



# Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

03 FEBRUARY 2023



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# Introduction

## An engaged and committed Parent community

Parental engagement is highly valued at Reading School. It is crucial that we work together to make the most of opportunities for our students, our children, to thrive and flourish. I would like to express my gratitude to all parents and carers who have played, and continue to play, a proactive role in supporting Reading School's drive for both academic and character excellence. We are committed to enhancing our educational experience and appreciate the support of the parent body in a myriad of ways.

Parents and carers are integral to enabling Reading School students to flourish. Whether that be through:

- Responding to school surveys and questionnaires so that we seek views from all our community
- Showing commitment to the progress, behaviour and attendance of your child, including through parents' consultation evenings
- Sharing knowledge and skills as governors and Reading Foundation trustees
- Demonstrating commitment and a desire to improve the school for the benefit of children and young people, as members of the Reading School Parents' Association and members of the Boarding Parents' Association
- Actively supporting school events, including music concerts, drama productions and sports fixtures
- Sharing valuable professional expertise through providing Continual Professional Development opportunities for school leaders or through delivering Inspire Lectures for our students
- Contributing financially to non-uniform days or more regular giving, which contributes to being able to provide on-going opportunities for the Reading School community

Evidence of opportunities for our students this week alone have included:

- The United Kingdom Mathematics Trust's Intermediate Maths Challenge for Years 9, 10 and 11 led by Mrs L Clarke (Head of House and Teacher of Mathematics)
- Inspire Lecture 'A Level Geography and beyond' delivered by three recent Old Redingensians for all Years, led by Dr K Young (Head of Geography)
- Inspire Lecture 'Careers in the Pharmaceutical Industry' delivered by parent Dr. N Ashraf MBBS, MBA, MSc
- The launch of Reading School's student-led Law Society for aspiring lawyers of all ages to learn about topics varying from UCAS admissions to work experience and what a career in law looks like
- The launch of Reading School's Motorsport Karting Team who will be entering the British Schools Karting Championship, led by Mr Allen, Ms Coates and parent Mr Vyakaranam
- The opening of a joint production of 'Chicago' led by Queen Anne School
- We have seen fixtures in basketball against JMA, Maiden Erlegh and Leighton Park led by Mr S Pedlow, a football tournament at the Oratory School and friendly Year 7 and Year 8 football fixtures with Blue Coat led by Mr S Allen supported by the whole PE department.
- Hockey has also made a comeback with a brilliant day of competition at Wellington College with our Year 9 team led by Mr A Robertson and House Ghost competitions have been taking place led by Mr D Tridgell



Certainly, generosity through time, expertise or financially is much appreciated and it enables us to provide a plethora of opportunities for your children to flourish now and in the future. We also appreciate that modern life can leave, what feels like, little time to get involved or keep up-to-date with life at Reading School, which is why we acknowledge any time, expertise, enthusiasm, engagement and commitment to improving the school and its facilities, so that flourishing is evident in a sustainable manner.

## Physics equipment campaign 2023

Practical Physics lessons enhance students' scientific knowledge whilst giving insight into methods and understanding scientific investigation and helping to develop their understanding of concepts in an engaging environment.

Did you know:

- An impressive **51%** of our Physics students gained **A\* grades at A Level** last year;
- A noteworthy **87%** of our students achieved a grade **9-8 in GCSE Physics** last year;
- **161** students selected to study Physics in sixth form; and
- We have an excellent record of students going on to study Physics related subjects at **top Universities**.

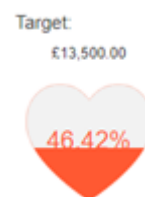


Last week, we saw the official opening of our refurbished Physics labs. In addition, we launched our Physics equipment campaign to ensure we are fully equipped to deliver classroom, enrichment and extension activities to all our students studying Physics, including our wider community, through our Future Stories programme.

To ensure our Physics Labs are equipped with equipment and crucial resources used for experiments throughout every year group, we invite you to support our campaign to raise £13,500 for equipment such as:

- Additional electric circuit components and cables
- Boyle's law demonstration equipment
- Motor-generator demonstration device
- Jolly's Bulb sets
- Black out blinds

Since my personal appeal yesterday on Thursday 2 February, we have reached just over **£6,000 made by 136 donors**, with one very generous parent kindly contributing £1000. Thank you to every parent and OR who has contributed to this request as we have nearly reached the half way mark.



I understand some people are experiencing difficulties with the online link, in particular those who are using Apple or iPhone devices. We will investigate this issue further. Meanwhile, please do try and use another device as we are receiving donations, so the link is working. [Please click here to help us achieve our goal.](#) Alternatively, you can make a donation via:

Bank	Lloyds TSB
Account Name:	Reading School Charitable Fund
Sort Code:	30-67-99
Account No.	40733560
Reference:	Physics - Pupil name

Lastly, if at the time of making your donation you did not complete a gift aid online form, please do so. By gift aiding your contribution, we can reclaim an additional 25p in every £1, making your gift worth even more at no extra cost to you. Gift Aid is an invaluable source of 'extra' income. If you qualify, please fill in an [online Gift Aid form](#) which enables us to reclaim 25p from HM Revenue and Customs for every £1 donated.

## #payrollgivingmonth



February is #payrollgivingmonth and we would like to take this opportunity to highlight this is an easy and tax-efficient way to donate to Reading School. According to CAF (Charities Aid Foundation) 41% of people surveyed did not know if their employer has a payroll giving scheme.

With payroll giving, the donations you make to charity are taken from your pay before income tax is deducted. The charities you care about get a regular income, your donation goes further and it costs you less. In addition, this can also be matched by your employer.

For example:

A monthly donation of £30:

Your salary contribution as a 20% tax rate payer £24.00

Your salary contribution as a 40% tax rate payer £18.00

Your salary contribution as a 45% tax rate payer £16.50

Monthly total going to your chosen charity £30.00

Please do reach out to your HR team to find out more if your donations to Reading School can go further. During these times we greatly value your support to maximise the benefits to our students.

Parent feedback is important to us and if you have any comments or suggestions, please contact the Community Relations Office by emailing [communityrelations@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:communityrelations@reading-school.co.uk).

