

# PHYSICS TEACHER

## ***What we say about ourselves...***

Alleyn's has been committed to providing co-educational excellence for over thirty years, as the best framework for boys and girls to achieve their full potential and to develop life-long skills in preparation for university, the world of work and life in general. We aim to achieve high academic success and expect high standards from all our pupils, who are cared for within a culture of strong pastoral care, which promotes and values the widest possible range of co-curricular activities.

## ***What others say about us...***

“Alleyn's School fully meets its aim of providing a broad liberal education for boys and girls of high academic ability in a caring, friendly and tolerant community. Relationships between teachers and pupils at every level of the school are entirely natural and underpinned by an assumption of respect. The result is a community at ease with itself, where pupils are willing and cooperative learners who achieve high standards in work and activities without being pressurised, and who are happy, courteous and confident without being arrogant. The highly committed members of staff provide both outstanding pastoral care and an exceptional range of opportunities through the many activities, trips and links with the wider community.”

*(Independent Schools Inspectorate Inspection Report 2008)*

## **Background to the School**

Alleyn's is a friendly, caring, academically excellent, independent co-educational school for pupils aged 4-18. Alleyn's was the first major London school to become co-educational over 30 years ago and that philosophy is embedded across all aspects of school life. The Junior School is a member of IAPS, with pupils aged from 4-11. The Senior School is an HMC school with pupils aged 11-18.

There are approximately 965 pupils in the Senior School, with a Sixth Form of 292. We aim for around 26 pupils in Year 7 and 8 classes; reducing in Year 9 to around 23. In GCSE sets, the maximum is usually 20. Upper School sets average 12 for AS courses, reducing slightly in Year 13.

Competition for entry to the School is fierce. The School is not academically exclusive, however, the average ability of pupils is very high in both their academic and their co-curricular interests.

Alleyn's is a highly regarded school within the local community, across London and beyond. Both staff and pupils take great pride in this reputation. The commitment from all is evident in the continuing success and progress of the School. Close association with the Dulwich Foundation, established by the Elizabethan actor Edward Alleyn, accounts

for the School motto: 'God's Gift'. Considerable financial support is given to the School by the Foundation and the Saddlers' Livery Company who sponsor scholarships within the Senior School.

### **Facilities**

The School has approximately 30 acres of grounds, with extensive playing fields and its own running track. There is an all weather sports area, swimming pool and a Sports Hall. Networked computers are available across the School site with broadband internet access. The library has been extended and refurbished. The School has recently undertaken a £13.5 million extension providing additional facilities for teaching, pastoral care and the performing arts.

### **Curriculum**

There is a common curriculum in Year 7. Subjects taught include Art, Biology, Chemistry, Design Technology, English, French, Geography, History, ICT, Latin, Mathematics, Music, PE, Physics and Religious Studies. These subjects continue in Year 8, where there is some setting in Mathematics and a second language choice is introduced. There is a wide choice of subject options in Years 10 and 11. The current GCSE curriculum includes English, Mathematics, a Modern Foreign Language and Science (Dual or Triple Award) alongside a wide choice of options available to all students. The Sixth Form options system offers immense choice and flexibility. All pupils take 4 subjects in Year 12 and 3 or 4 subjects in Year 13.

### **Pastoral system**

Pupils have the same tutor for their time in the Lower School, (Years 7 and 8) under the care of the Head of the Lower School. In Year 9, they move to the Middle School where they have new tutors who are also the Heads of House. The eight Heads of House are responsible for pastoral welfare from Years 9 to 13 in conjunction with the two Assistant Heads responsible for these years. Team games, music and other inter-house competitions are organised through the House System.

The School has its own Chaplain and there is also a fully trained counsellor, available to pupils.

### **Co-curricular**

Alleyn's Sport offers opportunities at all levels. The PE curriculum throughout the School is varied, encompassing a wide variety of team games and individual sports. We run teams in a large number of major and minor sports. We encourage pupils to represent the School at one or more sports at any age group, so that during the course of a year well over three quarters of the pupils in the School will have taken part in competitive sport.

