



Information about the Physics Department

Philosophy

Bishop Vesey's Grammar School is an expanding six form entry boys' grammar school converter academy situated in a pleasant environment of North East Birmingham, close to Sutton Park. Boys are selected for admission to the school on the basis of grammar school tests adopted by the Grammar Schools of Birmingham Consortium. The school has a large co-educational sixth form of 419 students.

We seek an inspirational newly qualified or experienced teacher to join our ambitious and forward-looking school. An ability to teach KS3, GCSE, and A-level Physics is essential. Candidates for teaching posts at the school are expected to show a willingness to participate in the extra-curricular activities we offer students.

Teaching and Learning

The Physics department is a dynamic department which places innovation in teaching and learning at the core of their practice. They have a very strong reputation within and outside of the school, supported by excellent records of exam success.

Key Stage 3 Science

At Key Stage 3, Science is presently taught as an integrated course in year 7 with pupils taught in groups of thirty two. In year 8 the students are taught in the separate sciences by subject specialists in class sizes of twenty-seven.

Physics Key Stage 4/5 and exam results

Students complete the GCSE course over years 9-11 in class sizes of twenty-seven and follow the AQA specification. In 2019 at GCSE 75% of our entry achieved grades 9-7 in Physics and 100% achieved grades 9-4.

Physics is very popular in the Sixth Form and many of our students go on to study the subject or a related degree at university. Presently we have around 130 students studying A-level Physics, and the average class size is around nineteen. Similar to GCSE, we follow the AQA specification. At A-level in 2019 we achieved 64% A* to B.

Other information

The Physics department is situated in the STEM block facility which opened in 2017, alongside ICT, Mathematics and Design & Technology and has five dedicated laboratories. The department makes full use of modern ICT facilities, including interactive touch screens, specialist software and a bank of student laptops. The department is highly resourced with equipment for practical experiments and demonstrations.

There are currently four Physics Teachers, including the Head of Department and a dedicated Physics Technician. It is a thriving department and everyone demonstrates high levels of enthusiasm about teaching their subject; for example, we:

- participate in the British Physics Olympiad competition
- have launched weather balloons into near-space with a student STEM club
- link up with lectures at Birmingham University
- compete in the Birmingham University “Big Quiz”
- prepare prospective Oxbridge students for the admissions process in physical sciences.

The Physics Department teachers are enthusiastic about the teaching of their subject and our pupils are able and want to succeed. This is evidenced by recent external examinations in all science subjects at all levels.

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