ICT at the British School of Milan

1. **Key principles**

   - Decisions on IT are made primarily on the academic needs of the school
   - Technology supports teaching and learning based on sound pedagogical principles
   - IT solutions are designed to match how teachers teach and students learn
   - Technology is widespread in order to reflect the world students and staff exist within
   - Technology works, is secure and based on a network driven by Microsoft Windows but flexible to cope with Apple devices such as iPADs or Macbooks/iMacs
   - Teachers are able to easily set and assess work using technology
   - Technology is platform-independent as far as possible
   - Technology is able to collect data easily and effectively

2. **Students will be**

   - Digitally literate through effective learning and teaching from Nursery through to Year 13
   - Confident in using the appropriate software for each specific task
   - Adept in presenting information and able to model data and solve problems effectively
   - Proficient in distinguishing what information is useful and what is not; able to search effectively and to determine whether information is accurate or biased
   - Skilled enough to solve problems independently and creatively using computational thinking

   Staff will be:

   - Digitally literate through continuous professional development provided by the school but also independent study
   - Confident in using technology to support learning and knowing when and where to use it to make learning engaging and meaningful
   - Confident to not use technology all of the time but to use a mix of teaching strategies

3. **ICT Skills**

   - KS4 students can opt to pursue IGCSE Computer Science; we are exploring the possibility of introducing Informatics for others
   - At KS3 the ICT curriculum will focus on ICT skills in term 1 of Year 7 and term 3 of Year 9; the remainder of the curriculum will focus on developing computing subject knowledge and computational thinking skills; ICT skills will be assessed explicitly throughout
   - In the Primary School, all ICT skills will **be taught and reinforced as part of class teaching**. The ICT Lab is to be used for skill-building whereas the classroom is where ICT will be embedded, as appropriate, into the daily routines of the students.
   - Students from 14 to 18 will have **dedicated sessions** devoted to ICT development. At IB level, this is best completed during IB core time; sessions will run for a small number of weeks each half term and built into core time

4. **Software Tools**

- The school will use Microsoft Office 365 as its major technological tool, including One Drive for personal "my documents" and SharePoint for "shared folders"
- The learning platform (VLE) will be Microsoft Teams which will replace Frog from September 2018
- Frog Progress is used in the Primary School for assessing students

5. **Hardware**

- In the **Primary School**, teachers use interactive panels in class with pupils to create a purposeful and dynamic learning environment where students and teachers collaborate using the panel's facilities
- Tablets, which have been used extensively over the past two years for a variety of tasks, not just research, will be vital for integrating ICT within existing lessons; laptops will also be available for this
- The ICT laboratory with Windows 10 Education, Office 365 and a core set of desktop programs will be used to develop specific ICT skills such as keyboard/mouse, basic folder management and MS Office suite basics
- In the **Senior School**, Tablets (at time of writing the iPad is the tablet of choice) will be used widely in KS3 to support learning; students can use them as mobile textbooks, notetaking devices and for recording portfolio evidence/collaboration
- Each tablet should have a keyboard so that simple word processing and other tasks can be completed easily and simply
- Teachers will use tablets as mobile whiteboards and cast their screens to the projector; this will be supported by high quality Audio Visual equipment
- In the **Senior School**, the ICT Laboratory will remain, review pending, for specific tasks not possible to complete using cloud-based programs
- **BYOD** – use of personal laptops will be mandated from September 2018 for KS4 and IB students; students will be able to use the device they feel most comfortable using
- To be truly platform-independent means the use of web-based services even though the school will remain a Windows environment - this will be Office 365