

# THE DIGITAL-IT/COMPUTING DEPARTMENT

The department benefits from highly experienced staff, who are forward thinking and always looking to develop those around them, and those joining the department. Through informal discussion and the formal departmental meetings, we develop a shared purpose with all team members contributing to policy, management and the creation of new resources.

The department is fully committed to the professional development of the individuals within the team and opportunities are provided to ensure this takes place. These will include one to one mentoring, in-faculty training, whole school induction and external training and networking opportunities.

While the department is ready to adopt all that is best in current educational practice, its philosophy is based on providing an opportunity for every child of whatever ability, to gain confidence in digital IT and computer programming. The skills they acquire will improve their life chances, enabling them to develop and continue their personal learning so that they have the ability and confidence to update their knowledge and skills to meet the demands of an ever changing technological society.

The department comprises of two specialist teachers, and five dedicated rooms. The suite of rooms are well maintained, some are equipped with air conditioning and all have recently been refurbished with brand-new PCs in this last 18 months. The department is continually looking to update the resources provided for students, exploring a range of technologies from Raspberry Pi's, to VR hardware like the Oculus range, which can be found on the school's Intranet. We have our own in-house team to support all hardware and software facilities. The school have some 450 networked PCs. All staff and students have their own e-mail address, access to the Internet and over 100 curriculum software titles. Students and staff, using 'Portico' can access their 'my work' folder from home alongside being encouraged to utilise their personal OneDrive accounts, and parents using 'Insight' can access school data on their children.

IT is a compulsory subject within KS3 where it is taught across year groups 7 – 9, where they access 2 lessons per fortnight, under the title of Digital Literacy, focusing on the key skills of the technological age, whilst developing opportunities to reward students by accessing the IDEA award scheme. At KS4 IT students are following the BTEC Level 1/2 in Digital Information Technology course, alongside AQA GCSE Computer Science. At KS5 we offer the BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Information Technology and AQA A-level Computer Science. ALPS 3 was achieved last academic year across the cohort.