different subjects such as Maths, Chemistry and Biology.

How is the course taught?

Students have four lessons a week. The teaching is generally shared between two teachers. There is a good deal of practical work. Whilst most work assignments are prescribed, a few are more open-ended to help our students develop into independent learners. The department lends students all the textbooks which they will need. Knowledge and understanding are assessed by regular tests.

We currently have three experienced Physics teachers and a dedicated technician in the Physics Department.

Course Content

There are six modules:

Module 1 – Development of practical skills in physics

Module 2 – Foundations of physics

Module 3 – Forces and motion

Module 4 – Electrons, waves and photons

Module 5 – Newtonian world and astrophysics

Module 6 – Particles and medical physics

How is the course assessed?

Modules 1 to 6 are assessed by three written examinations in June of Year 13.

Students will keep complete practical work throughout the two-year course and will build up a practical portfolio on which they will be assessed. This will lead to a separately reported practical endorsement in physics.

Extra-Curricular Activities

We encourage our students to participate in curriculum-related visits and we have a regular programme of talks by researchers from universities and industry. We run a weekly ‘drop in’ clinic for students who need extra help.

Where does A Level Physics lead?

Most of our students continue their education at university, and most study Physics or subjects related to Physics such as Engineering or other Physical Sciences. Whatever they choose to do, Physics can be regarded as a subject which opens many doors.

Curriculum Leader: Mr S Snowden

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