Computer Science and ICT

Introduction

The Computer Science and ICT department has had a consistent team over the last few years, with staff experienced in the delivery of both Computer Science and ICT. The focus over the last two years has been to ensure that the ICT curriculum changes have been implemented, and to ensure that lessons have become more engaging and challenging for our students as well as move towards a Computer Science focus, as well as ensuring that students make significant progress at all levels. We have extremely strong sixth form courses and have enjoyed success at Key Stage 4 with the OCR Cambridge Nationals and AQA Computer Science courses. There is a strong team work ethic within the department and everyone helps each other progress. There are exciting changes ahead as we look to offer new courses at KS4 and KS5.

Staff and Accommodation

There are two main teachers of Computer Science and ICT within the department, each of which has their own teaching room, which are well equipped with new i5 PCs with dedicated graphics. We have access to a wide range of software programmes including full Adobe suite. The Computer Science department has a staff room where each teacher has their own desk equipped with a PC. An additional teacher who is a specialist in computer science also supports us in KS5.

All staff teach both Computer Science and ICT at KS3 and KS4 with specialist teachers teaching A Level Computing and OCR Technical Awards.

Curriculum

At KS3, we currently have developed the curriculum in line with the curriculum change guidance for ICT, bringing in a number of resources from PG Online. This has included the introduction of programming using Python throughout KS3 as well as the introduction of computing theory lessons.

At KS4, we use the AQA exam board for computer science and offer the OCR Cambridge National in ICT and CiDA. This may change based on the revised DFE course list for 2020. We have a strong level of recruitment in the sixth form in to level 3 and Computer Science is becoming increasingly popular.

At A-Level, we use AQA for Computer Science and OCR for the new technical specifications. Two teachers share each class each taking half of the curriculum.

Extra-Curricular

There is a popular KS3 ICT club that has a high attendance every week as well as a well-attended KS4 coursework catch up club. We also offer clubs that focus on social development. We offer trips to Sussex University; one for year 9 girls called 'robo girls', and the other for year 10 students to investigate computer science.