

Subject:	GCSE ASTRONOMY
Examination Board:	Edexcel
Syllabus:	GCSE (9-1) Astronomy (1AS0)

Topics Covered and Skills Developed:

Astronomy is one of the oldest sciences and yet astronomers are continually visiting new worlds, discovering new elements to the solar system and exploring phenomena such as black holes, the Big Bang and life on Mars. It is such dynamics that make the study of astronomy a stimulating experience for students.

Students gain an understanding of a wide range of astronomical theories and practices. The history of astronomy and its cultural impacts are also explored. At the same time, students will improve their research and analytical skills, and develop an understanding of recent advances made within astronomy.

Course Content:

The course consists of Naked-eye Astronomy and Telescopic Astronomy. The specification is new for first examination in June 2019. There is no requirement for controlled assessment, although practical activities are compulsory.

The topics studied include:

Naked-eye Astronomy – planet Earth, the lunar disc, the Earth-Moon-Sun system, time and Earth-Moon-Sun cycles, Solar System observation, celestial observation, early models of the Solar System and planetary motion and gravity

Telescopic Astronomy – exploring the Moon, solar astronomy, exploring the solar system, formation of planetary systems, exploring starlight, stellar evolution, our place in the galaxy and cosmology

Support Materials:

- Revision book – GCSE Astronomy (provided for all students)
- Other web-based resources will be recommended when appropriate

Useful websites: nonsuchastronomy.blogspot.co.uk/
 www.schoolsobservatory.org.uk
 www.edexcel.co.uk
 apod.nasa.gov/apod/

What you could do to support your daughter:

She should come to the evening observation sessions whenever these are available, and please do join us at the telescope. Ewell Astronomy society run observing sessions from the rooftop and lectures each month, which you and your daughter may like to attend. If possible, take her to visit the Royal Greenwich and Herstmonceux Observatories. There are excellent planetaria at Greenwich and at Chichester. Some help and supervision will be invaluable when she is engaged in the observation coursework, some of which can be done at home.