Business, Enterprise and Technology Faculty

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The Business, Enterprise and Technology Faculty has six members of staff and is currently led by the subject leader for Computing. The Faculty is housed in the Phoenix building and we work together to develop skills that will enable students to make informed, appropriate choices from the range of KS4 pathways we offer. Our curriculum is reviewed annually, enabling us to provide students with a range of pathways that meet their needs and reflect national developments.

Computing Department

The Computing curriculum has evolved and there is now a greater emphasis on Computer Science and Computational Thinking. We were among the early adopters of GCSE Computer Science as a KS4 option. A Level Computer Science was introduced in September 2015 to provide a possible pathway for these students at KS5. KS3 computing programmes of study are continually being refined and reviewed to combine engaging Computer Science and Digital Technology modules in order to provide students with knowledge and understanding of both subjects. Extra-curricular activities for students are arranged with the emphasis on programming with specialist equipment to extend the curriculum. In addition, after school support is always available for students across all year groups.

Links are being established with our feeder primary schools in order to support them in developing their computing curriculum and provide progression for students as they move from Key Stage 2 to 3.

Computing Department Resources

The Department is housed in purpose designed air-conditioned accommodation. There are four Computing rooms, each with 26 workstations (plus the teacher laptop). A range of additional private workspaces are available for independent study. There are three Computing staff, all qualified Computing teachers.

All Computing rooms have multimedia projectors, interactive whiteboards, video cameras and high quality sound systems.

A 24 hour Broadband filtered Internet service is available at all network workstations. Students have personal E-mail accounts.

The school uses the Hwb national learning platform and Google Classrooms for homework, teaching resources, revision materials etc.

The Computing Curriculum

KS3
A challenging and exciting programme exists for all students. As the new curriculum evolves, Digital Competency will be integrated within the Integrated Curriculum and other subject areas. Dedicated

Computing provision exists for the further development of Digital Technology and Computer Science specific skills.

Programmes of study are reviewed each year in order that students are prepared for the range of pathways on offer at KS4.

Years 7, 8 and 9
All KS3 students have 2 lessons of Computing per fortnight. Class size is approximately 23 students and all are able to work one per workstation.

Programmes of study allow students to further develop the skills built in the integrated curriculum as well as to acquire higher level skills in a wide range of software applications in preparation for their chosen Computing pathway at KS4.

Schemes of work currently include:

Year 7	**Year 8**	**Year 9**
Graphics	Animation	Spreadsheets
Spreadsheets	Networks and Communication	Computational Thinking and Programming
Computational Thinking	Coding with micro:bit	Impact of Technology
Algorithms and Coding (Block coding)	Spreadsheets	
Video Editing	Communication/Website Creation	
Collaborating Safely Online	Introduction to HTML	
	Cybersecurity	

KS4

GCSE Digital Technology (WJEC)
This is a brand new qualification being introduced in September which supersedes the GCSE ICT course.

The course consists of three units; Unit 1 - The Digital World which is a written examination (40%) and two controlled assessments, Unit 2 – Digital Practices (40%) and Unit 3 – Communicating in the Digiital World (20%). Students will be entered for all Units at the end of Year 11.

GCSE Computer Science (WJEC)
The WJEC Computer Science course consists of two external assessments (one written paper (50%), one practical exam (30%)) and a controlled task (20%). Students are entered for all units at the end of Year 11.

Students' Digital Competency is developed within the Welsh Baccalaureate qualification which is led by Form Tutors in the Integrated Curriculum.

A-Level ICT (WJEC)
A-Level ICT is a popular choice, with most students who follow the AS course in Year 12, continuing to take the A2 course in Year 13.

A-Level Computer Science (WJEC)
This course was introduced in September 2015. This course covers 2 units at AS Level, one of which covers practical programming using Visual Basic. At A-Level students study a further 3 units one of which is a programmed solution to a problem.

General Information

Computing staff are encouraged to be available for students working out of class time and rooms are available (if staff are present) before/after school as well as break/lunchtimes.

The Computing team work closely together and, being housed in the one area, are able to share best practice and work collaboratively to develop programmes of study and resources.

Network Support

The day to day functionality and development of our network is supported by a Shared Resource Service.

