



## 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 lecture attendance. We also have good links with the Engineering department, enjoying the closer proximity of their site as well as working on occasional projects with university students, most recently including Engineers Without Borders, helping learn 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 relevant practical work as possible is performed and creative, stimulating 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 five subject specialist teachers 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 well-resourced and busy Prep room. 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. We recently took delivery of an advanced digital radiation sensor.

Years 7 and 8 are taught through an "in-house" combined science course, predominantly practical and skills based, overseen by The Lower School Science Coordinator. GCSE courses begin in Year 9. There are five groups, from September 2024 being taught alternately three then four 40-minute lessons over a fortnightly timetable. In Years 10 and 11 pupils will receive three 40-minute lessons each week. Most pupils study separate Sciences, with Combined (Double) Science for one group. Historical GCSE results have been excellent.

The take up of Physics by pupils in the Sixth Form remains buoyant and results are excellent. Sets are shared between two teachers, allowing focused teaching and specialist support for practical learning and options teaching (usually Astrophysics, Medical Physics and Turning Points in Physics – we would consider delivering Engineering for a suitably-qualified candidate). 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 frequently gain Gold awards. We have also been successful in the Astronomy and Astrophysics Olympiad and may in the future consider offering GCSE Astronomy.

### Physics Department Personnel

Andrew Harmsworth	Head of Department and Joint President of the Common Room
Ali Annett	Physics teacher and STEM lead (on maternity leave to 6/25)
Tim Gradon	Physics teacher
Robin Griffiths	Physics teacher and Head of Sixth Form
Sarah Pritchard	Physics and Psychology teacher (leaving for promotion 1/25)
William Unsworth	Biology teacher and Year 9 Physics
Petr Hacko	Technician