



# SOLIHULL

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## THE PHYSICS DEPARTMENT AT SOLIHULL

The Physics Department at Solihull School consists of an enthusiastic and well-qualified team of four full-time, experienced and highly successful teachers. We work extremely well together, having a passion for our subject which we pass on to the pupils that we teach. We meet on a weekly basis to share best practice and to identify ways in which we can best support our pupils to enable them to reach their full potential.

### Resources

The Physics Department is extremely well resourced due to a generous departmental budget and we have a dedicated lab technician who supports us in all that we do. This enables frequent practical work within all year groups and allows our Sixth Form students to work individually when required. Textbooks for all year groups are regularly renewed and resources such as Kerboodle and Exampro are available to the department. We have three dedicated Physics laboratories, a dedicated Science Department photocopier and an outstandingly resourced Physics prep room. Each member of the Physics department has their own work station within our office.

### Curriculum

**IIIrd and Shell Form** (Years 7 & 8) – The Oxford Activate Integrated Science Course Science programme is followed as part of the National Curriculum KS3 scheme of work. Pupils have 4 x 40 minute periods per week (two double lessons) in the IIIrd Form and 5 x 40 minute periods per week (two double lessons and a single) in the Shell Form.

**IVth - UVth Form** (Years 9 - 11) – The AQA GCSE specification is taught. Pupils have 3 x 40 minute periods per week (1 double and 1 single lesson) in the IVth Form, 4 x 40 minute periods per week (1 double and 2 single lessons) in the LVth and 3 x 40 minute periods (1 double and 1 single lesson) in the UVth.

**Sixth Form** - Physics is a popular A Level subject and we teach the AQA Physics specification. Set sizes are usually around 12 students and there are currently 2 sets in Year 12 and 3 in Year 13. Each set is taught by two members of the department, both teachers having 4 periods per week in Year 12. In Year 13, one teacher has 4 periods per week whilst the other has 5.

### **Physics Support**

To help those who are finding a particular topic difficult or who require support with their prep or revision, we run a Physics clinic on Friday lunchtime. As exams approach we also run specialist revision classes at this time dedicated to exam preparation.

### **Physics Enrichment**

We take it in turns with Biology and Chemistry to attend Skirting for Science (for year 9 girls) and GCSE Science Live (for year 11 pupils). 'A' Level students have the opportunity to attend A Level Physics Live as well as the biennial trip to the AAAS conference in the USA. During the winter months we run a small Astronomy group where we carry out observations with the department's telescope. We have also developed links with the University of Birmingham and assist on their 'Astronomy in the City' events.

### **External Examinations**

All pupils take the AQA Physics GCSE exam at the end of Year 11. At A level, there are no AS exams at the end of Year 12. Students sit 3 external papers at the end of Year 13.

External examination results have been consistently strong and in the past five years are as follows:

<b>GCSE Results</b>	<b>A*</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>U</b>
2012	28%	38%	23%	10%	--	1%	--
2013	51%	31%	13%	6%	--	--	--
2014	30%	39%	18%	12%	1%	--	--
2015	42%	30%	18%	10%	1%	--	--
2016	58%	23%	10%	8%	1%	--	--
2017	41%	27%	25%	7%	--	--	--

<b>A Level Results</b>	<b>A*</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>U</b>
2012	9%	37%	19%	32%	5%	--	--
2013	19%	32%	19%	14%	14%	4%	--
2014	21%	18%	29%	21%	11%	--	--
2015	20%	25%	25%	15%	15%	--	--
2016	--	27%	20%	47%	6%	--	--
2017	20%	28%	28%	12%	12%	--	--