**Mr A M Robson**



# Key information

## All years

### Behaviour reminders

In wanting to maintain the safety and wellbeing of our students and remain proactive in keeping the school community informed, we want to remind parents and students about two points which feature in the [Reading School Behaviour Policy](#), with the relevant sections duplicated below (in italics) for ease of reference.

Firstly, we want to highlight that we do not permit the buying or selling of unauthorised items in school. To this regard there have been cases of some students bringing in the Prime energy drink to school with the intention of selling it to other students. This is not permitted and we would ask parents to remind their child about this expectation. It is also worth noting that the Prime website states the drink is not recommended for children aged under 18. It contains 200mg of caffeine per 12 oz, which makes it stronger than Redbull and is equivalent to drinking 5 cups of coffee. Please can you support us to ensure our students do not bring energy drinks into school.

#### ***Buying and Selling of Articles***

*Students are not allowed to buy or sell articles on the school site – unless authorised as part of a whole school or charity event.*

*This rule is intended to anticipate difficulties of debt-collection and to eliminate opportunities for the sale of stolen articles. All staff are asked to be vigilant in this regard and to report offenders to Tutors or Heads of House.”*

*Secondly, we are aware there has been an increase of reported cases of young people vaping in the Reading area. As a school we want to outline the school stance in relation to students which can be viewed in the extract of the Sanctions Framework below:*

#### ***Behaviour***

*Students are not allowed to smoke or vape on the School site or when in uniform. Similarly, students must not have any smoking materials (which includes vaping pens) in their possession at School.*

## The Management of Student Behaviour

### Summary of Sanctions Framework:

Assessing the Level of Seriousness These Are Given for Illustrative Purposes Only If the student's behaviour does not appear in any of these columns, we use the examples to gauge the appropriate level of seriousness.				
LOW	MODERATE	HIGH	VERY HIGH	EXTREMELY SERIOUS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minor breach of school rule;</li> <li>Occasional use of inappropriate behaviour or language (especially where this is overheard and not directed at staff);</li> <li>Damaging property (very low value);</li> <li>Petulant or "sulky" behaviour;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level 1 bullying (see Anti-Bullying policy)</li> <li>Pushing or tripping people;</li> <li>Minor damage to property;</li> <li>Offensive language or gestures;</li> <li>Spitting;</li> <li>Failure to carry out member of staff's instructions;</li> <li>Persistent breach of dress code;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level 2 bullying (see Anti-Bullying policy)</li> <li>Minor assault on student but no serious injuries;</li> <li>Abusive language, behaviour or gestures;</li> <li>Damaging property – moderate value;</li> <li>Defiance towards teachers;</li> <li>Carrying (but not using) offensive weapon without</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level 3 bullying (see Anti-Bullying policy);</li> <li>Brandishing (but not use) of weapon;</li> <li>Assault leading to cut or bruising requiring first aid treatment;</li> <li>Using school computers to access indecent or offensive material;</li> <li>Wanton vandalism or</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Serious assault or wounding (requiring medical treatment)</li> <li>Assault on a member of staff</li> <li>Possession of any amount of a class A drug, class B or C drugs, drugs paraphernalia, alcohol or other intoxicants (including smoking or vaping);</li> </ul>

## Student Council Survey



Reading School's Student Council is run by nominated Sixth Form prefects and each form group selects 1 or 2 representatives to attend meetings. A member of senior staff will also attend meetings to support the prefects, and if applicable, give some immediate feedback on the points which are raised. The chair shares relevant points with staff who could action change or consider possible solutions put forward. It is not supposed to be an opportunity to complain about things but a chance to share concerns and to try and find a solution. The Student Council also:

- Offers an opportunity for students to take on leadership roles, promote the voice of the student body, problem solve and impact the school community.
- Gives members the opportunity to foster skills such as leadership, communication, teamwork, organisation and public speaking.
- Report back to their form group and give them a chance to voice their views to be shared at meetings.

Please [click this link](#) in order to view the latest feedback gathered from the Student Council representatives along with the school response to each point which was raised.

## Student Survey - Safeguarding

Every month we share an online safety newsletter for parents and students and February's issue contains valuable information to be aware of which includes:

- **PUBG (PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds)** – an online multiplayer game with in game purchases, live chat and rated PEGI 16. There is a risk of inappropriate or offensive/violent language being heard or seen along with encouragement of drug use.
- **HiPal** – a social media app rated 12+ on the App Store and Google Play. Hi Pal features a public 'square' where strangers can be messaged along with being able view other people's images and videos from around the world. There is a risk of viewing content that is not suitable or inappropriate.
- **ChatGPT** – an Artificial Intelligence system that is currently free to access via a web browser. There is a risk, in terms of education, in students producing essays or answering homework questions which would fall under plagiarism.

To view the full newsletter along with accessing support and remaining informed about online safety, [please click here](#).

## Current Vacancies

Below is a list of our current opportunities at Reading School. Please circulate these to anyone you think might be interested in the roles.

### Teacher Vacancies

Pay scale dependent on experience with potential for TLR / responsibility allowance if combined with a leadership role.

[Teacher of Mathematics](#) - deadline 9am, Monday 6 February

[Teacher of Computer Science](#) - deadline 9am, Monday 20 February

### Associate Staff Vacancies

[Exam Invigilators](#) - deadline 12pm, Monday 6 February & [Kitchen Porter](#) - deadline 12pm, Monday 20 February

### How to Apply

In order to comply with our Safer Recruitment policy, all applicants must complete the relevant application form for the role to be considered for shortlisting. Application forms can be downloaded from the [vacancies section](#) of our website. Enquiries about any of the roles should be directed to [hr@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:hr@reading-school.co.uk).

# Excellence, Belonging & Community

## Excellence

### Year 9 Essay Contest

The Aristotelian Award has been set up to promote the independent study skills in Year 9 pupils while simultaneously providing an avenue to explore super-curricular interests in the arts, humanities and sciences. The competition is split into two categories – art/humanities and sciences with prizes being awarded to winners in both categories of the competition.

There are 10 titles to choose from, and 10 prizes available. The deadline is 5pm on Monday 20 February 2023 and all information can be found here: [Year 9 - Aristotelian Award - Perse Research](#). For any queries, please email Mr B Miller (Head of Theology & Philosophy) [bmiller@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:bmiller@reading-school.co.uk).

