



Physics Year 11	Working towards expected outcomes	Working at expected outcomes	Working beyond expected outcomes
Autumn Term Forces and their interactions	Your child is not yet making the expected progress within this course. Students working towards expected outcomes in Y11 can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe forces acting on objects and use force diagrams to show how they interact. • Use basic free-body diagrams to describe situations where forces are balanced or result in movement. • Apply key equations for weight ($W = mg$), work done ($W = Fs$), and moment ($M = Fd$) when values are given. • Identify that work done can lead to energy transfer, such as a rise in temperature due to friction. • Give examples of stretching, bending, and compression, and recognise that more than one force is needed to change an object's shape. • Know the difference between elastic and inelastic deformation and identify when a spring has gone past its limit of proportionality. 	Your child is achieving the expected progress for this point within the course. Students working at expected in Y11 can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accurately describe interactions between objects, showing that forces act in pairs and can be represented as vectors. • Use and interpret free-body diagrams to explain how forces combine to produce a resultant force, including balanced and unbalanced systems. • Apply equations like $W = mg$, $W = Fs$ and $M = Fd$ with converted values. • Explain that work done against friction increases temperature and describe how this energy transfer links to conservation of energy. • Describe how levers and gears help transmit the turning effect of forces. • Apply the spring equation ($F = ke$), interpret graphs and data and identify when relationships become non-linear. 	Your child is exceeding the expected progress. Students working beyond expected in Y11 can: <p>In addition to all the skills listed under 'Working At' for this topic, students working beyond expected outcomes can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use vector diagrams to calculate resultant forces and resolve components. • Solve multi-step problems using equations, including unit conversions and rearranging. • Evaluate the outcomes of the required practical and explain potential sources of error or uncertainty in force-extension data. • Interpret complex force-extension graphs and explain elastic behaviour. • Analyse floating and sinking in terms of density, pressure difference, and upthrust, including unfamiliar or quantitative contexts. • Use scale vector diagrams to solve force equilibrium problems and determine unknown forces or directions. • Justify how mechanical systems (e.g. gears, levers, hydraulics) improve



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apply the spring equation ($F = ke$) and describe a linear force–extension relationship.• Use results from the required practical to identify patterns between force and extension in a spring.• Use the equation for pressure on surfaces ($P = F/A$) and describe everyday examples of pressure.• Understand that pressure in fluids increases with depth and explain simple floating/sinking examples.• Recognise that atmospheric pressure decreases with height and describe how this affects objects at different altitudes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use the required practical to calculate spring constant, interpret force-extension graphs and apply the formula for elastic potential energy ($E = 0.5 \times k \times e^2$).• Apply equations for pressure on surfaces and pressure in liquids ($p = h\rho g$) and use them to calculate pressure differences.• Describe how upthrust acts on submerged objects and how pressure differences result in floating or sinking.• Explain how atmospheric pressure changes with height, using models of the atmosphere and reasoning based on air particle density.	<p>efficiency using principles of pressure and moments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluate how pressure models explain real-world situations like high-altitude breathing
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Spring Term

Magnetism and Electromagnetism

- Identify magnetic materials and describe attraction and repulsion between poles.
- Use a compass to plot magnetic field patterns and draw simple field diagrams around magnets.
- Recognise that electric currents create magnetic fields and describe their shape for wires and coils.
- Understand that the Earth has a magnetic field and explain compass behaviour.
- Describe how electromagnets are made stronger using coils and iron cores.
- Use the equation $F = BIL$ with provided values and identify directions using the left-hand rule.
- Describe how moving a wire in a magnetic field can induce a potential difference.
- Know that alternators produce alternating current and dynamos produce direct current.
- Use simple transformer equations to link turns and potential difference.

- Draw accurate magnetic field diagrams around magnets, wires, and solenoids.
- Explain how electromagnets work and how to vary their strength, including interpreting device diagrams.
- Apply the left-hand rule and use the equation $F = BIL$ to calculate magnetic forces.
- Explain how electric motors work, including how magnetic forces cause rotation.
- Describe and explain the function of loudspeakers, headphones and microphones.
- Interpret potential difference–time graphs and explain how generators produce electricity.
- Describe the operation of alternators and dynamos and compare their outputs.
- Explain how transformers change potential difference and current using magnetic fields and apply related equations.
- Describe how high potential differences help reduce energy losses during electricity transmission.

In addition to all the skills listed under ‘Working At’ for this topic, students working beyond expected outcomes can:

- Apply their understanding to unfamiliar contexts, including field direction and force calculations.
- Interpret complex diagrams of motors, loudspeakers, and transformers.
- Use and rearrange equations fluently, including $F = BIL$ and transformer equations, with correct units and conversions.
- Analyse how changes in device design affect performance and efficiency, including real-world examples.
- Evaluate how physics reduces energy loss in power transmission.



Summer 1

Space

- Describe how stars form from gas and dust pulled together by gravity.
- Understand that fusion reactions inside stars release energy that balances the pull of gravity.
- List the main stages in a star's life and understand that stars can end in different ways depending on their size.
- Describe differences between planets, moons, and artificial satellites, and recognise that gravity keeps them in orbit.
- Know that in circular orbits, speed stays the same but direction changes, and gravity causes this.
- Understand that light from distant galaxies is stretched (red-shifted), showing that they are moving away.
- Recognise that red-shift provides evidence for the Big Bang theory and suggests the universe is expanding.

- Explain how gravity causes stars to begin fusion and how fusion keeps a star stable during its life.
- Describe how fusion creates new elements inside stars, especially during their later stages.
- Explain the life cycle of stars, and how this differs for smaller vs larger stars.
- Compare the orbits and purposes of planets, moons and satellites, and explain how gravity controls their motion.
- Explain that in circular orbits, speed changes affect the size of the orbit.
- Describe how red-shift supports the idea that galaxies are moving apart and the universe is expanding.
- Explain how scientists use observations to develop theories like the Big Bang, while also recognising that parts of the universe are still not understood, like dark matter and dark energy.

In addition to all the skills listed under 'Working At' for this topic, students working beyond expected outcomes can:

- Apply knowledge of fusion to explain how new elements form inside stars, including during their final stages.
- Analyse how orbit radius and speed are linked, using gravitational reasoning.
- Interpret red-shift data and use it to explain why the Big Bang theory is strongly supported, while also understanding its limitations.
- Discuss how new discoveries (like dark energy) lead to changes in scientific understanding.
- Evaluate the roles of different satellites and explain what makes an orbit stable or unstable.