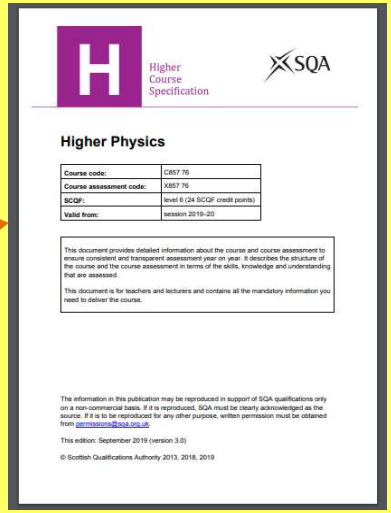
Supporting Pupils @ Home

2025-2026

Higher Physics

Course Information … the official SQA stuff

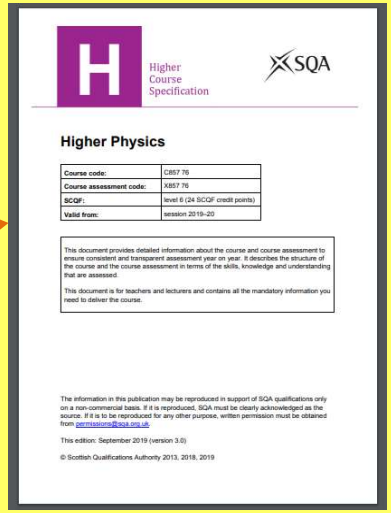
The Higher Physics page on the SQA website… [Higher Physics - Course overview and resources - Qualifications Scotland] … has a link to the **Course Specification**, which has details of the course structure and content.



It also has a link to **Past Papers**, and the **Marking Instructions** for those.
It also has a link to detailed info' on the **Assignment** i.e. the **Coursework**
It also has a link to the separate SQA **Understanding Standards** website.
These are all extremely valuable resources that will help your child progress, and in preparing for their Higher course assessment.

Course Information … Course Specification

The **Course Specification** doc' has the details of all the theory covered in the Course – everything your child needs to learn ! …
HigherCourseSpecPhysics.pdf