## Community

### Music School Endangered Species Project



In an attempt to revive the wonderful brass instrument that is the French horn (known simply as the horn in professional music circles), Reading School's Music Department is offering free 30-minute French Horn lessons with an accredited brass instrument tutor. The first free lessons will start from Friday 10 February 2023 and to sign up, please scan the QR code or [click this link](#).



### An invitation from The Abbey School - reminder



Reading School students are invited to join the first Abbey School 'Ideas and Passions' talk, '[What a Future in Engineering Can Do For You](#)'. This will take place on **Thursday 9 February** at Abbey School (Richards Hall).

The Abbey has teamed up with the Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET) to increase awareness and understanding of what a future in engineering may involve and inspire the next generation of engineers. The talk will be given by Professor Danielle George, a past President of the IET; she will talk about her journey from school to where she is now and what inspired her, as well as giving an overview of the importance and versatility of engineering and why engineers are key to our future.

Guests are welcome to arrive from 18:15, with the talk beginning at 18:30. Following the talk, refreshments will be served and students will have the opportunity to meet and network with a range of engineers from the IET Berkshire Local Network and Abbey alumnae with careers in engineering. The event should be over no later than 20:00.

Students, families and staff can book a place at the talk via the link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/passions-talk-series-what-a-future-in-engineering-can-do-for-you-tickets-517324029097>

Due to the timing of the event, The Abbey are expecting that students will sign up with the permission of their parents, and make their own travel arrangements to and from The Abbey. A parent is welcome to attend with their child should they wish. There will be no parking on site but there is free roadside parking on Kendrick Road.

# RSPA

## LRC Amazon Wishlist



We have had a great response to the request for books for the LRC via the [Amazon Wishlist](#). Thank you to everyone who has contributed so far. The Wishlist closes on Friday 10 February.

There are titles available from £5 and also the option to buy a £10 gift card if you prefer.

Please choose “*RSPA Parent Gifting Wishlist Kirsty MacInnes Gift Registry Address*” and also kindly choose SMILE at the checkout stage. If you have any queries around the Wishlist please email Jaideep Das - [JDas@readingschoolparents.co.uk](mailto:JDas@readingschoolparents.co.uk).

## Amazon Smile

The RSPA has received notification that Amazon is to discontinue its charitable programme, SMILE on 20 February 2023.

We would like to thank everyone who has participated in the scheme over the years. This has provided vital funds to help pay for initiatives to support our children.

As a final aspect of the programme, participating charities will receive an extra payment equal to the last six months' donations. Therefore, we kindly request that, if you are making any Amazon purchases in the next few weeks, that you use SMILE to help increase this payment.

## 2nd Hand Uniform Shop

The shop will be open this Friday 3 and Saturday 4 February at the following times:

- Friday 3 February – 2:30pm – 4:00pm
- Saturday 4th February 10:30am – 12:30pm

Please come along to purchase blazers, trousers, shirts, base layers, rugby boots, trainers, outdoor coats and more at the Shop. For this month only selected CGP revision guides and exam practice workbooks are on offer at 5 for £5. Come along and grab a bargain! The shop is located at the back of the walled car-park (opposite the Chapel).



Please note:

- On Friday 3 February buyers are not allowed to drive onto site, access is via the pedestrian gates only.
- On Saturday 4 February buyers are allowed to drive onto site and parking is available on the right-hand side of the walled car-park or outside it.

Please email [shop@readingschoolparents.co.uk](mailto:shop@readingschoolparents.co.uk) for further information.

We look forward to seeing you there.

## Year 7 Disco

As we shared in last week's newsletter, the Year 7 Disco was a great success. We would like to once again thank all of you who came to the disco, donated prizes and bought raffle tickets. We are very proud to share that we raised **£768.89** which will go towards a variety of initiatives in support of our children.

We would like to wish you all a very happy weekend.

The RSPA Team





## Lent Term – Week 5

To keep up to date with student life at Reading School, click the icons below to follow and stay connected.



*"If you wish to succeed you must brave the risk of failure."*

Garry Kasparov





*"That's what chess is all about. One day you give your opponent a lesson, the next day he gives you one."*

Bobby Fischer.





*"Among a great many other things that chess teaches you is to control the initial excitement you feel when you see something that looks good.*

*It trains you to think before grabbing and to think just as objectively when you're in trouble."*

Stanley Kubrick





The British School Karting Championship (BSKC) offers the thrill of motorsport for a school without major expense.

BSKC is an exciting and rewarding opportunity for students that brings STEM to life, builds motivation and achievement, develops organisation, teamwork and management skills along with increasing confidence.

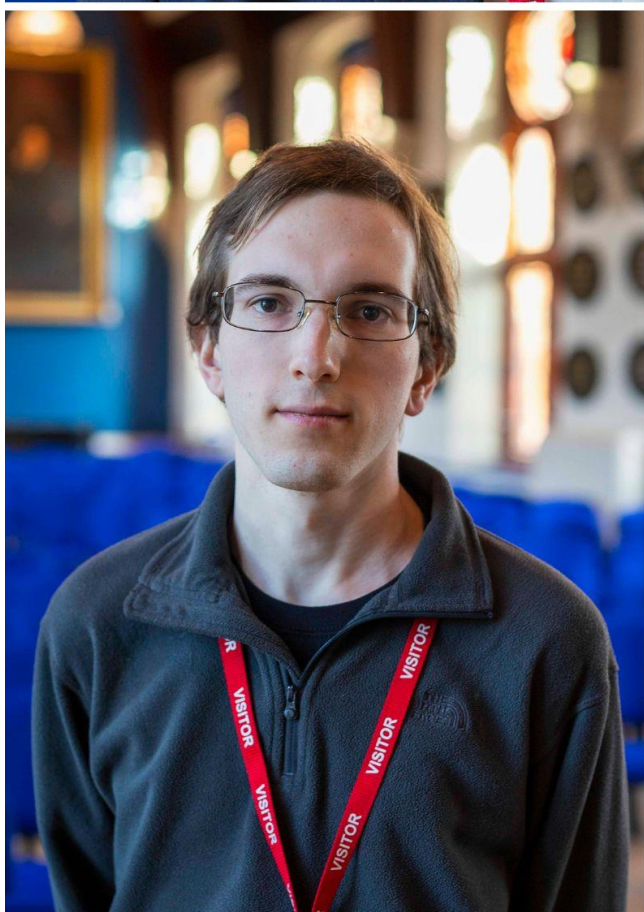
Reading School has entered it's first team of students, Vinay V (11W), Mitansh N (11E) and Anuj A (11L) with the support of Head of Sport & PE, Mr S Allen and assisted by Ms A Coates.

