



St Monica's Roman Catholic High School

THE COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT



“Through studying Computer Science at St Monica’s, students become confident, creative, independent learners who are well equipped to fully embrace a future of rapidly advancing technology.”

The Department

The Computer Science Department are committed to high standards, both within the curriculum and through their extra-curricular programme. It currently comprises of a Head of Department and two classroom teachers and also works closely with the school’s technical team – including a Network Manager and two experienced IT technicians.

Facilities and Equipment

Within the department, there are three dedicated computer rooms. Each member of staff is allocated their own room – which contains 32 PC’s running the full Microsoft Suite and also includes access to an interactive whiteboard and sound system. We also have excellent resources to support us in our teaching –graphic tablets, micro bits and Raspberry Pis. There are a further three computer rooms available throughout the school for cross – curricular use.

KS3 & KS4 Curriculum

With the National Curriculum Review, the development of computer programming is an essential part of this highly motivated department and we are looking to appoint a Head of Department with a sound knowledge of the KS3 & KS4 Computer Science Curriculum. In KS3, we currently teach students to program in Small Basic, HTML, Visual Basic and Python. We also look to offer students a broad curriculum, and study topics that not only ensure core digital literacy skills are developed but also informs students of the impact technology can have on personal wellbeing and safety. KS3 students are taught in ability groups and are timetabled the equivalent of one hour’s lesson time per week.

At KS4, the department currently offers pupils the option of studying Edexcel GCSE Business or OCR GCSE Computer Science. In terms of extra-curricular activities, students are also given the opportunity to program robots using Lego Mindstorms and learn how to build their own computer. KS4 students are taught according to option blocks.