

**THE PHYSICS DEPARTMENT**

There are five members of teaching staff working in three main Physics laboratories, which are occupied intensively throughout the week. The team is supported by a specialist Physics technician with many years of experience.

The department achieved considerable success in GCSE Physics last year, achieving an A\*-C pass rate of 100% and an A\*-A pass rate of 44% with a cohort of 18 students who had selected Triple Science as an option. In combination with the other Science departments, the remaining student population scored 67% A\*-C (14% A\*-A) in GCSE Core Science and 67% A\*-C (11%A\*-A) in GCSE Additional Science, which was above national percentages in relation to the ability of the cohort and showed good progress relating to FFT data.

The Physics components of the overall student scores have always been a key driver in supporting a tradition of achievement in Science at GCSE. A-level class sizes have increased significantly over the last five years as the department have focused on providing engaging and stimulating lessons lower down the school. We have seen an increasing number of students opting to take Physics at A-level in recent years 12 students has joined a department which achieved an 86% A\*-B percentage in 2016 and we have high hopes of maintain this level of success in the coming years. We have a strong tradition of sending our 6th form students to study Physics at top-ranked universities and the opportunity to be involved in teaching them is an attractive part of a position at Haslingden High.

In Years 7 and 8 students study a bespoke course created by the Faculty to introduce them to the underlying science concepts required before they commence GCSE. This aims to be an exciting and interactive course which will instil in our students a love of our subject and to try to inspire them to consider science seriously in the 'options' process at the end of Year 8. Physics plays a key part of this curriculum as students are introduced to the four key areas of Forces, Electricity, Waves and Energy. In the coming academic year we are further developing this course to ensure a smooth transition between the end of Key Stage 3 and the beginning of Key Stage 4.

The school operates a three year KS4 curriculum; students in Years 9-11 have two periods of each Science subject per week. The majority of students study for two GCSEs in Science, currently the AQA 'GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy' course.

A small cohort in each year group study 'Triple Science' and will take three separate GCSEs in biology, chemistry and physics at the end of their studies in Year 11. We will continue to offer Triple Science as an option to students as we move forward.

At Advanced Level, the department follows the AQA Specification. There is currently one teaching set in both Year 12 and Year 13; students have six lessons a week and these are usually divided equally between two members of the team.

The department has run two trips to Switzerland to visit CERN in the past four years and it is hoped that this will continue to be a feature of the experience for students who choose to take the course at Key Stage 5.