The format of the championship is local practice > local finals > regional finals > national finals and following this weeks local practice, the team have accumulated enough points in order to qualify for the regional finals (tbc).





On Tuesday 31 January we welcomed three of our past A Level students to Reading School to share their experiences of the value Geography had in their diverse careers with Reading and Kendrick School students. Sam Steventon (OR 2015-2017), Edmund Lea (OR 2011-2018) and Matt Daprè (OR 2011-2018). The Inspire Lecture was led by Head of Geography, Dr K Young and supported by Teachers of Geography, Mr K Luteijn and Mr J Ginger.

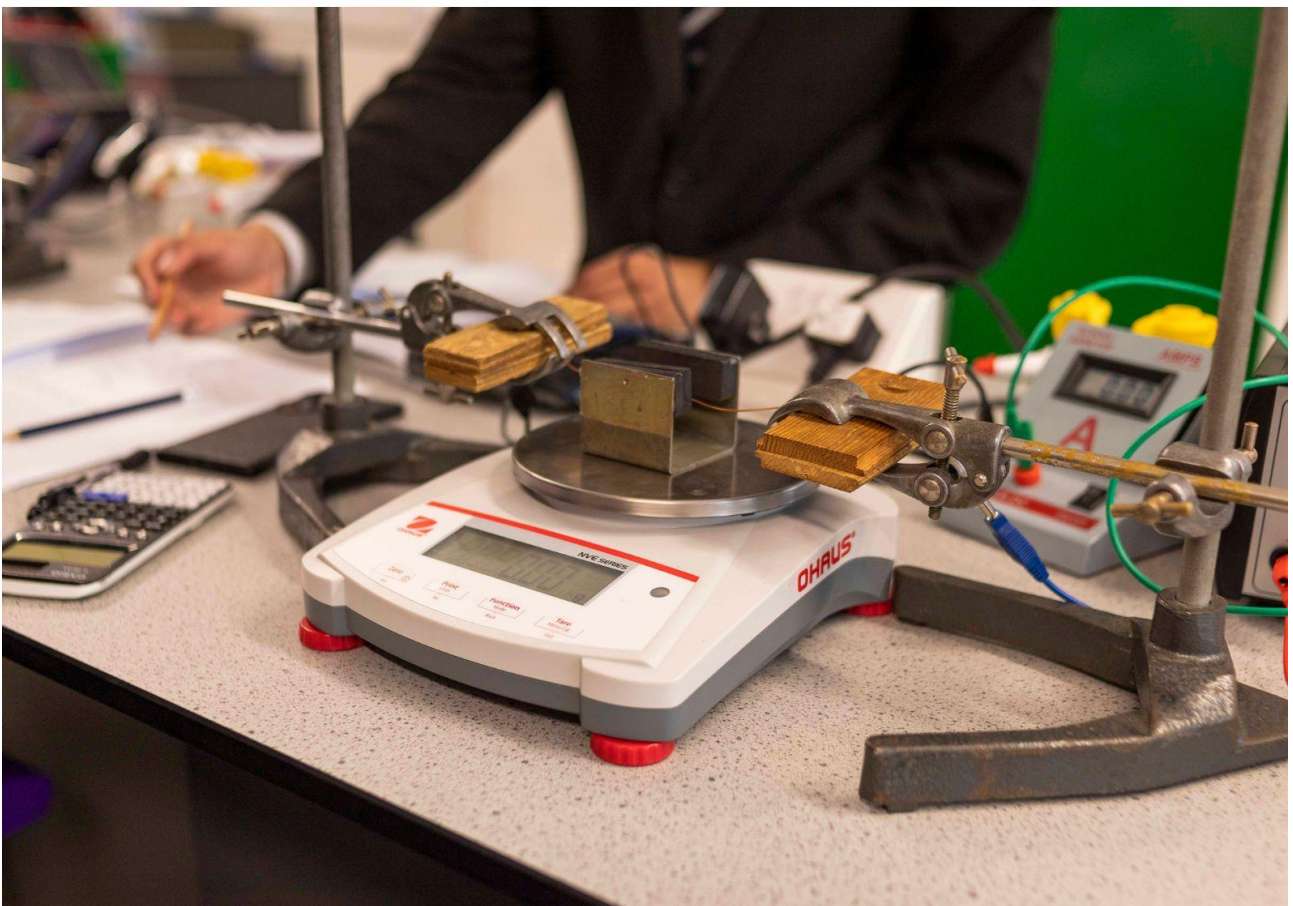




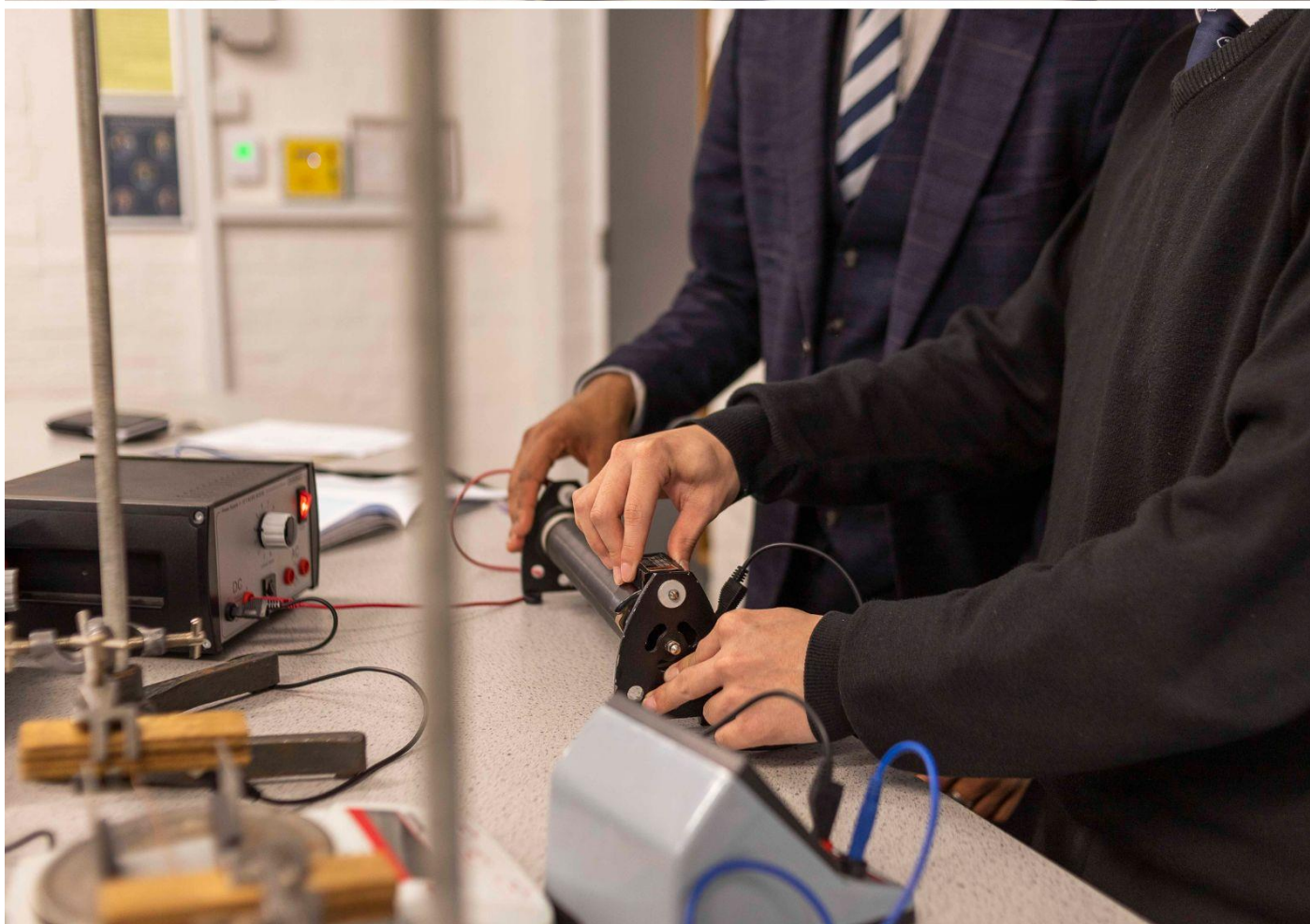




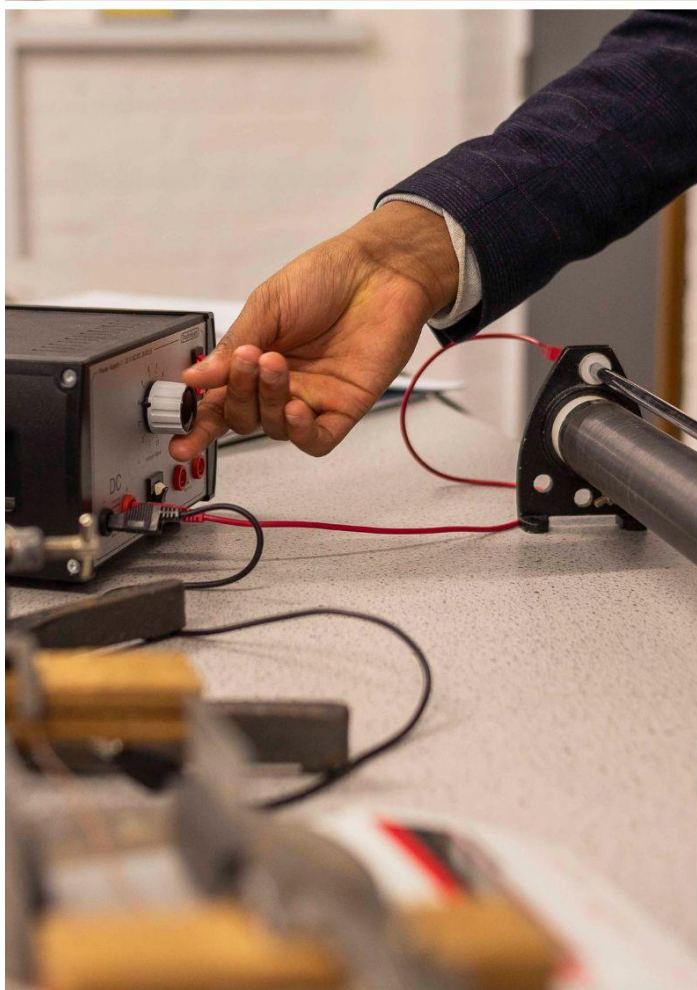
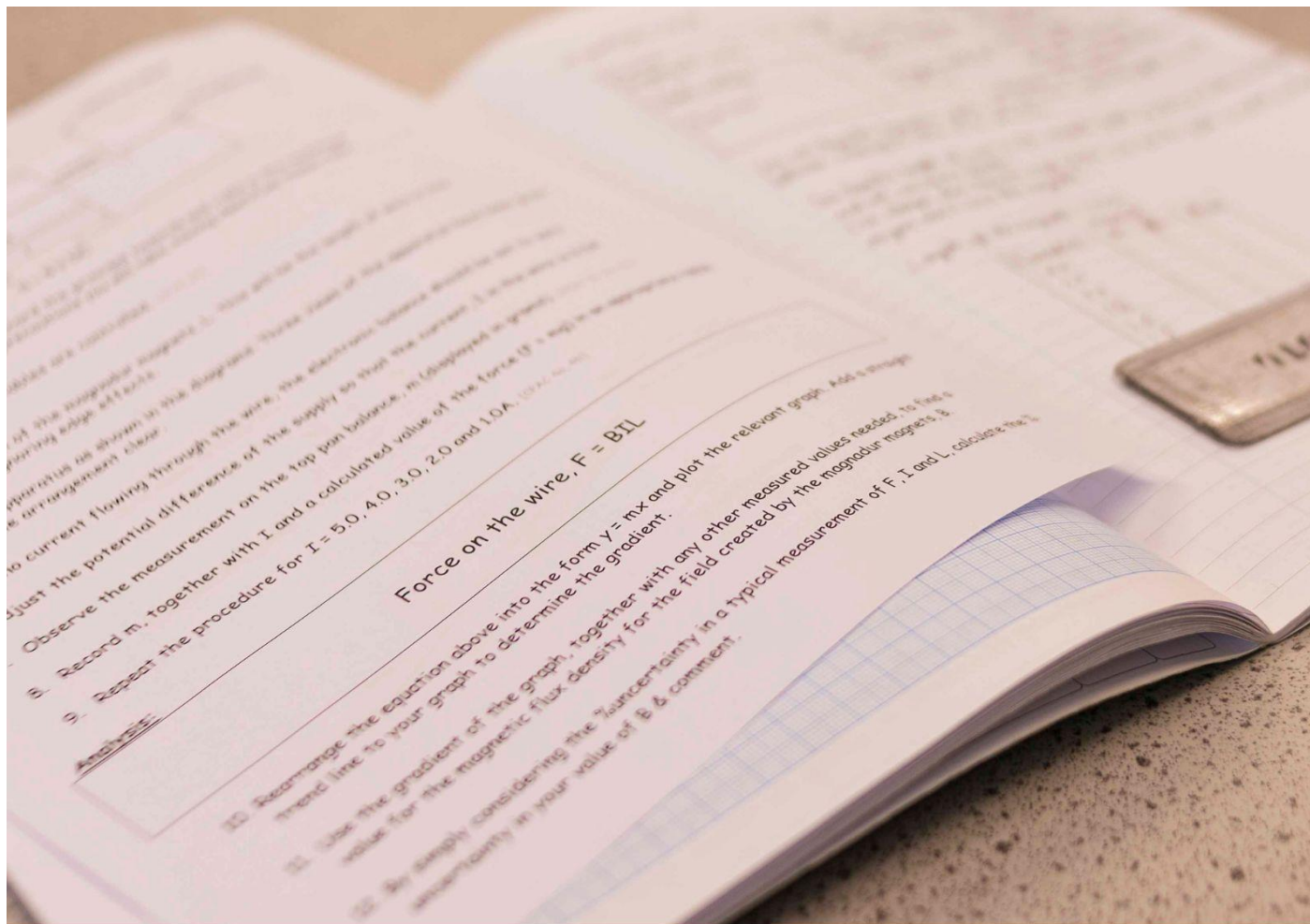
This week, Year 13 students investigated the relationship between magnetic flux density, current, and length of wire, led by Teacher of Physics & Maths, Dr C Lewis-Brown. This is one of twelve required practicals at KS5 which contributes toward the students' practical endorsement; a component of the A Level qualification which helps prepare them for scientific work at University and beyond.



