



Physics Partners

Annual Report 2024/25



Our Mission

Improving the life chances of young people through physics education

Foreword

It is a pleasure to introduce this year's Annual Report and to celebrate the impact that Physics Partners continues to make in improving young people's life chances through physics education. Physics opens so many doors for education and employment.

It is critical that well-taught physics is available in all schools. Physics Partners provides support where it is most needed and is most effective. This year, the charity delivered over 4,100 hours of support to teachers and technicians – a 60% increase – through its expanding hub programme and nationwide Festivals of Physics. More than 1,000 students took part in Careers Insights Workshops, Study Days and Girls in Physics events. These achievements strengthen physics teaching and spark a lasting interest in the subject.

I am proud to support this remarkable charity and look forward to its continued success in nurturing the next generation of physicists.



Prof Sir Richard Friend
Department of Physics,
University of Cambridge

★ 2024/25 highlights



Training hours
delivered to teachers
and technicians
4,100

Pupils aged
11–18 impacted
125,000

Schools
supported
475

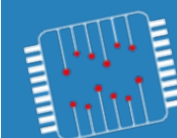
Participants
rating training as
outstanding
88%

Careers
Insight programme
participants
656

Study Days and
Girls in Physics Days
participants
441

Physics Partners received the 2024 Clarity in Charity Communications Award for its nationwide video competition, 'What Lights Up Your Love of Physics?', which was recognised for its creativity, professionalism, and wide reach.

We also won support from HelpFilm, who produced a short promotional film to showcase our impact and inspire further engagement.



Evaluating our impact

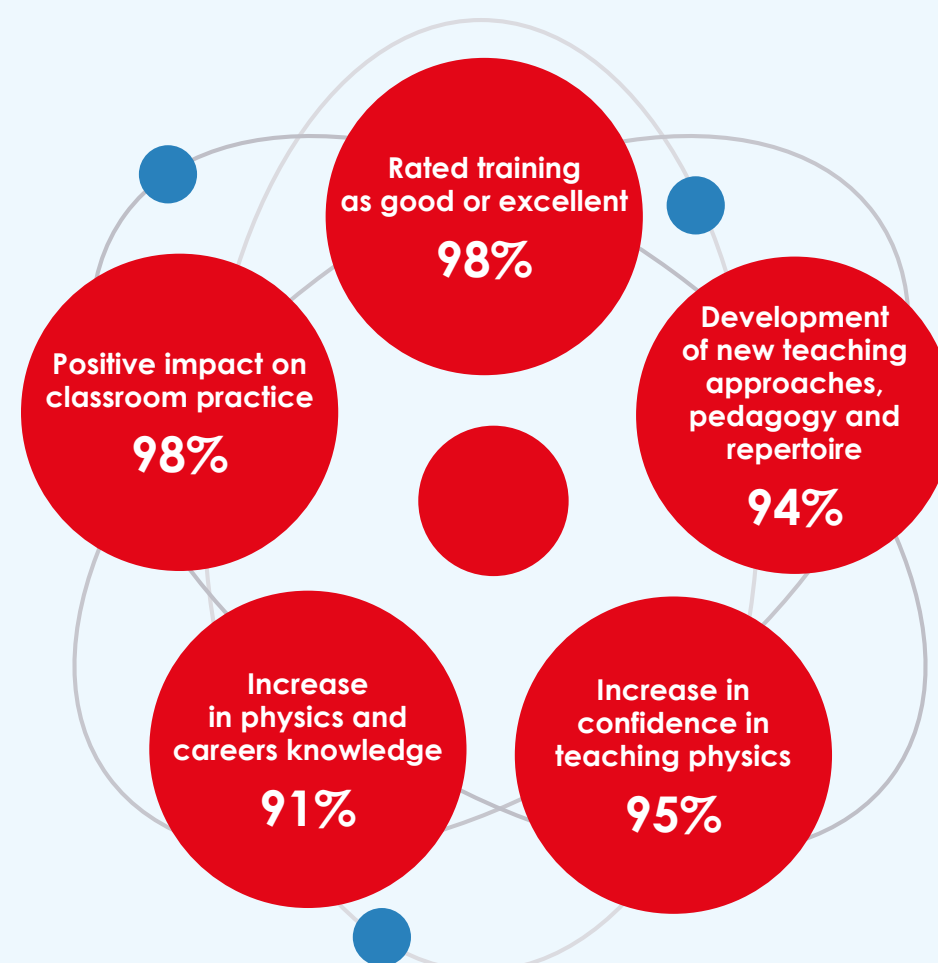
An independent evaluation by ImpactEd assessed the outcomes of our Birmingham Programme, which provided Physics Hubs and pupil events.

