

SOUTHEND HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

ACADEMY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Interim Headteacher: Mrs R V Worth



November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

RE: Support in A Level Science

We write in relation to your child's progress in their initial stages of A Level studies in Physics. Following recent assessments and observations in class, we have identified that some students, including your child, may be experiencing challenges in securing a strong foundation in the subject. Starting A Levels is a significant step-up from GCSE, and it is common for students to need time and support to adjust to the demands of these advanced courses. Our goal is to ensure that all students feel confident and supported as they work to master the concepts and skills essential for success.

To help students make the necessary progress, we have outlined some recommended strategies and resources that can support their learning. Additionally, we want to share the steps we will be taking as a department to offer further support and guidance.

Suggested Strategies for Students

1. *Regular Review and Practice:* Students should dedicate time each week to reviewing class notes, practicing problem-solving, and revisiting key concepts. We recommend setting up a consistent study schedule to reinforce learning and address areas of difficulty, with one hour of independent study for each hour of formal, taught, lesson time.
2. *Use of Online Resources:* Many online platforms and websites, such as A Level Physics Online (YouTube Channel and Website), PhysicsAndMathsTutor.com and SaveMyExams.com, offer guided videos, lessons, mind-maps and past paper questions specifically geared towards A Level Physics. These resources can help reinforce understanding in challenging areas.
3. *Focused Practice with Past Papers:* Working through past A Level exam questions provides valuable insight into exam techniques and helps consolidate knowledge. It can be particularly helpful for students to identify areas where they need further improvement. A booklet containing some of these is provided by the physics department complete with topic checklists.



School Support for Students

To complement students' independent efforts, we are implementing additional support measures:

1. *Weekly Support Sessions:* We will be offering weekly drop-in sessions where students can seek help from teachers, go over difficult topics, and clarify their understanding. Subject teachers of Physics will be available at these sessions to provide targeted guidance. These sessions run on Monday lunchtimes from 13:15 to 14:55 in W2.
2. *Study Resources:* Teachers will be making a range of study materials available, including topic summaries, key concept checklists, and guided practice exercises (as stated earlier). Students will also be issued with a CGP Workbook which will help them go over basic concepts as they progress through the year. They can bring this along to the Monday Physics Workshop to check for understanding and go over any misconceptions.
3. *Peer Mentoring:* We will also be looking to introduce peer mentoring, whereby students will have the opportunity to meet with Year 13 subject mentors for individual support. During these sessions, mentors will work with students to set achievable goals, provide personalised feedback, and discuss strategies to address specific challenges they may be facing.

We will review your child's progress again after Christmas and feedback at the Year 12 Parents' Evening on 13 January. We would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that the *Mid-Course Assessments* will be held in late January.

We are committed to supporting each student as they work to meet the demands of their A Level studies and wish to thank you for your continued support at home. If you would like to discuss your child's progress in more detail or if you have any questions about the support measures in place, please contact us via School Enquiries (enquiries@shsb.org.uk).

Yours sincerely,

Mr G Baker
Leader of Physics

Mr D Hill
Leader of Science