Physics

OCR A
Course Tutor
Mr J Thomson

Category	Information
Course entry requirements	General A level entry requirements including two grade 6's in GCSE Combined (Trilogy) Science or a grade 6 in Physics (Triple) and one other separate science subject, as well as a grade 5 in English and grade 7 in Maths.
Course description *What will I be studying and doing?*	Have you ever wondered … • **Why does the universe behave the way it does?** • **How ultrasound can create a picture?** • **How fast you would have to travel to fool a speed camera?** • **What force would be necessary to stop a formula one car?** • **What are CERN looking for?** The course we offer at Vandyke aims to reflect Physics as it is practised and used today. Physics is at the heart of everything and is a highly rewarding subject to study at A Level. Whilst Physics is a very broad subject, this course succeeds in giving students a solid foundation for further studies. A Level Physics now includes a 40% Mathematical skills component and although taking A Level Maths is not a prerequisite, maths students tend to perform better. It is also worth mentioning that if you wish to take Physics beyond A Level, A Level Mathematics is a requirement for most universities. Lessons involve a variety of activities including practical work, ICT and theory. You are expected to have access to a computer and be able to use Excel for analysing data.
Final examinations *What's the final exam like?*	A Level is covered by **three examinations**: (2 x 2 hours 15 minutes and 1 x 1 hour 30 minutes) taken at the end of the course. A wide range of question types are included: **multiple choice**, **short answer** and **extended response** questions.
Practical skills *What do I have to do in terms of practical work?*	Physics lessons will often include practical work, however in addition to this, there are also a number of compulsory practical experiments which need to be carried out throughout the two-year course. Assessment of the practical endorsement will take place during normal lessons.
Post-18 Opportunities and Employment *Why should I take physics?*	**"Studying physics at school is an excellent preparation for a range of challenging and rewarding degree courses."** Wendy Piatt – Director General, Russell Group There is a huge national shortage of skilled physicists and therefore Physics offers many opportunities post-18. Many employers actively seek out people who can prove their ability to think logically, understand complex ideas and apply them to the real world. Typical sectors where physicists are found include: Research and Development; Engineering; Design and Production; Telecommunications; Medical Physics; Astronomy and Astrophysics; Meteorology, Education and Finance.