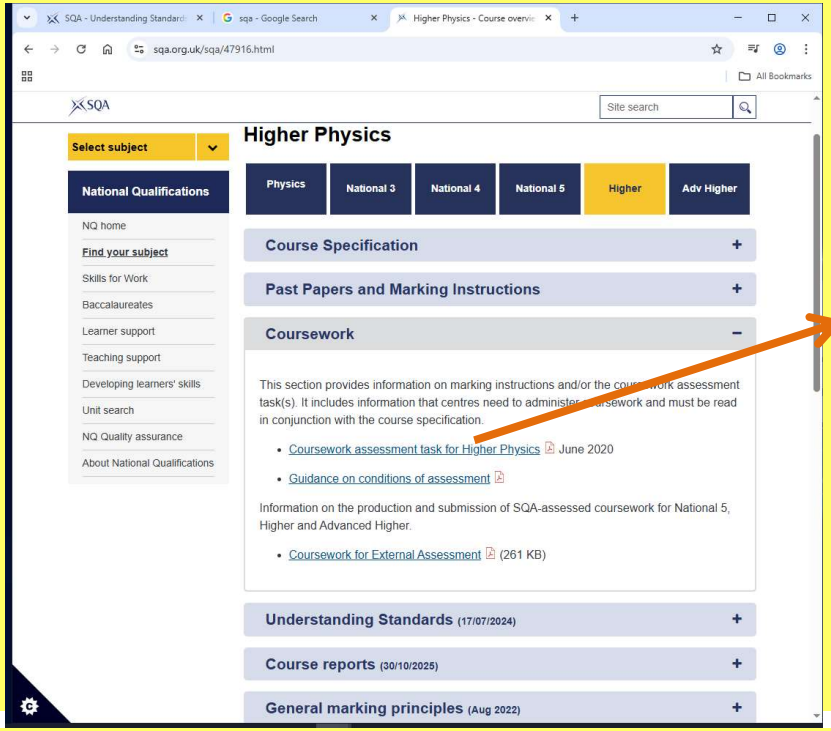


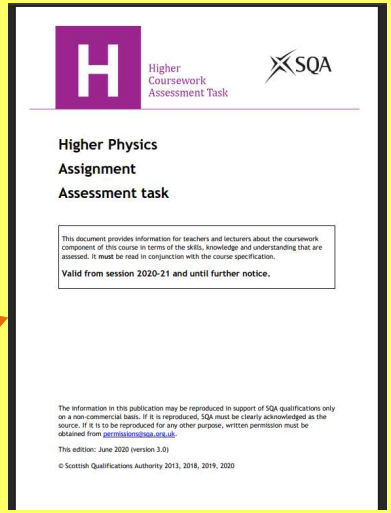
… look at the **Mandatory Content** statements on p33 - 60.

It also has an *outline* of what's involved for the **Assignment**
… although much better info' about that is in another doc' called **Coursework(Assignment) Assessment Task** – see next slide.

Course Information … Assignment

The **Assignment** is worth 20 % of the overall Course Award (…the Exam is the other 80%) – so it's an important thing !





Full info' about what needs to be done for this is explained in the doc' called **Coursework Assessment Task**, or/and **Assignment Assessment Task**, which is in the **Coursework** section.
Higher Physics CAT

An outline of what needs to be done for the Assignment is given in the **Instructions** section on p5-9, with more specifics in the **Instructions for Candidates** section on p20-26, which the pupils will have during their 'write up' – but that only has an *outline* Marking Grid in it … students should read carefully through the **Detailed Marking Instructions** on p11-19, which tells them what they need to do to gain each of the full 20 Marks. It's usually beneficial to do timed practise 'write-ups', before the official **Reporting Stage** in school.

SQA's Understanding Standards website …

This website… Qualifications Scotland - Understanding Standards: About this website… has **real** examples of *why* some answers got the Marks they did,

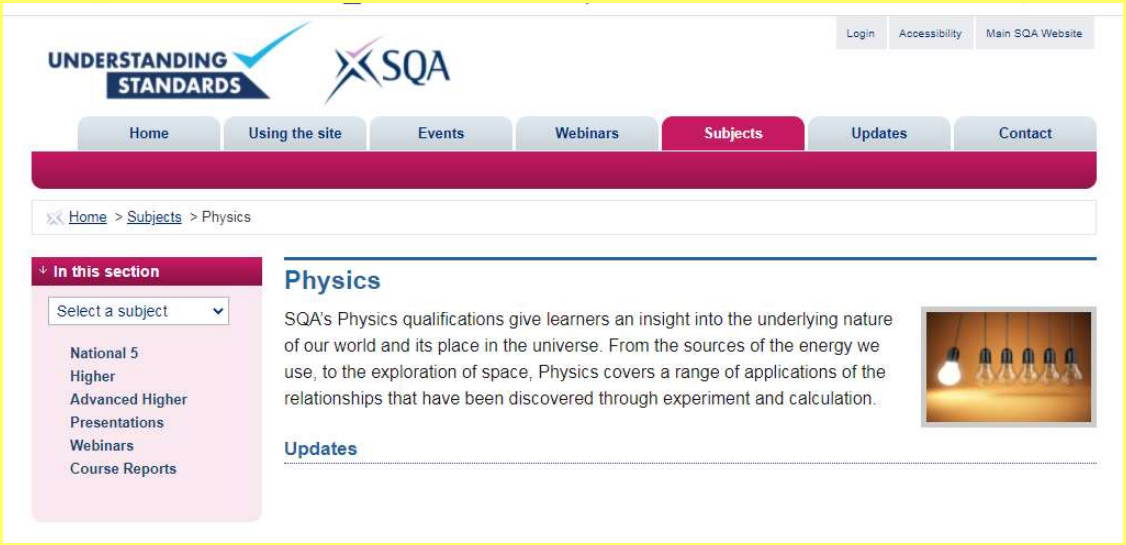
… and perhaps more usefully, *reasons* why other answers *didn't* get the Marks … so this is a great place to '*understand the standards*' i.e. to see examples of the level of detail that the SQA expect pupils to give in their Exam answers …

… which is a very useful thing to be aware of.

The next slide describes the two main, different types of pupil 'evidence' that's included - and how best to use that evidence.