Computing Developments in Teaching and Learning

As part of a Welsh Assembly funded South East Wales ICT initiative, Monmouth Comprehensive School has developed a wireless network with high speed connectivity to centrally located servers and the internet. Laptop computers are available in all curriculum areas to allow for flexible and independent access to IT. IT is used both as a 'digital tool' to support learning and also as a 'digital guide'. The development of learning using ICT forms a major stand in the school's strategic plan through the implementation of the Digital Competence Framework. All Key Stage Four students follow an ICT programme through to accreditation as part of their Intermediate Welsh Baccalaureate. During this year, all students have been provided with access to the national Hwb learning platform of digital tools in order to support the personalisation of students learning.

Business Studies Department

Business Studies sits within the Faculty of Business, Enterprise and Technology which is led by the Head of Faculty. Two members of the team have specialist responsibility for the delivery of Business and Economics.

Business Studies Department Resources

The Department offers vocational and non-vocational pathways at Key Stages 4 and 5 and is responsible for the creation and delivery of Enterprise initiatives within all key stages. At Key

Stage 3, Enterprise is included within the Integrated Curriculum lessons which are delivered by Form tutors.   At Key Stages 4 and 5, Enterprise is delivered and accredited through the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification. The Department also offers a range of Enterprise schemes as extracurricular options for all students.

The Business Studies Department is unique in that its subjects are only studied at KS4 and KS5. The Department is well resourced with up-to-date resources and subscriptions to relevant journals. The study of Economics and Business subjects is dynamic, challenging and increasingly relevant during these turbulent economic times. In all courses, the students are encouraged to consider the dynamic nature of businesses and develop a critical understanding of the macroeconomic environment and pressures that surround them.

Courses Offered

- WJEC GCSE Business Studies
- WJEC Level 2 Vocational Award in Retail Business
- WJEC GCE Economics
- BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Business

KEY STAGE 4

WJEC GCSE Business Studies

This course encourages students to develop a critical understanding of organisations, their legal structure, human resources, finance and accounting, marketing and operations as well as the wider economic environment in which they operate. The following units are covered:

- The Business Framework
- Businesses and their Customers
- Producing Goods and Services
- Human Resource Planning
- The External Environment
- Business Finance and Control

Students learn through a range of diverse activities including case studies, project work, group work and oral presentations. The units are structured to provide the opportunity to explore key business theories and concepts in the context of the business and economic world.

Current and topical television programmes and newspaper and journal articles are regularly used to ensure that students are aware of today's business world and the economy.

Students are encouraged to carry out on going independent research and will have the opportunity to take part in a series of trips and visits to local and national businesses. Past visits have included Cadbury World and Alton Towers. Guest speakers are regularly invited to talk with the students, share their expertise and support students with their learning.

WJEC Level 2 Vocational Award in Retail Business

The Level 2 Award in Retail Business specification is a recently introduced qualification. It is designed to give students the necessary knowledge and understanding of one of the most important employment sectors in the UK.

Students have the opportunity to explore various aspects of retail business and investigate a range of retailers from large chains and Department stores through to independent and virtual stores.

KEY STAGE 5

WJEC GCE in Economics

The GCE Economics qualification offers a contemporary, principles-based approach to the subject. It encourages students to develop tools to apply to a wide range of real-world situations rather than rely heavily on fact-based approaches. It thus offers a course of study that, by focusing on key concepts, will stay contemporary and not require students to apply institutional arrangements and policies that have become outdated. The focus is very much on why the economic world works the way it does and what can be done by economic agents to influence this.

Students are assessed through four components; Component 1 – Introdcution to Economic Principles and Component 2 – Economics in Action are studied in Year 12 for AS Level. These components are then built on with two further components studied in Year 13; Component 3 - Exploring Economic Behaviour and, finally, Component 4 - Evaluating Economic Models and Policies.

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Business

The Level 3 BTEC National Extended Certificate in Business is designed to provide highly specialist work-related skills in the Business sector. Students will gain the knowledge, understanding and skills that they need to prepare for employment within Business. The four core units give students an introduction to and understanding of the business environment, management of resources, marketing and communication – all fundamental to the success of business organisations. The two optional units are chosen to meet the needs of each student cohort.

The assessment approach of the BTEC Nationals in Business allows learners to receive feedback on their progress throughout the course as they provide evidence towards the assessment and grading criteria. Evidence for assessment may be generated through a range of diverse activities including assignment and project work, case studies, workplace assessment, role play and oral presentation.