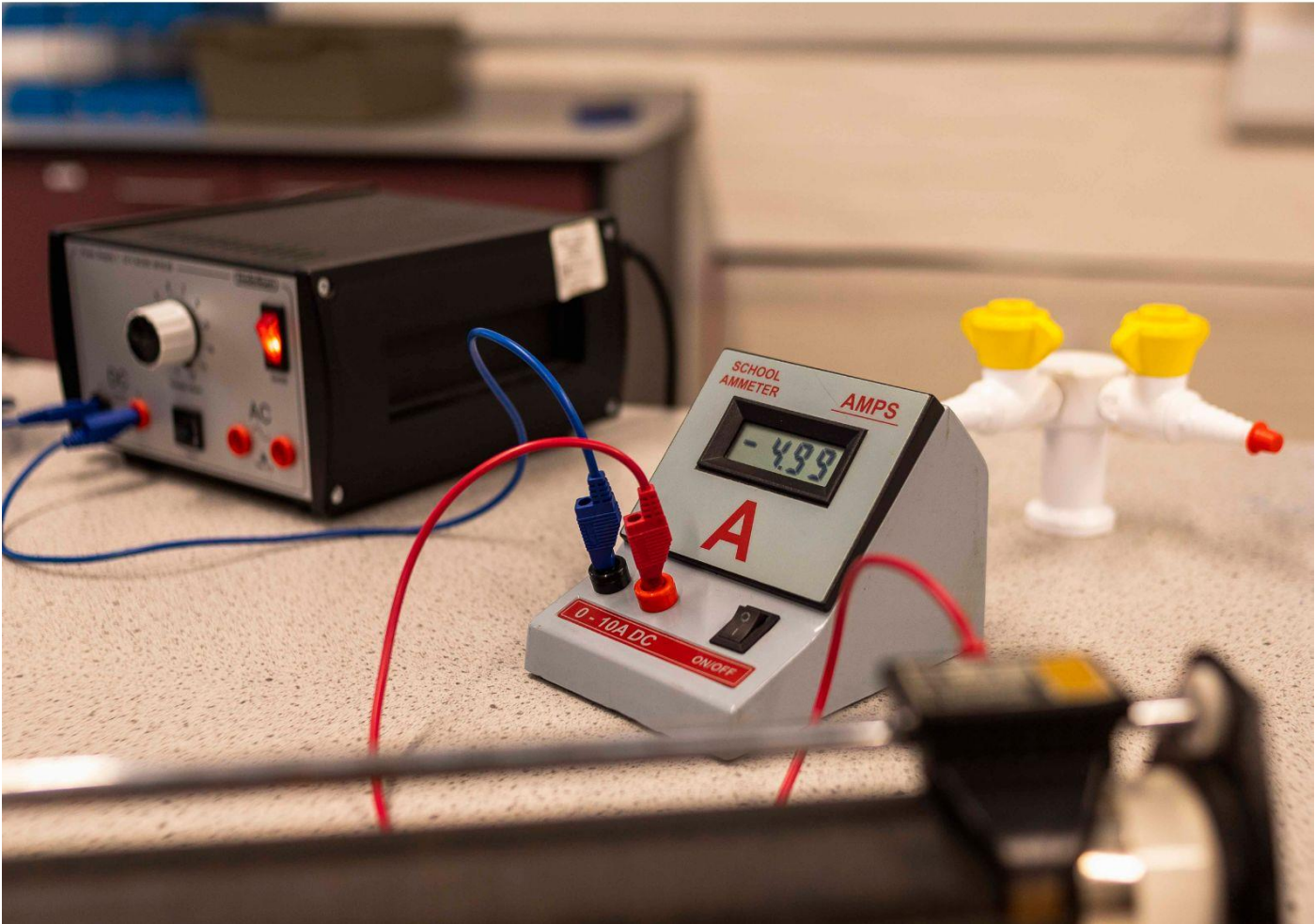
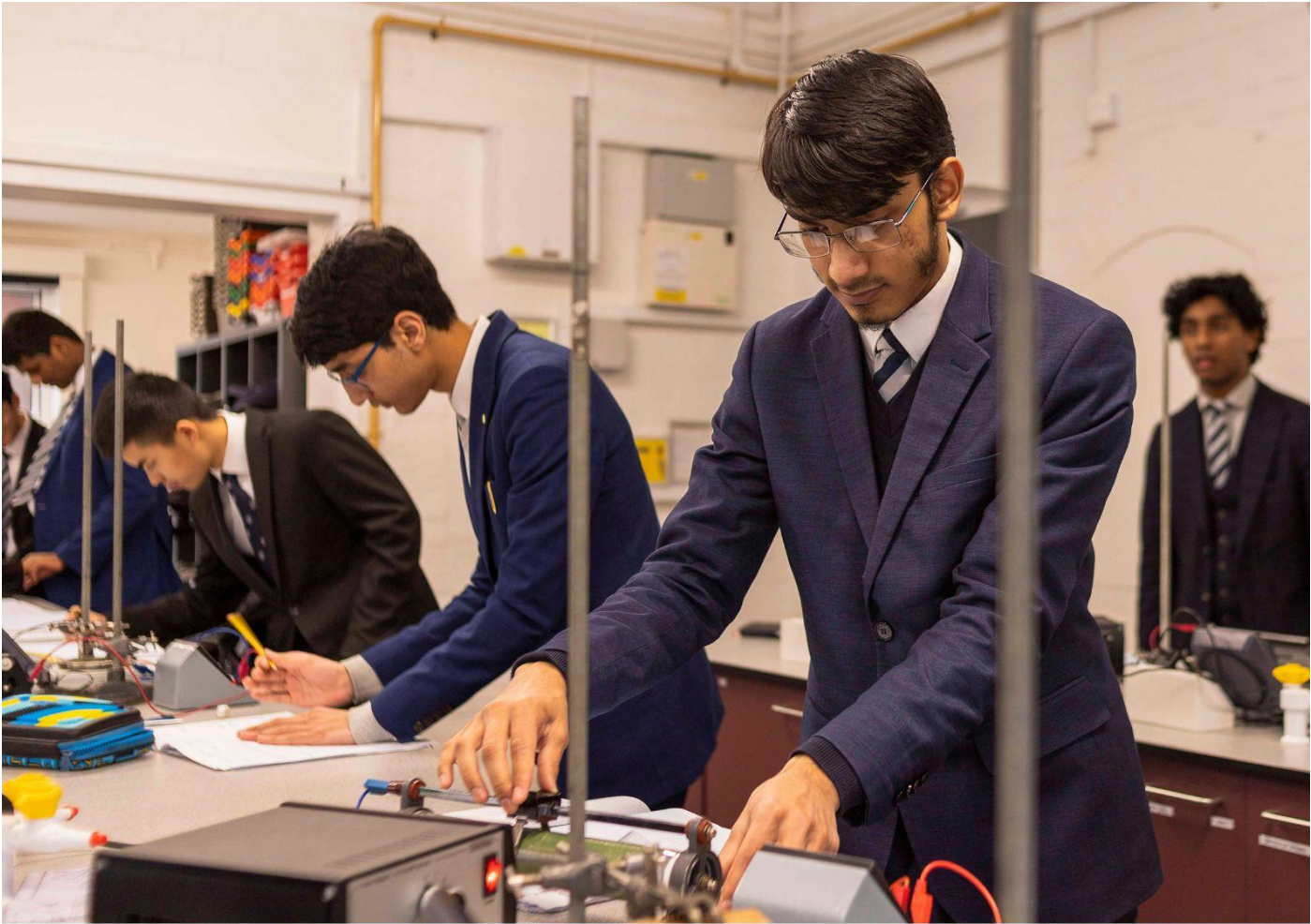