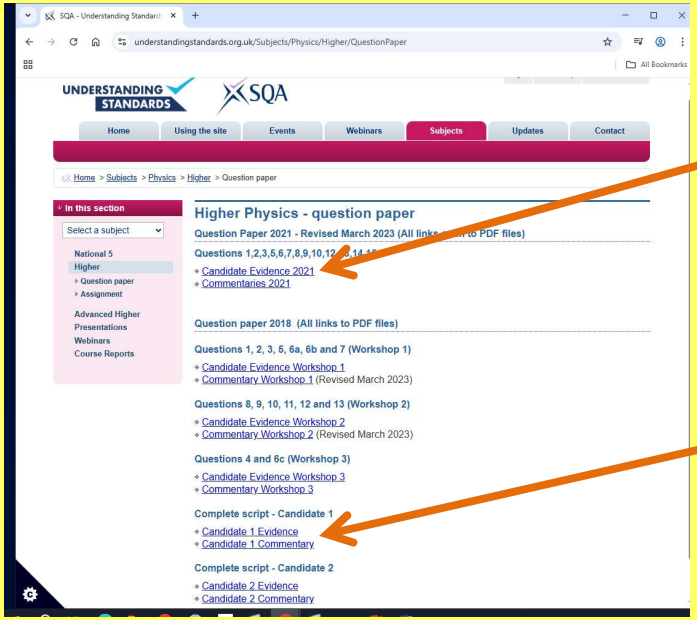
SQA's Understanding Standards … Physics

The Physics page on the Understanding Standards website… Qualifications Scotland - Understanding Standards: Physics … has links to the sample data for each Course, which gives examples of pupil's responses, called **Candidate Evidence,** for both the **Exam Questions** as well as for **Assignment Reports.**



The next slide describes how best to use the Candidate Evidence …

Understanding Standards … getting the best use of it



First, look at **Candidate Evidence** for some Questions, and use the Marking Scheme for those particular questions (which can be found in various places) and ***you*** Mark them.

Then look at the **Commentary**, which shows you what Marks the SQA actually gave those same Questions … doing that will let you see how well *you* have understood the level of detail needed in the answers.

Then, read through the *comments* in the **Commentary** to understand *why* the SQA did, or did not, give the Marks for each of the Questions.

Doing that will give you more confidence to be able to give good, 'full' answers in the Exam – and to let you achieve the most Marks ☺

The next slide is about the Assignment info' in Understanding Standards …

Understanding Standards … in the Assignment Report

Again, first of all, look at some **Candidate Evidence** for some of the samples of Assignment Reports, and use the **Detailed Marking Scheme** to *Mark* them.

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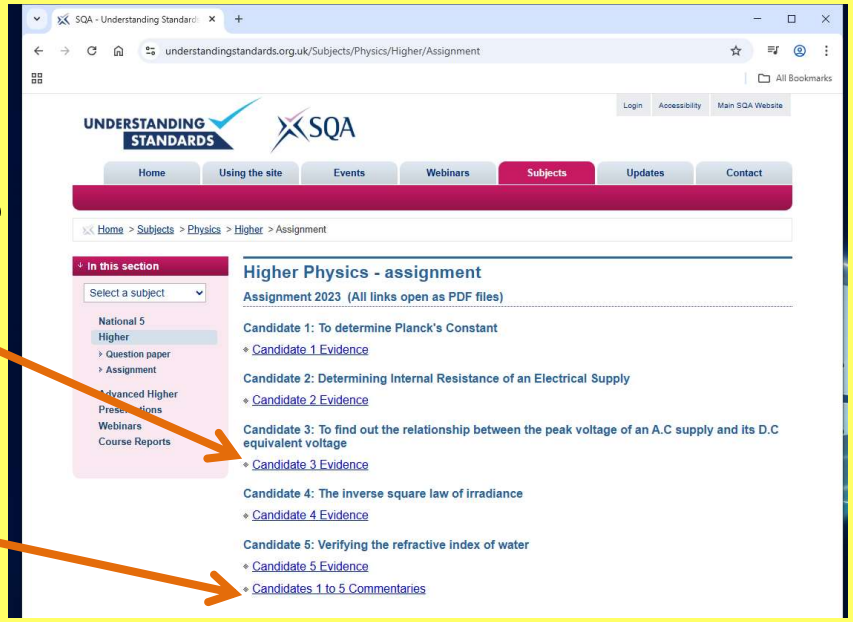
Then, as with the Questions evidence, look at the **Commentary**, which Shows you what Marks the SQA actually gave those same Assignment Reports,



… doing that will, again, let you see how well *you* have understood the level of detail needed in the different sections of the Assignment Report.

