



The Physics Department

Housed in the impressive Thomson Building along with the Biology and Chemistry departments, Physics is well-established, well-equipped and successful. There is a strong academic ethos that takes advantage of the School's location in Cambridge, maintaining active links with the University of Cambridge's Cavendish (Physics) Laboratory, including attending lectures. We also have good links with the Engineering department, enjoying the closer proximity of their lectures as well as working on occasional projects with university students, most recently including Engineers Without Borders, helping to educate about the Sustainable Development Goals. Outside of the University, we have connections to Cambridge's world-class science and engineering industries. We have made visits to ARM, PACE and recently Cambustion. It is a lively and interesting place to work amongst highly qualified and professional colleagues who place an emphasis on the enjoyment of Physics for both pupils and teachers alike. Consequently, as much practical work as possible is performed and a large amount of visually stimulating and educational displays are on show. New ideas for promoting Physics are always welcomed and the department makes good use of Twitter to this end.

There are currently four subject specialist teaching members of staff and a Physics technician. There are four well-equipped laboratories, one of which is part of the more recent Great Hall project, a modern building housing the Science extension, Theatre and more. There is a busy Prep room and departmental office. Staff make significant use of appropriate ICT both in lessons and for administration, for example we were one of the first departments in the country to use Bluetooth dataloggers with iPads.

Years 7 and 8 are taught through an "in-house" combined science course, predominantly practical and skills based, overseen by The Lower School Science Co-ordinator. GCSE courses begin in Year 9. There are five groups, currently taught for two 50 minute periods a week. In Years 10 and 11 pupils are currently taught in five sets for eight 50 minute periods over three weeks. Most pupils study separate Sciences, with Double Science for one group. Previous GCSE results have been excellent.

The take up of Physics by pupils in the Sixth Form remains buoyant and results are excellent. Our pupils have won national essay competitions by the Institute of Physics. The department is also committed to entering pupils for the various Physics Olympiads and pupils often gain Gold awards. We have also been successful in the Astronomy and Astrophysics Olympiad and in the future we may offer GCSE Astronomy.

Physics Department Personnel

Andrew Harmsworth	Head of Department
Al Protacio	Physics teacher
Sarah Pritchard	Physics and Psychology teacher
Alexandra Annett	Physics teacher and STEM Coordinator
William Unsworth	Physics teacher (Year 9) and Biology teacher
Malakai Aboujieb	Technician