



Ripon Grammar School

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

Physics is a very lively and successful department at Ripon Grammar School. Academic results are excellent and healthy numbers of students take Physics at A Level, typically around 35 in each of the Lower and Upper Sixth year groups. The department is well respected by students and a large number of students go on to take Physics-related degrees at university.

The department is made up of a balanced, supportive, highly professional and sociable team of staff with wide ranging experience and styles. The department has a good record of supporting students to develop an independent and mature approach to their studies. The department currently consists of three full time teachers, as well as one part time dedicated laboratory technician.

The department is housed mainly on the first floor of the Science Block where there are three physics laboratories. There are ten Science laboratories in total and these are occasionally also used to deliver Physics' lessons. The department is very well-equipped, enabling a wide range of practical work to be carried out by all year groups. There are also three readily available ICT rooms in the Science Block and a class set of laptops for student use.

The school has an observatory on the school field in order to support GCSE Astronomy, the teaching of Astronomy in Physics and for use by the local community.

Students are taught Science in Year 7 with a highly successful course created with a very significant focus on the development of scientific skills as well as introducing key areas of knowledge and understanding. Although the three Sciences are taught separately from Year 8 upwards, the three Science departments work closely together in the Science Faculty to co-ordinate approaches in many key areas of teaching and learning.

All members of the Department teach throughout the 11-18 age range with a good proportion of A-level teaching. The school operates a 40-period week with 40 minute lessons and Physics has a mixture of single and double lessons with most year groups.

- Y7** Students are taught Science by one teacher for six periods a week with a significant emphasis on the development of scientific skills.
- Y8** Students are taught Biology, Chemistry and Physics as separate subjects, with two periods a week for each subject. We use our own course that is constantly reviewed and developed.
- Y9** Students start the AQA GCSE Physics course with two periods a week.
- Y10** Students continue the AQA GCSE Physics course with three periods a week (one single and one double).

Y11 Most students complete the AQA GCSE Physics course with three periods a week. A small group of students who find the pace of separate sciences challenging switch to AQA GCSE Combined Science (Trilogy); these students continue to be taught by three subject specialists for a total of nine periods a week.

Y12/13 Physics is a popular and successful subject in the school at A-level. We follow the Edexcel specification with students receiving seven periods a week of teaching in Y12 rising to eight periods in Y13. Each set is taught by two teachers who teach half the course each.

Examination results have remained consistently high over the last few years with around 70% grade 7+ at GCSE and around 70% B+ at A level.

The department is keen to take opportunities to take the students on visits outside school. Recent trips (pre-Covid) have included CERN in Geneva, the Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre and the National Space Centre in Leicester. We also have a very successful student-led Physics and Engineering Society where students present on topics of their choosing each week to their peers. There is also a Y7 Science Club that is partly run by sixth-form students.

This is an exciting opportunity for the successful applicant to work with committed colleagues to learn from and add to an experienced, successful department within an outstanding school.

Robert Griggs (Head of Physics)

March 2021