

PHYSICS

St Peter's students say...

“A level Physics encourages you to challenge yourself and expand your understanding of the world around you, whilst gaining an impressive qualification.”

Emily, Year 13 Physics student

Course

A level Physics

Exam Board

AQA

Entry requirements

GCSE level 6 in Physics
GCSE Combined Science Grade 6 6
GCSE level 6 in Mathematics

Why study Physics?

Physics is the study of the universe around us, and as such is suitable for those that are want to know the answers to questions that humans have been trying to unravel for millennia. These questions are still being answered today, and as such this course manages to combine some principles first used by the ancient Greeks, to technology and ideas that are at the forefront of scientific advancement.

Physics A level is a highly sought after qualification by both universities and employers, as it teaches the skills and techniques used widely in technology and engineering, but also develops critical analysis skills and problem solving abilities.

Course content

The course is broken down into topics over the two years, with practical activities included in all topics. During the first year the topics are:

Particles and radiation, Waves, Mechanics and Energy, and Electricity in the second year of the course students will study Fields, Further Mechanics and Thermal Physics, Nuclear Physics as well as an additional optional module.

This course includes the practical endorsement, students are required to be showing competency in all areas of experimental techniques.

Optional Modules:

- Astrophysics
- Medical Physics
- Engineering Physics
- Turning Points in Physics
- Electronics

Assessment

The course follows a linear pathway so concludes with three, two-hour examinations taken at the end of the course. These exams are a mixture of long answer and multiple choice questions including practical skills.

Progression after Sixth Form

Students usually go on to study Science or Engineering related disciplines as undergraduates, although many specialist apprenticeships prefer Physics qualifications.

Career opportunities

As a general rule, Physics graduates are more likely to be employed and have a higher starting salary than almost any other programme of study.

Careers for Physics include: Scientific research, engineering, finance sectors, business, energy research and development, IT, telecommunications or manufacturing.

For more information contact Head of Department:

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