Key findings included:

- **Improved Physics Knowledge & Pedagogy:**
Teachers, especially non-specialists, reported increased confidence and clarity in teaching physics and leading experiments.
- **Increased Teaching Confidence:**
Non-specialist teachers felt more capable teaching GCSE content and supporting student learning.
- **Stronger Support Networks:**
Participants built local networks and valued the programme's welcoming environment.
- **Enhanced Retention:**
Teachers reported greater motivation to continue teaching physics, inspired by CPD experiences.



Participant feedback



Our reach and programmes

Establishment of new hubs

At the heart of Physics Partners' approach is the hub model, where a host school within a city or region welcomes local teachers or technicians to receive training from one of our expert coaches. In the academic year 2024-2025 we established five new hubs, in Darlington, the East Midlands, Maidstone and two in Tower Hamlets (one for GCSE and another for A Level). The majority of hubs are in-person, but to enable teachers from rural areas to participate we also offer regional online hubs.

"It was a great session to see how another teacher approaches the topic, to observe the practical activities that support learning and to hear from such an experienced teacher."

Maidstone Hub Attendee



National online programme

We delivered a national online programme 'Teaching Physics: From Basics to Brilliance' in partnership with the Association for Science Education (ASE).

"I have found the sessions incredibly useful, and they have made me more enthusiastic about teaching physics as a non-specialist."

Attendee on Basics to Brilliance programme

Festival of Physics

Physics Partners Festival of Physics events are always a highlight of the year. This year we held three of these days - in Kent, Winchester and Leicester, with over 300 attendees. The days had a range of engaging workshops led by skilled expert coaches from Physics Partners and partner organisations, supported by a diverse range of exhibitors.

"I came away with lots of brilliant ideas to integrate into my teaching."

Attendee at Leicester Festival of Physics



Technician support

School lab technicians are key to a successful science department, and this year Physics Partners increased support to technicians. This included partnering with Tonbridge School to provide a day of dedicated workshops. The event welcomed over 140 technicians from 60 schools.

"The sessions offered an excellent opportunity to deepen subject knowledge and connect with fellow technicians."

Technician attendee



Girls in Physics Days

We organise events where pupils can hear from local women at different stages of their careers, sharing their experiences and the paths physics has opened for them. At our July Girls in Physics Day hosted by Birmingham University, we heard from a wide range of professions - from engineers at ARUP and patent attorneys at Barker Brettell LLP to PhD students in Quantum Physics.

"After the event three girls asked if they could add A-Level Physics to their choices."

Teacher, Girls in Physics Day



Study Days for pupils

We run day-long events for A-level students that bring physics to life through real-world applications. At our Birmingham Renewable Energy Study Day, 140 students heard presentations from a range of speakers including engineers, academics and entrepreneurs, all of whom gave different perspectives on the day's theme.

Sessions held for teacher trainees at universities

We are acutely aware of the importance of supporting trainee teachers at the very start of their careers. Providing timely intervention at this stage helps colleagues to approach physics topics during their placements and Early Career Teacher (ECT) years with greater confidence.

In 2024-2025, we partnered with 11 universities to support trainee science teachers through targeted workshops. These sessions build confidence early in teachers' careers and help strengthen the future physics teaching workforce.



Map of schools supported 2024-25

Partnerships with multi-academy trusts

Increasingly, Physics Partners is collaborating with multi-academy trusts (MATs) to provide bespoke training solutions that address the need for non-specialist science teachers to receive high-quality, in-person professional development.

