**13. ICT Resources**

There are two rooms used to teach Physics at senior cycle – A7 and A8.

Both rooms are equipped with a computer, data projector and Interactive Whiteboard which are used extensively.

In addition the Science/Physics department also possesses a data-logger (plus a variety of sensors)

Overhead projector (used mostly for generating large spectrums, plus projecting magnetic and electric fields).

There is an extensive library of DVDs available in A7

**Online resources**

We believe very strongly (passionately indeed) that as teachers our greatest resource is each other.

To that end we have engaged with many groups/forums online and have set up other forums with a view to encouraging other teachers to share resources and ideas.

Some of the forums we have set up include

A Google-groups discussion forum for all teachers in the school science department.

A Google-groups discussion forum for all teachers on the school staff.

A Google-groups discussion forum for all science teachers in the country – currently contains over 100 members.

We have also subscribed to the Computer Education Society of Ireland (CESI) forum and have been a member of the CESI committee and given presentations on the use of ICT in Physics as part of their annual conference.

For Physics teachers the greatest resource out there is the discussion forum of the Institute of Physics for Britain in Ireland (called PTNC). This allows us access to literally thousands of years of experience at all levels of education.

Their accompanying website for ideas on teaching physics is at <http://www.practicalphysics.org/>

Over the last ten years we have developed a website which contains a large bank of resources which is open to all teachers and students; it can be found here: [www.thephysicsteacher.ie](http://www.thephysicsteacher.ie)

In the last year alone it has been visited over 100, 000 times; an indication of its usefulness can be garnered from some of the feedback comments available here: <http://www.thephysicsteacher.ie/websitefeedback.html>

Its resources include

* A comprehensive bank of interactive teaching and learning recourses on each topic on the Leaving Cert Physics syllabus, arranged by chapter.
* A similar set of resources had been compiled for Junior Cert Science, including Junior Cert Physics.
* All notes given to students are uploaded to this site and can be freely accessed by all students and teachers both within and outside the school.
* All revision resources for both Junior Cert Physics and Leaving Cert Physics including

At Junior Cert level:

* Guide to answering maths questions
* Guide to answering graph questions
* A series of revision crosswords (also available as part of the students’ notes)
* Guide to writing up the section B investigation (courtesy of the JSSS)
* A series of hangman games for reinforcing keywords in science (courtesy of freezeray.com)
* A revision guide to help students plan their revision

At Leaving Cert Physics level:

* Definitions
* Derivations
* Equations
* Units
* Answering Section A questions
* Exam technique
* How to revise

The site also contains a series of documents for teachers to help them plan their lessons when teaching Junior Cert Physics.

In terms of promoting the subject both internally and externally we have attempted an online presence over the years and now have accounts on each of the following sites.

Give the url of the following:

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/#!/physicsteacher>

Blog: <http://thinkforyourself.ie/>

Podcasts: <http://thatsmadthatis.podomatic.com/>

Science photos: <http://picasaweb.google.com/thinkforyourself.ie/SciencePhotos02?feat=directlink>

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/yerrahyouknow>

**YouTube**

We have uploaded over 100 physics videos to YouTube which have amassed over half a million views to date.

These have proved useful to both students in aiding their revision and developing a deeper understanding of the topic , but also to teachers who may not be familiar with certain demonstrations or have the resources to hand to carry them out for their own students.

**Camera-phones**

Only a few years ago many schools had banned not only the use of camera-phones in school but even the possession of said appliance. Nowadays most policies have been relaxed somewhat and the policy in The King’s Hospital states that camera-phones are not allowed in class *unless specifically authorised by the teacher*. As Physics teachers we see the enormous potential that these devises offer to aid our students’ learning and encourage students to use them during the lessons to record their own practical work, teacher demonstrations or indeed almost anything else that they think may help them remember or understand their lessons. Students have taken to this with a great enthusiasm and are finding uses of it that we would never have imagined.

Again, we hope that this will offer an extra resource to students with special needs.