**8.1 Introduction to Junior Cert Physics**

Most students will already have had an introduction to Physics in Primary school and probably will have enjoyed it but at secondary level the danger is that because there is an exam much of the focus can end up on ‘learning stuff off’ and not enough time spend on developing either the enthusiasm or the deeper learning of the student.

Here we try to avoid those pitfalls although it’s not always easy given the rigid structure of the syllabus and the tight time constraints. Nevertheless we do at least try to make Physics at Junior cycle an enjoyable experience.

We must be reasonably successful considering the relatively large numbers of students who go on to study Physics for their leaving cert here.

***In order to promote the subject for the Leaving Cert a lot of time and effort has gone in to developing resources which make teaching the subject at Junior Cert level user-friendly.***

* A resource box has been created for every chapter in the Junior Cert Physics syllabus and these contain all the necessary equipment to carry out all experiments and demonstrations relevant to that chapter.

These are available in the general science resource room on specially labelled shelves.

* A guide to teaching each topic has been put together which includes advice on all areas including the possible pitfalls. We have included a copy of one chapter in this section (Guide to teaching JC Electricity) as a sample.

These teaching guides have also been uploaded to the relevant pages on the website [www.thephysicsteacher.ie](http://www.thephysicsteacher.ie) so that other teachers can access them if they choose to do so.

* We have uploaded numerous videos to YouTube which provide examples of our teaching the topics.

Putting all these resources together has taken hundreds of hours over the years and the resources themselves constantly get updated as we develop new ideas. Simply monitoring and maintaining the existing equipment is a big job and rather time-consuming on out part.