In Music there are about 30 performing groups including 4 orchestras, 2 choirs, 2 wind bands, a jazz band and several chamber groups. There are usually three or four main drama productions each year, with Drama clubs in Lower School and Middle School.

All pupils join the CCF, Duke of Edinburgh or the Community Service programme in Year 10.

**All members of staff are expected to play a full part in the co-curricular life of the School.**

## **PHYSICS DEPARTMENT**

### **Introduction**

The Physics Department is an autonomous part of the Science Department, which is chaired by the Head of Chemistry. The Head of Physics leads a team of five teachers and two technicians. Within the department, the Head of Department takes responsibility for managing one key stage. There are two other positions of responsibility: a Deputy Head of Department, who also manages a Key Stage, and a Coordinator who manages the third Key Stage. There are two technicians (one full time and one term time only) who support the teaching programmes. In addition there is a full reprographics service available within the school.

The department has a successful record of achievement for its students, both at GCSE and A level. Numbers at A level fluctuate but we regularly have over 30 starting in Year 12. Many of these students go on to read Physics and Engineering and others use Physics as a support subject for areas such as Mathematics and Medicine. Entry grades for those taking Physics at A level is generally high (better than a B in Physics and better than AA at double award science) although we do try to encourage enthusiastic students by giving them a chance.

### **Curriculum offered**

The Physics course broadly follows the national curriculum at Key Stage 3 and is taught as a separate subject with specialist teachers where possible. The weekly time allocation is 75 minutes (a double period). In Years 7-8 class sizes are approximately 26, decreasing to approximately 24 in Year 9.

At Key Stage 4 we use the AQA syllabus and have based our scheme of work on their outline programme. This choice is in common with Chemistry and Biology so that students can be entered for double or triple award science at GCSE. At Key Stage 4 all the students get one double and one single period of Physics per week. The students are taught in classes of

20 with five classes aiming for separate awards in Physics and two classes aiming for a double award in Science.

At Key Stage 5 the students will follow the Edexcel AS and A2 course; building upon our past experience of the applications-led Salter Horners course.

### **Facilities & Resources**

The department has three large laboratories (one shared with Chemistry) and two smaller Sixth Form laboratories. Two laboratories have recently been refurbished as part of a rolling programme updating the whole Science building and another will be refurbished this summer. All laboratories are covered by a series of radio hubs allowing for laptop computers to be used by classes for both recording experimental data and researching topics for project work. There is also a networked computer linked to a projector in each lab enabling PowerPoint and internet applications to be displayed on the board. Each laboratory has a DVD and VHS video player with a sound system connected to the projector.

The department is well resourced with books, apparatus and software. It has been undertaking an active programme of updating equipment over the past two years. The aim is to replace dated equipment and to ensure that where topics are covered across different key stages, new equipment and ways of presenting the concepts are available.

### **Post Outline**

We are seeking to make a temporary full-time appointment for the second half of the Autumn term to cover for a member of the department who is convalescing after an operation. We are looking for an excellent, committed and dynamic teacher who will:

- contribute to the high quality teaching and assessment of Physics across ability ranges, up to and including A level;
- work closely with the department to develop Physics as a subject within the school;
- promote and protect children's welfare in all aspects of their contribution to school life and follow school Health and Safety guidelines;
- contribute to the department's co-curricular activities and participate in the wider school programme of co-curricular activities.

Another member of the department, although one with a rather different timetable will be on maternity leave during the Spring and Summer terms, and so there is the possibility of an appointment for the remainder of this academic year for a suitable candidate.

**Short-listed candidates will be asked to plan and teach a lesson. The Head of Department will contact candidates selected for interview with more details.**

### **Child Protection**

Alleyn's School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Criminal Records Bureau.

### **Equal Opportunities**

Alleyn's School is an Equal Opportunities employer, and welcomes applications for all posts from appropriately qualified persons regardless of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, religion or belief.

### **Applications**

A letter of application, a completed application form, a full CV and names and contact details of three referees should be sent to the Headmaster,  
Dr Gary Savage, Alleyn's School, Dulwich SE22 8SU  
by **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

All details can be found on our website [www.alleyns.org.uk](http://www.alleyns.org.uk)