

Stimulating Physics Network

Partner School Programme of Support

Introduction

The *Stimulating Physics Network* (SPN) is a national education project funded by the Department for Education (DfE), and managed by the Institute of Physics (IOP). The SPN has been operational at a national level since 2009.

The School named below has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the IOP to hold the status of SPN Partner School, which includes a commitment by the IOP to develop and deliver a bespoke programme of support for the School, through a dedicated physics coach.

There is no financial cost to the School or its teachers for any of this provision. The estimated value of the support provided to each Partner School is over £6,000 per year. The SPN is a publicly-funded project. We therefore ask for an expression of commitment from SPN Partner Schools to ensure good value for money in the delivery of this project.

This programme of support can be considered a reflection of that commitment, by both the School and the IOP, to the principles and success of the SPN project.

This is a **live document** – it should be completed at the start of the period of support but monitored, added to and edited on an ongoing basis. This is a **shared document** – it should be completed in liaison between the IOP Coach and the School's science department, and submitted to the IOP as explained below. It will be accessible at any time by representatives of the IOP and the School, for audit and sign-off purposes.

School Details

School Name	Somerset Academy of Excellence
School Postcode	TA1 1BC
SPN Coach Name	Lawrence Cattermole
Partner School start date	1 September 2016

Programme Overview

Year of partnership (1-3)	1
Aim	Improve GCSE physics results in Y11 (2016-17) triple science sets
Related item in SIP	2. Improve Outcomes 2.1 Challenge our most able to make exceptional progress 2.1.B Improve GCSE results in triple science sets
Measurable targets	Proportion of A*-A grades in 2017 GCSE physics increases by at least 15% from 2015 results
Gender balance target	No significant difference in number of girls and boys achieving A*-A in GCSE physics
Deadline	31 August 2017
Planned activities (narrative)	We will run a series of half-termly CPD workshops for both teachers and technicians in the department, focused on developing teachers' subject knowledge and teaching approaches in KS4 physics. We will include within these workshops the most effective approaches for improving girls' engagement and attainment in physics. We will also look at the required practicals for GCSE physics, aiming to build

	<p>teachers' confidence and fluency in handling equipment and managing class practicals. We will ensure that teachers have an opportunity to discuss how to ensure as many pupils as possible can access the highest grades in GCSE physics.</p> <p>We will ensure that our non-specialist teachers get the chance to attend an SPN summer school in 2017.</p> <p>We will arrange a series of masterclasses and/or A-level taster lessons for all Y11 pupils (not just those in triple science sets) who are considering studying physics at A-level</p>
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Whole School Equality Project (WSEP)

WSEP offer taken up?	Yes/No
Project objective	
Initiation visit (Date)	
SPN Gender Balance Officer	
School Gender Champion	
Planned activities (narrative)	

Programme Details (including WSEP if relevant)

Session	Date	Time	Details of session	Aimed at
1	15/9/16	1530-1730	KS4 Electromagnetism	KS4 teachers
2	24/11/16	1600-1730	Medical Physics	KS4/5 teachers
3	12/1/17	1530-1730	Optics	KS3-5 teachers
4	24/3/17	1600-1730	Circular motion and moments	KS4 teachers
5	20/4/17	1330-1600	Practical assessments	KS4 teachers
6	2/5/17	1530-1630	Accessing A-A* grades	KS4 teachers
7	21/7/17	0930-1030	Physics Show (Ever Wondered Why)	Y9 pupils
8	26/5/17	1230-1330	A-level taster lesson	Selected Y10/Y11

Monitoring and Evaluation

Checkpoint	Date	Who is responsible (School)	What is to be measured	How this will be reported	Result/outcome
1	16/12/16	Head of Science	Teacher confidence in teaching the topics covered	Verbal feedback to DHT	
2	28/2/17	Head of Physics	Y11 internal test	Data to DHT and HT	
3	31/8/17	Head of Physics	GCSE physics results	Written report to HT and Govs.	

Sign-off

Role	Name/Signature	Email	Date
Operational Contact (School, Science)			
Partnership Contact (School, SLT)			
SPN Coach			
SPN Manager (IOP audit)			

Instructions for IOP audit and transfer to the SPN online repository

Send an email to spn@iop.org with the completed programme attached as a Word document, with the subject line 'SPN Programme of Support: [School Name]'.

Your proposed programme will be checked; if further changes are required it will be returned with suggestions for additions/edits. If it is approved it will be uploaded to the SPN online repository.

A link to an editable version of the document will be shared with the relevant School and IOP contacts.