Then, as before, read through the *comments* in the **Commentary** to understand *why* the SQA did, or did not, give the Marks for each of the sections of the Assignment Report.

Key Resources … issued by the class teacher

Each **Unit** and **Topic** has the resources listed below:

1. **Learning Outcome Checklist** – a more 'pupil friendly' version of the SQA **Course Specification**, **Mandatory Content**
2. **Teacher / class notes** – 'live' notes plus hand-out notes covering all the course content
3. comprehensive **Summary Notes** and **HW booklets**
4. **Topic Tests –** based on SQA Past-Paper questions, to support consolidation of knowledge and progress
5. **Virtual Physics** – a great set of digital Course notes … *see below*
6. **SCHOLAR** - Notes & check-tests … *see below*
7. **Textbooks** that covers the full course … available on request.

All the resources are available in paper format as well as in digital format in the class Team, available via the i-pad

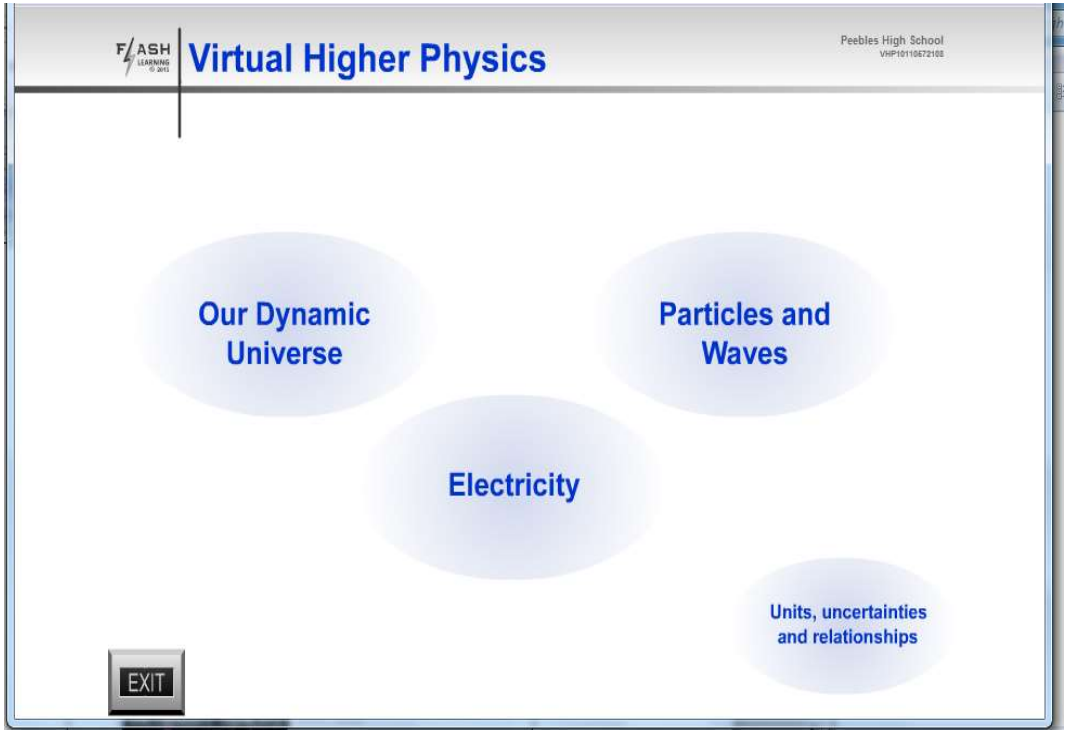
Additional Resources … for support @ home

SCHOLAR

Pupils have access to this via their **Glow Login** details. This excellent resource is full of detailed notes, activities, simulations, practice questions and tests for the whole Course

