



THE CHARLES DICKENS SCHOOL BUSINESS STUDIES & ICT DEPARTMENTS

Facilities

Business Studies is situated across two spacious classrooms in the heart of the school which both seat up to 30 pupils at a time. The classrooms both contain two laptop banks containing enough laptops so that pupils can complete coursework tasks independently. Each classroom is equipped with the latest SMART interactive whiteboard and additional dry wipe boards to support learning.

ICT is based in two fully equipped ICT Suites each containing 30 PCs. A range of software is available, including general-use packages such as Microsoft Office, as well as specialist packages for Computing such as an IDE for Python programming. Teachers make full use of the interactive whiteboard software, and a range of other software packages, to support the delivery of outstanding Teaching and Learning.

Homework is set via Showmyhomework a web-based application to improve communication with home and marked regularly and all pupils have information on how assessments are made.

Key Stage 3

KS3 (Years 7 & 8) Computing is delivered through 2x 60-minute lessons per fortnight. We deliver an in-house curriculum that covers the new national curriculum specification for computing, including a range of different programming environments such as, Python and Scratch. Pupils use a range of resources and develop skills and understanding that prepare them to progress to BTEC Digital information Technology. Pupils will also cover all elements of e-safety and learn how to stay safe online.

Key Stage 4

Business Studies is a consistently very popular option subject at KS4, with yearly cohorts of around 90 pupils. The BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise (Level1/2) course is delivered over three years with five lessons a fortnight in Years 9, 10 and 11. The curriculum is designed so that the content delivery and completion of internal assessments can be systematic and effective. In Year 9, pupils work to complete the Component 1 – Exploring Enterprise internal assessment. In Year 10, pupils work to complete the Component 2 – Planning for and Pitching an Enterprise Activity internal assessment. Finally in Year 11, pupils focus on completing the Component 3 – Promotion and Finance for Enterprise externally assessed examination.

BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology is delivered through 5 x 60-minute lessons per fortnight. There are typically 3 classes in each year group. The course allows pupils to be creative in the development of spreadsheet products and project-based learning. Learning is supported by a wide range of practical activities, ensuring that a variety of activities is offered to suit every type of learner. The course is taught through three components; Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project

Planning Techniques; Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data; and, Effective Digital Working Practices

Beyond The Curriculum

The Business Department has strong links to the Broadstairs Business Club and other local enterprises that are willing to offer their time and expertise to assist in academic or extra-curricular activities. The department has previously run a variety of extra-curricular activities such as The Enterprise Club which works across year groups to plan, organise, and operate entrepreneurial ventures within the school to raise money for selected charities.

Staffing

There are two teachers of Business Studies (including the Curriculum Leader). There are also two teachers of IT, one of which has a TLR for IT but who is line managed by the Curriculum Leader for Business & IT.