COLOMA CONVENT GIRLS' SCHOOL
Roman Catholic Voluntary-Aided Comprehensive Girls' School

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PHYSICS DEPARTMENT PROFILE

The Physics Department at Coloma Convent Girls' School currently has two full-time teachers and one technician. Members of the department are keen to share good practice and are supportive of one another. All teachers are expected to teach across the ability range, up to and including A Level. There are several Sixth Form Physics Ambassadors who assist the department at school events and promote the subject across the school.

The department is housed in three main classrooms. Each room has an interactive whiteboard and display boards for pupils' work. There is also a small office and Prep Room for Physics teachers, with access to computer facilities.

Key Stage 3

In Year 7 all pupils are initially taught in mixed ability classes, until the autumn half-term, after which they are set according to their ability. Year 8 are also taught in sets according to ability. Pupils have one, 50 minute lesson per week. The department uses the Collins KS3 Science resources and textbooks. Topics include forces and their effects, energy, magnetism, electrical circuits and pressure. Pupils are assessed at the end of each topic.

Key Stage 4

At Key Stage 4, pupils are taught in sets according to ability. They begin their GCSE course in Year 9. The majority of pupils follow the AQA GCSE Physics course, but some classes follow the AQA Combined Science: Trilogy course. Pupils have two, 50 minute Physics lessons per week. Tests are set each half term and are marked by the class teacher. There are also internal school examinations at the end of year 9 and 10 and Pre-Public examinations in Year 11.

Key Stage 5

Students follow the new AQA Physics A Level course. Classes are usually shared between two teachers. Students sit two papers at the end of Year 12, each comprising 50% of the AS Level. At the end of Year 13, students sit three A Level examination papers. Topics include measurements and their errors, particles and radiation, waves, mechanics and materials, electricity, further mechanics and thermal physics, fields and their consequences, nuclear physics and one optional topic. Over the two years, students are expected to complete 12 required practical investigations, to assess their practical skills against the Common Practical Assessment Criteria (CPAC) in order to achieve the practical endorsement.