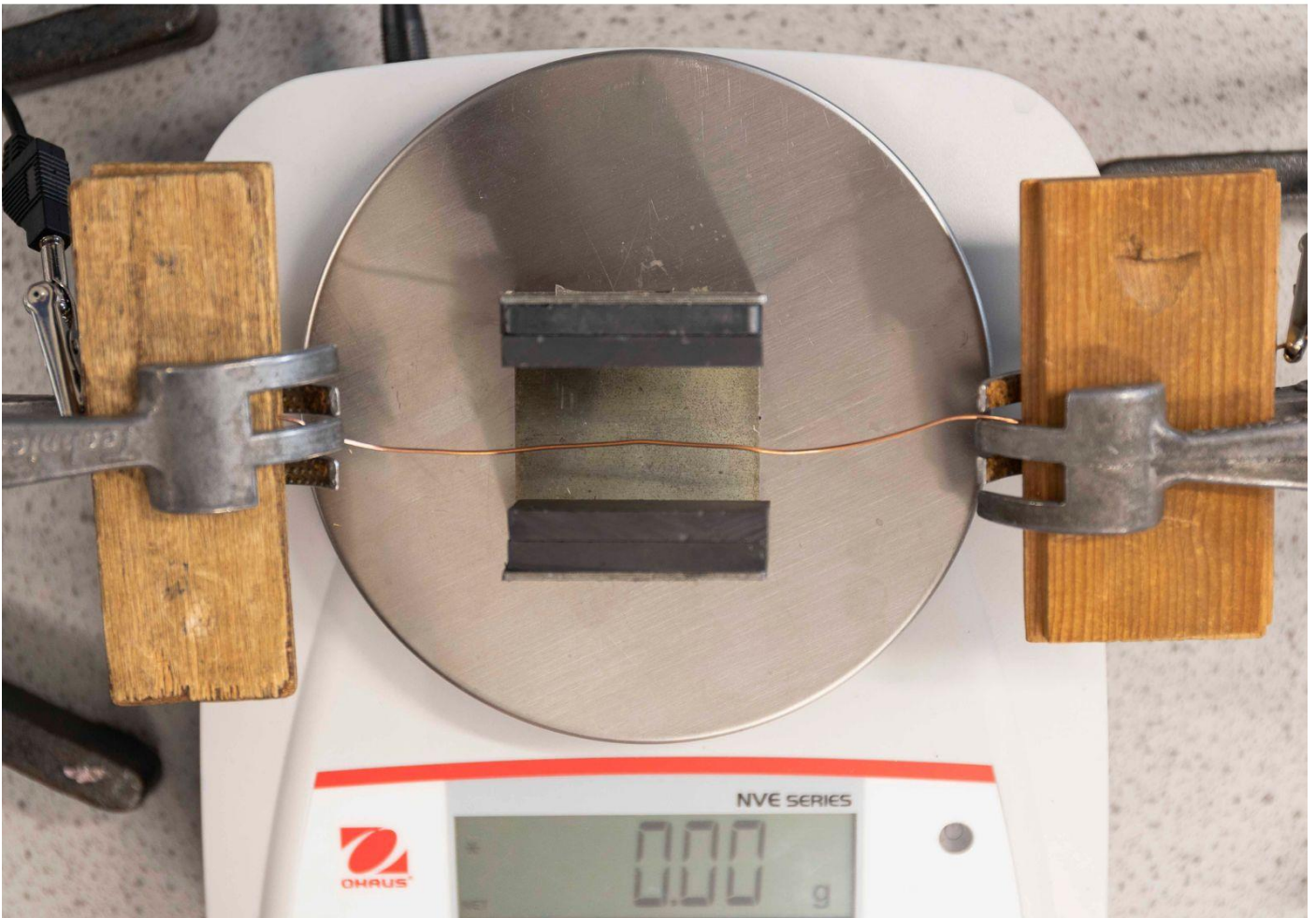




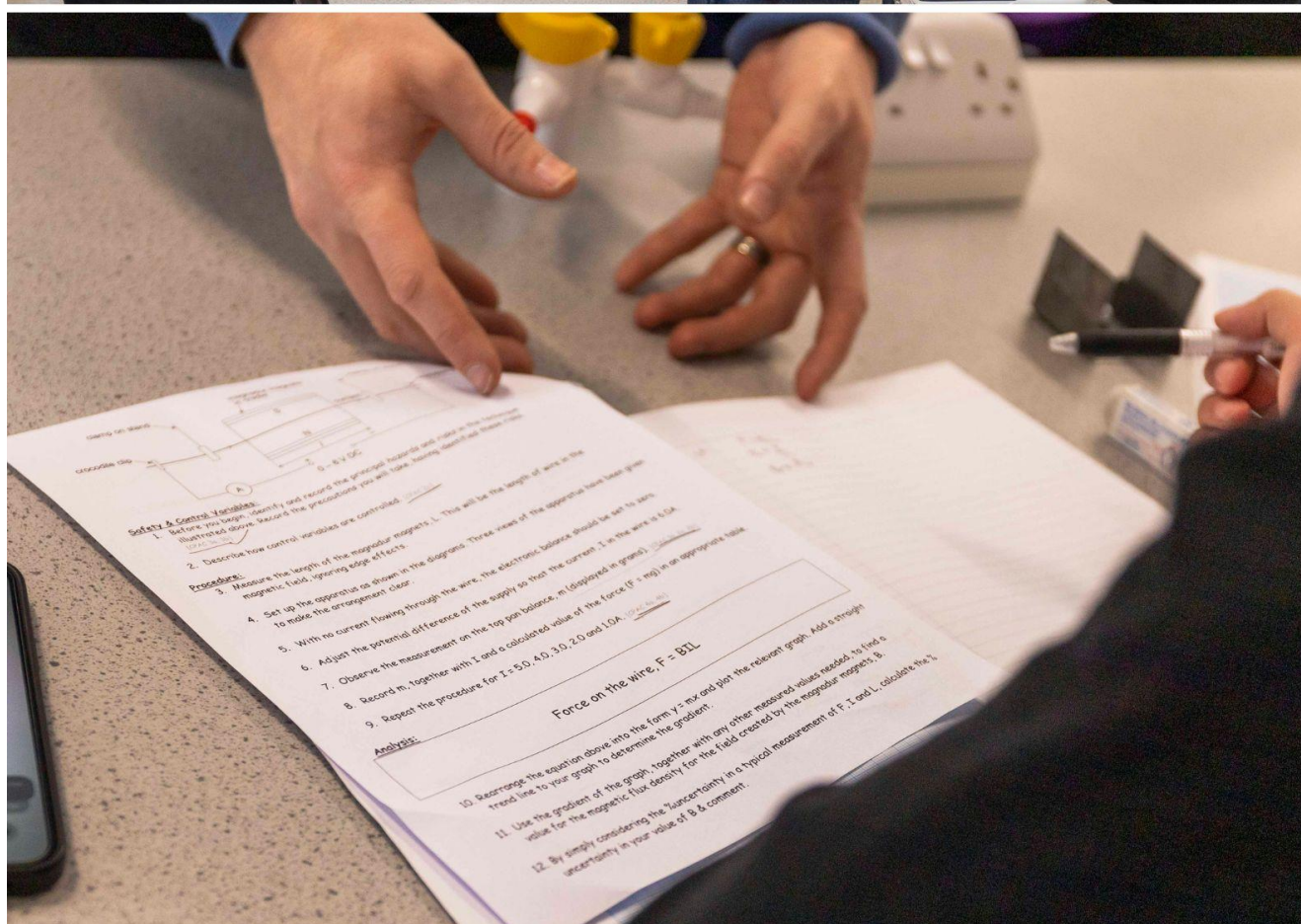












Inspire Lecture 'The Value of Languages – Careers, Business & Google Translate' delivered by Mr Iain Humphries (Strategy & Business Value Consultant, Databricks). Led by Mrs E Humphries (Teacher of Spanish & French), the Lecture was organised for all Year 11, 12 and 13 students studying languages.

Mr Iain Humphries poses and answers the questions:

1. *How can I use languages in my future career?*
2. *Is it really worth knowing a foreign language for business nowadays?*
3. *Why do Google Translate & MT Technologies only provide a limited solution?*

*Click thumbnail to view Lecture (20mins 14sec)*