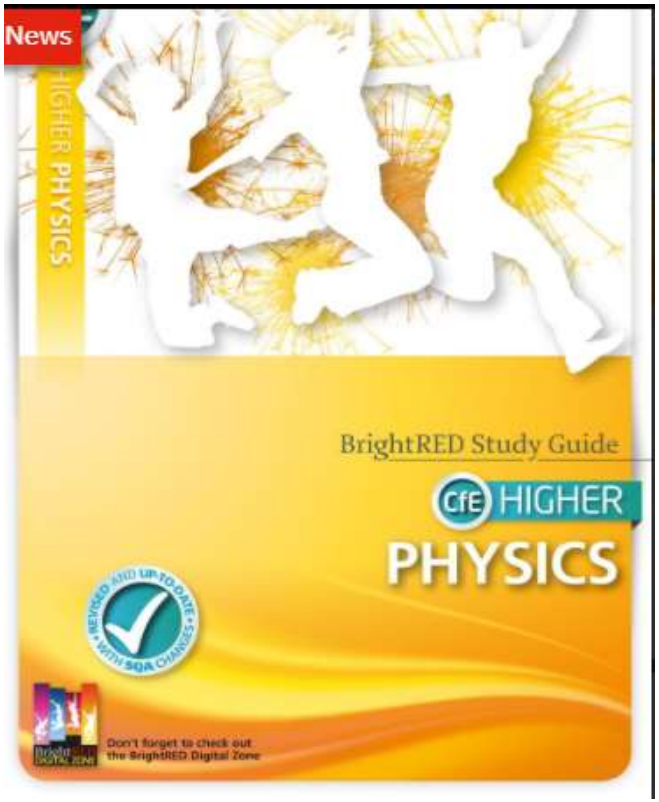
This video is a helpful user guide for Higher pupils (and parents / carers)
Scholar User Guide - Pupils

Additional Resources … for support @ home



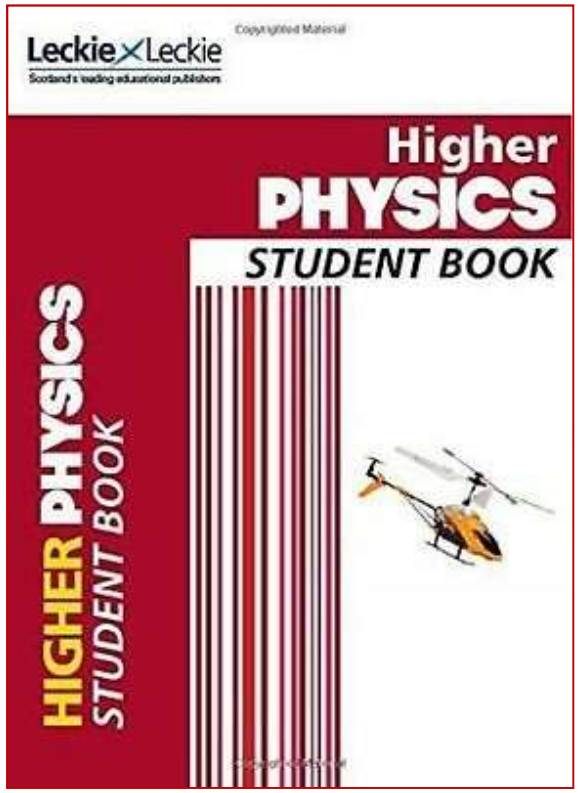
Every pupil has access to this fantastic digital resource, which has excellent learning notes, animations, worked examples, interactive summary sections that cover the full content of the Course Higher Physics - physicsflashrepo .
They are encouraged to make regular use of this, along with SCHOLAR, at home.