"Physics Partners have done an incredible job at increasing our non-specialist teachers' confidence in teaching Physics. What can be a very daunting subject for non-specialists had been made accessible through the work done by Physics Partners."

Philip Robinson, Trust Lead, Science - Future Academies

Strategy progress

Our three-year strategy (2024–2027) focuses on expanding regional hubs, enhancing coaching standards, strengthening industry connections and improving evaluation. In 2024–2025, we launched five new hubs, developed new coaching materials and expanded our online training offer. Next year we plan to establish 10 new hubs and increase student-focused events, particularly those promoting gender diversity in physics.

Governance and staffing



SALLY SMITH
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



PAUL HAMMOND
DIRECTOR OF
EDUCATION



SUZANNE GRAY
TRAINING
COORDINATOR

The charity welcomed Paul Hammond as Director of Education, a new role created to strengthen programme quality and consistency. Paul brings extensive experience in Headship, facilitation and physics coaching to the role. He joins Chief Executive Sally Smith and Training Coordinator Suzanne Gray in the central team, supported by 50 freelance coaches delivering training nationwide.

We also welcomed two new trustees to the board in 2025:

Dr Kathryn O'Donnell, a senior leader in the space and defence sectors, and Alix Johnstone-Morfoisse, a nuclear engineer, currently pursuing a PhD in Nuclear Physics. Their expertise strengthens our governance and commitment to diversity in STEM.

We continue to benefit from the fundraising consultancy support of Paul Sheldon, whose expertise helps us sustain and grow our impact.



DR KATHRYN O'DONNELL
TRUSTEE



ALIX JOHNSTONE-MORFOISSE
TRUSTEE

Our longer serving trustees are:

Isabelle Haigh (Chair):

Former Executive at National Grid ESO, Electrical Engineer, Non-Executive Director and executive coach.

Richard Thomas (Deputy Chair):

Mechanical Engineer, Swansea University Council Member, National Museum of Wales Board member and Higher Education consultant.

Andrew Burton OBE (Company Secretary):

Retired Head of RAF Administration and former Bursar of Sevenoaks School.

Thomas Cookson MBE:

Founding trustee. Former Head of King Edward VI School, Southampton; Sevenoaks School and Winchester College.

Dr Arpan Mehta:

Consultant neurologist and researcher at MRC Protein Phosphorylation & Ubiquitylation Unit, Dundee, working on discovering new treatments for motor neuron disease.

Krysia Sosin:

Deputy Headteacher, Chase Community School, and non-specialist physics teacher.

Mary Breen:

Schools Adviser at Farrer & Co. Former Headmistress of St Mary's School, Ascot, and former Head of Physics at Eton College.

Winston Ginsberg:

MBA, Harvard Business School, and former partner and investment committee member at Towerbrook Capital.

Emma Smart:

Head of Science at Bedford Girls' School and non-specialist physics teacher.

Fundraising

In the year ending 31 August 2025, Physics Partners reported total income of £208,330 - a 29% increase on the previous year. Major contributions from industry partners, individuals, livery companies and charitable foundations, including the Michael Uren Foundation, have enabled continued expansion and innovation in training delivery.

£119,438

**Total Donations:
£177,001**

48% increase



Thank you to our partners

Physics Partners relies on partnership working to enable us to extend our reach and deliver impactful programmes. This includes the schools, colleges and universities who generously host our hub sessions and events. We are especially grateful to:

- Future First
- The Association for Science Education
- Barker Brettel LLP
- Irwin Mitchell

★ Thank you to our funders



**making
physics
matter**



- The De Laszlo Foundation
- Future
- The Michael Uren Foundation

- The Peter Stormonth Darling Charitable Trust
- The Robert Gavron Trust
- Sir John Kemp-Welch

“National Gas are proud to be able to support great causes like Physics Partners. In particular, Physics Partners are helping to plug a critical gap in STEM learning for young people of all backgrounds in the UK and in the process are helping to shape the workforce of tomorrow with the skills, insights and interests needed to face the challenges of the future.”

Glenn Bryn-Jacobsen, Director, Energy Systems & Resilience, National Gas

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