



## **The Computer Science and ICT Department**

The Computer and ICT Department is a team of experienced, successful, highly committed, friendly and supportive teachers.

As a department, we nurture pupils' creativity and teach the skills not only to come up with brilliant ideas, but also to turn them into a reality. By doing so, we teach a subject that complements their wider learning and brings it to life in practical terms.

We encourage pupils to be resourceful, innovative and enterprising as they solve real and relevant problems. This develops the essential skills young people need for everyday life, unlocking their ability to gain high grades at GCSE and A Level, and to enable them to progress in the workplace.

### **Key Stage 5 – A Level Computer Science (OCR)**

We have excellent results in Computer Science at A Level and have established the new specification with success. We have an excellent range of resources to support teaching and learners. Students are passionate about studying Computer Science with the majority progressing to higher education to study Computer Science or a related field such as Cyber Security. Indeed, a growing number are now applying to study Computer Science at Oxford and Cambridge.

### **Key Stage 5 - BTEC Information Technology Level 3 – Extended Certificate**

BTEC IT is taken in combination with A Levels or another BTEC by our students. The students have high aspirations with the majority wanting to progress to university. Our results have been strong in all components and overall in recent years. We offer the Extended Certificate and students who have studied this course have gone on to obtain degree apprenticeships.

### **KS4 Computer Science (AQA)**

Computer Science GCSE enables students to gain an excellent understanding of computer fundamentals. This course is now fully embedded, and we have a track record of excellent results. The department have worked hard to create teaching resources and have included commercial resources to support teaching and learning. The groups at GCSE are mixed ability and really engage in the study of Computer Science.

### **Extra-Curricular**

The department aim to facilitate a variety of activities linked to the courses to bring learning to life.

Our facilities and resources in school allow us to offer clubs where students can program Sphero robots and develop their understanding through play. We have recently invested a significant amount of money in new resources to help engage and inspire students.

We currently work with all students at Key Stage 3, and all those studying Computer Science at GCSE and A-Level participate in the Bebras computational thinking competition. Some of our students have been successful in getting to the Nationals and have taken some of the top places. In addition, we encourage students to participate in the Cyber First competitions delivered by GCHQ.