



## **AS level Electronics**

Please note that this course is only available as an AS at Wyke – you will not be able to continue it through to A2. You will need to bear this in mind when making your course choices.

### **Who is this course for?**

Anyone with an interest in Electronics. You will need to show you have the right level of ability to succeed (see Entry Criteria below), but you do not need to have done any Electronics at GCSE level. For Electronic Engineering at University, Physics and Maths will be essential, but AS Electronics could be a useful extra qualification.

AS Electronics goes well with Physics, ICT and Music Technology.

### **What are the entry criteria?**

Most students aiming to start AS-level Electronics will achieve B grades in GCSE Science, Maths and English.

## **The Physics department at Wyke Sixth Form College**

(Electronics is a subject within the Physics Department)

The department has one well equipped laboratory, close to the other science labs on the ground floor of the Ash building. There is also an open access computer area adjacent to the laboratory and a demonstration classroom shared with the rest of the Science department.

Students are provided with a Study Guide created by the Chief Examiner for AS Electronics. A variety of supportive printed notes are also supplied.

The Electronics AS course is taught by Richard Roberts.

## **Departmental Enrichment**

The department offers lunchtime support sessions as well as additional help between lessons and by email.

## Course Details

At Wyke we use the AQA specification. This consists of 3 units:

### AS (Y12)

#### **ELEC1** *Introductory Electronics*

We start with this unit in September. It gives you a basic introduction to all the components you will meet during the course. Resistors, capacitors, LEDs, logic gates and timer chips are combined into circuit modules on 'breadboards'. There are no exams in January for this subject, so the exam for this unit is taken in the Summer (1 hour exam, worth 35%).

#### **ELEC2** *Further Electronics*

This unit looks at more complex systems and integrated circuits, combining the circuit modules previously studied to perform useful functions. The exam is also in the Summer (1 hour exam, worth 35%).

#### **ELEC3** *Practical Systems Development*

Each student has to design, construct, test and evaluate a circuit of their choice. We start this process in January, and it should be completed by Easter. This coursework is internally assessed and externally moderated (worth 30%).

The complete specification, together with past exam papers, can be seen on the AQA website [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)

## What can I do now that would help prepare me for this course?

The jump from GCSEs to A-level is a challenge, but with a good start, it is one which you can make successfully. Look out for details about Wyke Start, which is open to all students aiming to start at Wyke in September. This event will take place just as school GCSEs are finishing.

At Wyke Start, you will have the opportunity to experience actual lessons in a range of subjects, including Electronics. We will try to show you exactly what studying Electronics will be like. We will also set you some preparatory tasks for completion over the Summer. As you tackle these, you will be helping to ensure a confident start to your AS-level Electronics course in September.

## Student success

**Lee Smith**



**Former School:**  
Endeavour

**AS level Electronics result:**  
Grade A

**Where is he now?**  
Hull University  
Studying Physics

**Richard Hatfield**



**Former School:**  
Sydney Smith

**A level Electronics result:**  
Grade A

**Where is he now?**  
Nottingham University  
Electrical and Electronic  
Engineering

**Sarah Gibson**



**Former School:**  
Sydney Smith

**AS Electronics result:**  
Grade A

**Where is she now?**  
Hull University  
Studying Physics

**Connor Burns**



**Former School:**  
Home educated

**AS Electronics result:**  
Grade A

**Where is he now?**  
Applying to University for  
2012 entry

## What does this course lead to?

This course is useful, but not essential for Electronic Engineering at University - Physics and Maths are the key subjects for this degree. As an AS course, it does give a helpful introduction to any related area of study – eg Physics, Computing and Music Technology.