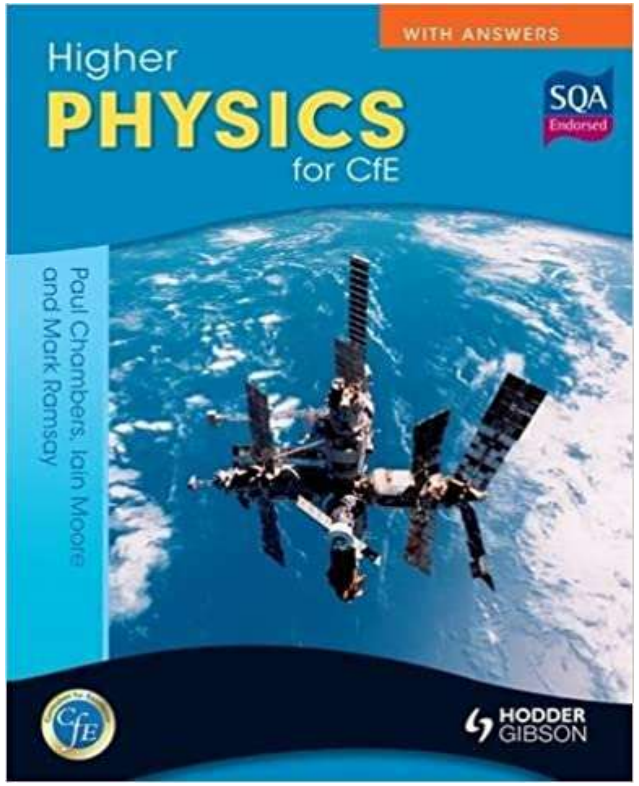
Additional Resources … for support @ home



Every pupil has access to a copy of the Bright Red Study Guide for Higher Physics for use throughout the year. This book also has a complimentary website, '**Bright Red Digital Zone**', with activities, videos and quizzes which can be accessed by clicking here Bright Red Digital

Additional Resources … for support @ home

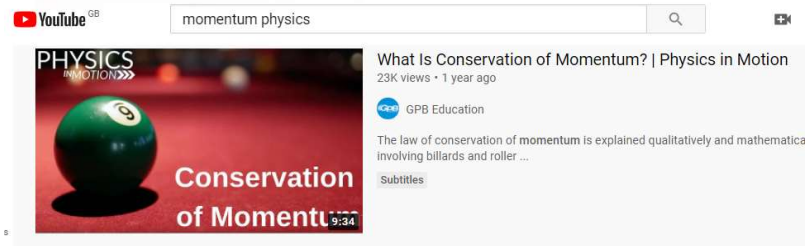




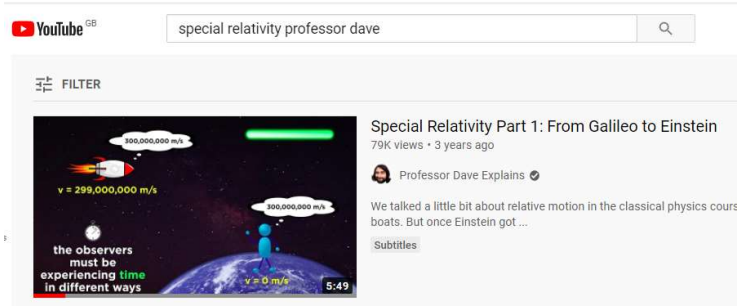
Every pupil has access to a copy of a textbook, which covers the whole Course, in depth – they just need to ask for one.

Additional Resources … for support @ home

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ehHoOYqAT_U



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w2zQJ8JMlBA

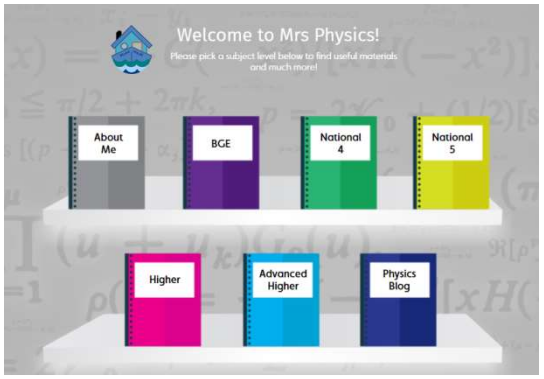


https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rBmYUEnafok&pbjreload=101

There are many, excellent, short videos that help explain some of the tricky, theoretical 'thought experiments' in ways that can really help understanding

