

Astronomy

EDEXCEL GCSE

Why study Astronomy?

This is an opportunity to study a wonderful and increasingly ‘modern’ subject – taught by resident astronomer Dr Nick Lister and all in our dedicated and unique Lawrence House Astronomy and Space Science Centre. The centre comprises a classroom, lecture theatre, Planetarium (always a favourite), and a plethora of telescopes and equipment for you to utilise.

There has never been a better time to study astronomy – all the latest and greatest revelations are included in this fantastic syllabus.



This subject is offered outside of the 9.05am to 4.25pm timetable

What will I learn?

There are many topics, roughly divided into five major 'chapters'. You will learn about:

- Our 'home', the Earth, and its place within the Universe
- The Moon and the Sun, and their influence upon our planet
- The planets in our Solar System
- Stars and Galaxies – the life and structure of the stars – Constellations, and the night sky.
- Observing Techniques – how we view and study the Universe.

How will I be assessed?

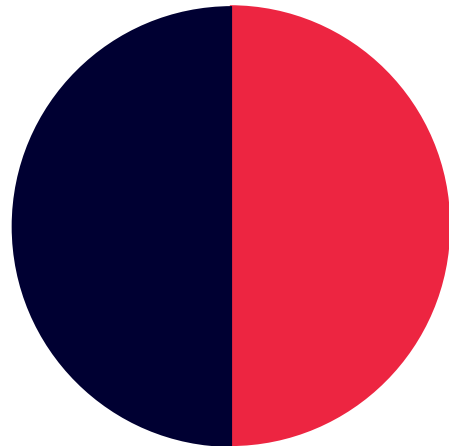
At the end of your GCSE course you will be assessed in two written examinations. These will test your knowledge based around how we view the Universe, and how astronomers discover its secrets.

Paper 1

How and what we observe in our night sky, with the naked eye

Paper 2

How, as astronomers, we observe and comprehend the greater Universe, with optical (telescopic) aid.



50% - Naked Eye Astronomy Written Examination
50% - Telescopic Astronomy Written Examination

What can I do after I've completed the course?

Upon successful completion of your Astronomy GCSE you will have gained a (very) rare qualification. This can certainly be used to further your interest in astronomy and astrophysics – A Level, IB and later Degree courses will always be an option. Moreover; the astronomy GCSE is a fantastic vehicle towards enhancing your scientific, theoretical, and even philosophical knowledge.

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