

Date: 19 May 2026

Dear Principal / Physical Sciences Teacher / HoD,

Subject: Invitation to the South African Physics Olympiad (SAPhO) 2026

The South African Physics Olympiad (SAPhO) is a national Olympiad organised by the South African Institute of Physics (SAIP). The 2026 Edition is proudly organised in partnership with the South African National Petroleum Company (SANPC) STEM programme.

We are pleased to invite your school to nominate three (3) of your top Grade 12 Physical Sciences learners to participate in **SAPhO 2026**, which will take place on **Tuesday, 4 August 2026**, in the afternoon, as a fully online Olympiad. Participation in the Olympiad is free of charge, and there are exciting prizes to be won, including some undergraduate STEM bursary opportunities supported by the SANPC. The closing date for learner registration is **31 July 2026**.

The Olympiad is conducted strictly online to increase accessibility across the country and to promote and strengthen learners' digital literacy and online assessment skills in preparation for the modern world of work, where digital competence is increasingly essential.

Given the growing fascination with astronomy, South Africa's global leadership, and national priorities in this field, SAPhO 2026 will include an Astronomy Section through a partnership with the South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO). Some astronomy learning resources for both educators and learners can be accessed here: [Learning resources](#)

The SAIP will also host a **SAPhO 2026 Virtual Online Preparatory Workshop** for teachers and learners on Saturday, **25 July 2026 at 10:00 am**. The workshop will provide guidance on the online SAPhO system and examination process. The meeting link and invitation will be sent to all registered teachers and learners.

Registration Details

Registration for SAPhO 2026 is completed in two steps:

1. Teacher Registration

Teachers are required to register first, as they will serve as invigilators for their learners during the Olympiad. After the examination, teachers will be required to complete and upload an invigilator form. Teachers may register here: [Teacher Registration Portal](#)

2. Learner Registration

Once the teacher registration process is complete, learners should register on the online system to access the examination platform. Learners may register here: [SAPhO Online Registration System](#)

For any enquiries, please contact the SAIP Project Manager, Ms Ndanga Mahani. Further details will be communicated in due course to those registered for SAPhO2026.

We look forward to your school's participation.

Kind regards,

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