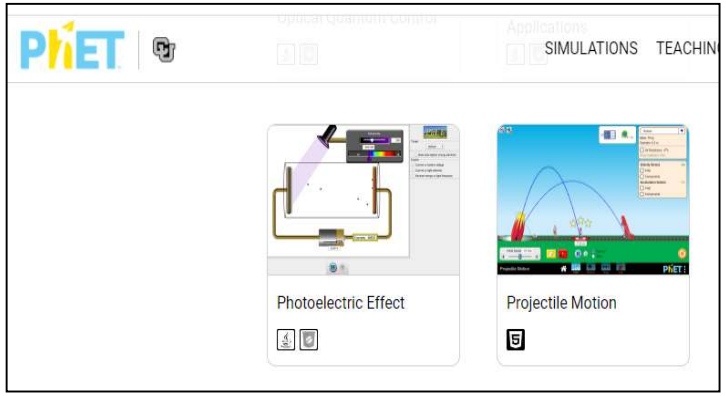
Additional Resources … for support @ home

Mr MacKenzie - Higher – fizzics



Mrs Physics

Physics Scotland - Steven Wilkinson - YouTube

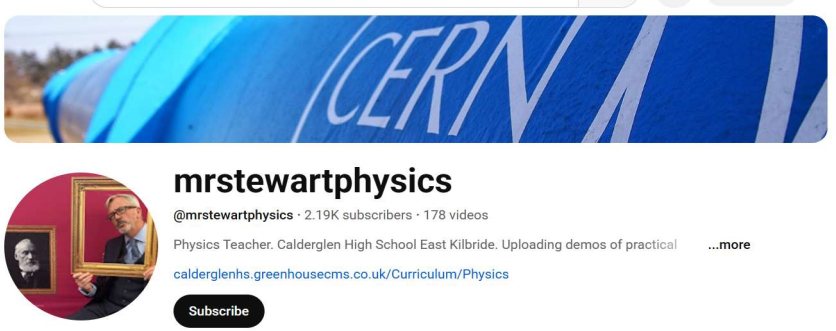


Filter - PhET Simulations

Pupils have access to a range of excellent web-sites that have been developed by Physics teachers across Scotland, bringing together a vast collection of resources specifically tailored for Higher Physics.
Specific web-site details are available from the Physics teachers, if need be – with a few of the 'best' highlighted here and on the next slide …

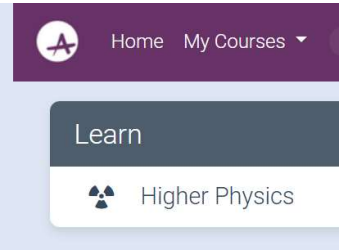
Additional Resources … for support @ home

[Mr Smith's Physics - Bing Videos]



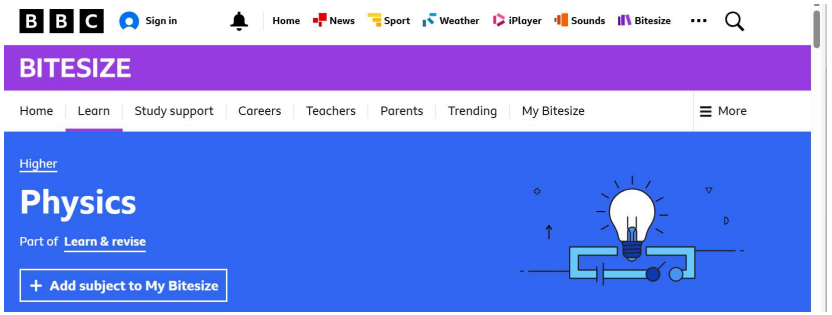
[Mr Stewart Physics - YouTube]

[Calderglen High School - Physics Higher Resources]



[Higher Physics - Achieve]

[Mr Mitchell's Physics aka The Physics Academy - Bing Videos]



[Higher Physics - BBC Bitesize]

Support … for support @ home

So *how* can you support your child at home ?

- If you understand some of the theory / content :
  - ask them questions about the Topic they're working on
  - help them get good use of the resources mentioned above
  - check some of their work that they're doing
- Even if you don't understand the content :
  - ask them questions
    - what's going well
    - is there anything you need help with ?
    - do you need to speak with your teacher ?
- **You can always encourage them to :**
  - revise & summarise their notes, regularly
  - do lots of questions, including their HW and Past Papers
  - make their notes/work 'meaningful', with enough detail
  - take advantage of **Study Support Sessions offered in school** …to get extra support with questions and/or the theory
  - be pro-active in asking for help … or just for reassurance !
- Please contact the Physics staff for any more information.