

**Introduction** [http://www.iop.org/news/18/august/page\\_71834.html](http://www.iop.org/news/18/august/page_71834.html)

The uptake of A Level Physics by females has dropped in the last 3 years. In the news, it is often documented that there are a lack of female engineers and that new initiatives are being put in place by companies as well as the government. However, this is not necessarily linking to an increase in A Level Physics studied by females.

**Plan of Action**

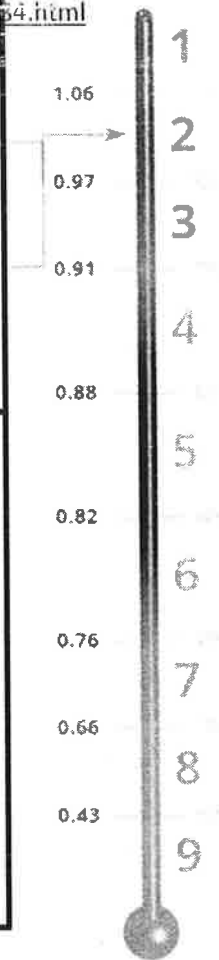
In order to increase female uptake, a primary survey with a small group of students showed that the main factors determining subject choices for A Level were:

- Previous results in the subject
- Job opportunities
- Quality of teaching
- Role models

Therefore, the work carried out this year as been focussed around these.

**Job opportunities**

At appropriate times in lessons, I ensured that "real-life" examples and careers were shared with the class. For example, when discussing conservation of energy, I related how the engineers and designers of rollercoasters would need Physics knowledge. Any videos in class featured female physicists where possible.



**Role Models**

I started a 'buddying' system between year groups. This allowed A Level students to support GCSE Triple scientists with their work during a supervised lunch session. Any videos in class featured female physicists where possible. Additionally, for the first time in a number of years, students were taught by a female Head of Physics.

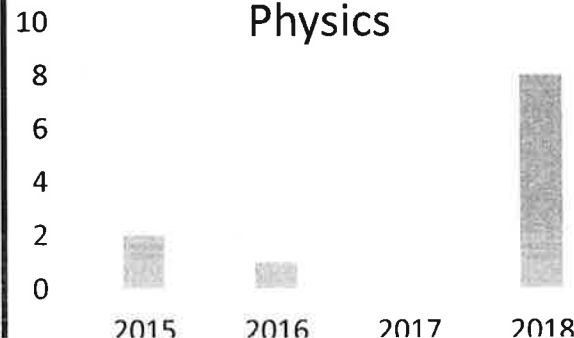
**Quality of Teaching**

Throughout the year, I updated numerous schemes of work across all key stages, ensuring engaging activities were included. This meant that all students (even those not taught by myself) were accessing high quality Physics teaching. I organised for an external provider to offer CPD on teaching Physics.

**Results**

In the last year, A Level Physics results have improved vastly so that they are the highest scoring results in the school (previously ALPS grades 4, 8, 8), as well as the top 5% nationally. At GCSE, Physics achieved the most Grade 9s out of the sciences. This proves that the quality of teaching has improved.

Uptake of girls in A Level Physics



**Conclusion**

Through the combination of the 4 strategies tackled, it can be seen that the uptake of female physicists have drastically increased. Feedback from these students confirmed that the combination of the 4 techniques mentioned supported their decision.