Head of Computing: January 2018

Subject Details

Computing is taught to all students in Years 7 and 8. Curriculum time has been extended to two hours per week to reflect the growing importance of Computing to the nation and its inclusion in the English Baccalaureate. In Year 9, 10 and 11 students may study either IT or Computer Science. The successful candidate will have the opportunity to shape the delivery of this curriculum and take the lead with the development of the new Computing curriculum. Currently two thirds of the Year 9 cohort have opted to study either IT or Computer Science.

AQA Computer Science and Pearson CiDA are popular options at Key Stage 4, with currently two classes of Computer Science and one of CiDA. Students are allocated five teaching hours a fortnight. The percentage of students gaining A*- C in Computer Science in 2017 was 76%. Students studying the ICT GCSE were also equally successful with 83 % gaining A*- C in 2017.

In our Sixth Form students can opt for either the Pearson Level 3 Extended Certificate in IT, a four module course equivalent to one A level, or the new linear AQA A level Computer Science. Sixth form students are allocated nine teaching hours a fortnight with an additional two hours of directed study in college. As Head of Computing the successful candidate would have the responsibility to ensure there is a good uptake of Computer Science and IT at Key Stage 4 and in the Sixth Form.

The successful applicant would ideally be proficient in more than one programming language (at present students learn Small Basic (Year 7- 8), VB (Year 9-11), VB or C# in the Sixth Form), and would have the key role of leading all teachers in the preparation and delivery of the Computer Science and IT specifications. The desire to be involved in extra-curricular activities would clearly be advantageous; we have built strong links with Bournemouth University, our STEM department and other schools in the area and we would like to build on these links in the future. The Computing department at present comprises three full time teachers.

The school has recently installed a client-server network using Microsoft servers and has just redesigned the dedicated computing classrooms (3) to include a whiteboard-wall and twin projectors in each room of 28 pcs, with room for practical computing. The schools main systems are SIMS, MintClass, Office 365 and Firefly VLE. All of which are integrated and with the exception of SIMS, hosted in the cloud. There are several other IT equipped rooms in the school and more in the Sixth Form.

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