

# Weatherhead High School

## Business, ICT & Computing Department



Computer Science sits within the Business, ICT and Computer Science department which is staffed by a hardworking and committed team of teachers. Student attainment is high at all levels, with GCSE and A Level performance above the national average. All students study Computer Science at Key Stage 3 and we have a small cohort who take Computer Science at GCSE and A Level. The department is constantly striving to raise attainment through curriculum development, focusing on sharing good practice and resources within the team, and we utilise up to date research to inform and improve teaching and learning strategies. Continued evaluation of all aspects of the department allows us to support all students to realise their full potential.

At Key Stage 3, all students have a weekly Computer Science lesson where they investigate many core areas of the subject, including Computer Programming, Binary Code, Networks and Data Representation, using various software applications such as Python, Inkscape and Scratch. The students are constantly encouraged to develop their skills and build an interest in the way Computer Science affects them and the world around them. In September 2024 we will have a group of Year 11 students studying OCR GCSE Computer Science. In the Sixth Form, there will be a group of Year 13 students taking OCR A Level Computer Science. We are looking to revitalise our Computer Science curriculum to encourage more students to pursue this as an option subject at Key Stage 4 and 5.

The department all work together in their own suite of five classrooms with a departmental office. Each classroom is fully equipped with up to date teaching technology, including an HD visualiser and Dell desktop computers with a range of software applications and full access to the internet. Several of the classrooms have recently had new computers installed and there are also two 15-unit laptop trolleys available within the department for staff and students to use. The department is at the forefront of e-learning strategies, leading the way with the use of Google Classroom to extend learning beyond the physical classroom.

In terms of extra-curricular activities, the department runs a wide range of popular weekly events, including Computer Science Club and a wealth of clinics / support sessions for each course on offer. A further important focus is on enrichment opportunities and these include the Hour of Code and UK Bebras Challenge, which are both completed by students in Key Stage 3.

Links with industry are a vital part of the study of Computer Science and Business, and the department has developed important links with many business organisations, including local, national and internationally renowned companies across an array of business sectors, such as Unilever, Peel Group, Inn2 Web Design, Owen Drew Candles and Bletchley Park.

For additional information, please visit our curriculum page on the school's website:

<https://weatherheadhigh.co.uk/project/computing-and-information-technology/>