FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Physics

Q 1. What will I study?

In Physics you'll study topics you may be familiar with, such as Mechanics, Materials and Waves, but in more detail and more focus on the maths behind them. You'll also study new topics such as Particle Physics, Quantum Mechanics, Radioactivity, Gravitational Fields, Astronomy and Engineering.

Q 2. Which exam board do you follow?

We cover the AQA Physics A-Level specification. You will sit three exams at the end of your second year, two on physics content, and the third on practical skills, and the option of either Engineering or Astronomy. You will also complete the CPAC Practical Endorsement, which shows that you are competent in a range of practical skills.

Q 3. What support is there if I am struggling?

Our teachers are always here to help and can arrange a one to one appointment to support you. We run extra support sessions once a week alongside lessons and also offer a lunchtime drop-in session for each year group.

Q 4. I'd like to apply to a top university, what extra support do you offer?

60% of our students moved on to a Russell Group university and last year 6 physics students took up places at either Oxford or Cambridge. We offer extra sessions to stretch and challenge high achieving students and to help prepare for further study.

Q 5. I am worried that I'm not taking triple science. Will it matter?

This doesn't matter at all; we have lots of students every year who have taken two science GCSEs and it is not a disadvantage.

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Q 6. What are the average class sizes, and what are the classrooms like?

Each year we have around 200 physics students, organised into classes of around 20. We have two modern laboratories with a full range of physics equipment.

Q 7. What extra opportunities are there?

Students take the British Physics Olympiad competitions, with several receiving certificates last year. In 2019, students also took part in the Institute of Physics Poster competition, attended IoP Manchester monthly lectures at Manchester Metropolitan University, attended the Medical Physics evening at the Christie Hospital, and we run weekly sessions to push students towards A* grades with challenging questions.

Q 8. What trips do you offer?

Each year we take 30 students to visit the Large Hadron Collider in Geneva, and to visit an experimental fusion reactor in Lausanne, Switzerland. Also offered last year were a trip to Jodrell Bank to learn about binary stars, an engineering careers event at Siemens and a trip to the particle accelerator at Daresbury. These trips are reviewed each year.