

THE IT DEPARTMENT

The department benefits from highly experienced staff, who are forward thinking and always looking to develop those around them, and those that come into 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 IT and computer programming. Students acquire the skills they need to improve their life chances, not only at the present time but to enable them in the future to develop and continue their personal learning so they have the ability and confidence to update their knowledge and skills to meet the demands of an ever changing technical society.

The department comprises of three specialist teachers, and five dedicated rooms. The rooms are well maintained and some are equipped with air conditioning. The department is continually looking to update the resources provided for students, 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 and parents using 'Insight' can access school data on their children.

IT is a compulsory subject within KS3 where it is taught across year 7 through to year 9, under the title of Digital Literacy, focusing on the key skills of the technological age.

At KS4 IT students are following the Cambridge National in Information Technology, and AQA GCSE Computer Science.

At KS5 we offer BTEC Level 3 National in Information Technology and AQA A-Level Computer Science.