

Computing, ICT and Business Studies

The Computing, ICT and Business Studies department is a strong and forward thinking team incorporating elements of all Key Stage 4 courses in our Computing course at Key stage 3.

We have achieved results year on year above national average with a history of success, GCSE results in 2018 continued to improve overall. Business Studies students gained 70% A*-C with 16% gaining an A/A*, Computer Science students gained or 50% 4+ with 13% gaining 7* and ICT students gained 70% A*-C with 16% gaining an A/A*.

It is an exciting time for the department as we now also offer the CIDA course and have launched two new courses. Firstly the level 2 certificate in Financial Education from the London institute of Banking and Finance this involves cross –curricular work with our maths department. Along side this, we have the Level 2 BTEC in Digital Information Technology, which introduces students to the digital sector, in particular virtual workplaces, cybersecurity and legal ,ethical issues, with the opportunity to apply these in realistic scenarios.

Our work with developing the curriculum is ongoing and we are continually evolving. We have adapted all Key Stage 3 schemes of work to include the changes in the curriculum, ensuring we are delivering the three main strands within computing - digital literacy, computer science and information technology as we believe this will to better equip students with the foundation skills, knowledge and understanding that they will need. With computers part of everyday life and, for most of us, technology essential to our lives at home and work it is more important than ever to ensure we are preparing our students in the best possible way for life after school in the digital world. ‘Computational thinking’ is a skill that all pupils learn in order to achieve this.

We continue to work with local primary and secondary schools as part of our work with CAS. This involves supporting software knowledge and skills development to computing teachers, providing practical, hands on support where needed, as well as meetings to discuss course/curriculum changes. Because of this work with CAS and a CAS Master Teacher within the department we are also a Lead school for the Network of Excellence which is part of the Computing at School group and we are extremely committed to ensuring this work continues.

Every classroom has an interactive whiteboard and all classrooms are fully equipped with computers for each student. In addition to this we have a set of LearnPads, camera equipment, Raspberry Pis, Bigtraks and micro:bits. We continue to look for new ways we can embed this equipment into lessons.

We actively seek local initiatives that students can attend to develop their subject knowledge and skills, where they are given the opportunity to work with people in the field of Computing to understand careers available within STEM fields and to learn a variety of programming languages. As well as local initiatives we have been involved in National and International events such as Safer Internet Day and International girls in ICT day, with the latter being a key ongoing focus for the department in terms of recruiting more girls into the Computer Science field. In addition to this we offer a variety of extra-curricular clubs available to students after school as well as educational trips to Bletchley Park and the Bank of England.

We are a hardworking and busy team consisting of 7 teachers with high expectations of all students and we are tireless in our approach in securing the best outcomes for all students. Every teacher makes a contribution to our on-going success and we offer a range of extra-curricular enrichment opportunities for students. We are keen to retain our staff and there could be further opportunities for those that make a difference.

In return we are a supportive and welcoming team with an array of experiences and teaching styles, but we are also open to suggestions as to how we can adapt current practices and implement new ideas. All schemes of work are set up with engaging material, challenging tasks and homework activities and these are reviewed on a termly basis. We use a range of software to allow students to learn several programming languages such as Kodu, Scratch and Python as well as design software within the Adobe package.

We are always looking to develop further and therefore we are looking to appoint an enthusiastic teacher who is passionate about the subject and achieving the best outcomes for their students through high expectations. If you have the potential and knowledge to assist the department in continuing to move forward, whilst inspiring and motivating students of all ages and abilities, then we would like to hear from you.

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Director of Computing, IT and Business