



# KING EDWARD VI HANDSWORTH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

## The Physics Department

### Staffing

Science is the largest department in the school and takes a key role in implementing new learning and teaching strategies. We run several science based clubs and use links with Mathematics and Technology to increase the girls' awareness of STEM related careers.

The Science Department at King Edward VI Handsworth is extremely well equipped in terms of practical equipment, lab space and experience of the existing staff. We have a history of successfully mentoring ECT and those embarking on ITT.

The Science Department consists of 12 well equipped laboratories and a classroom. These are all maintained by our experienced team of 3 Technicians. Each lab has an interactive white board.

At present the Science department has the following members of staff:-

#### **Biology Department**

Miss Emma Duggal (Subject Leader Biology)  
Mrs Adelaide Orme (part time)  
Ms Shane Huda (part time)  
Mrs Mahmooda Begum (part time)  
Mrs Trudy Kirby  
Mrs Harbinder Flora  
Miss Halima Khan (Biology Technician)

#### **Chemistry Department**

Dr Jonathan Whitehead (Subject Leader Chemistry)  
Mrs Gurvinder Bajaj  
Mrs Harleen Assi  
Miss Natalie Samuels  
Dr Ross Perrins  
Mr Chakib Hamdi (Chemistry Technician)

#### **Physics Department**

Miss Parinaz Ijakipour (Subject Leader Physics)  
Mr Andrew North (part time)  
Mr Charles Erb (part time)  
Miss Joanna Merrick  
Mr Alex Goldring  
Mr Charles Trotter (Assistant Head i/c Data)  
Mr Allan Lock (Physics technician)

## Curriculum

### **Physics**

Our aim is to be a friendly, collaborative, stimulating and supportive department. We strive for excellence through challenging, enquiry-based study that is informed by pedagogical research. Our aim is to break down gender-based perceptions of Physics and encourage more girls into considering Physics and Engineering related careers. We have been very successful in this endeavor and every year a significant number of our girls go on to study Physics and Engineering at a range of mainly red brick universities and Oxbridge. We update our schemes of learning continuously in order to reflect the latest advances in pedagogical research.

#### **Years 7 and 8**

Students have one 50min lesson per week. The students follow the national curriculum. It has been designed and adapted to allow enquiry-based learning.

#### **Year 9**

In year 9, students finish the National Curriculum at KS3 and are introduced to concepts from GCSE physics (AQA), which they will build upon in year 10 and 11.

#### **Year 11**

All students follow the AQA Physics specification. They are taught by 2 Physics specialist. The students sit external examinations at the end of their year course. The departmental results are excellent with the vast majority of the girls achieving grades 7-9 (~75%) with a significant proportion of the cohort achieving a grade 9 (~30%). The students receive 5 x 50min lessons per fortnight usually as two doubles and one single lesson.

#### **Year 12 and 13**

Physics is a popular subject at A-Level. The department usually has between 20 and 40 students studying Physics in Year 12 in two teaching groups who then continue onto Year 13.

The Department follows the AQA specification and all students study for A-level Physics. We do not do AS levels. The students are taught Physics in 11 x 50min lessons per fortnight usually as five doubles and one single lesson.

## Further Information

To find out further information about the Physics Department please log on to our website at [www.kingedwardvi.bham.sch.uk](http://www.kingedwardvi.bham.sch.uk) and follow the following links: Teaching and Learning > Curriculum > Physics. Information on events within the department can also be found on our website in the Gallery.

Miss Parinaz Ijakistan  
Subject Leader Physics  
October 2023