ICT & BUSINESS STUDIES DEPARTMENT

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

SCHOOL VISION

William Farr (C of E) Comprehensive School's vision is to provide all members of the school community with the opportunities to engage with 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10) through the highest quality of education, encouragement and endeavour. We are committed to striving for excellence and ensuring that all students are known, valued and can achieve.

SCHOOL VALUES

Our core values are: **Compassion Friendship Perseverance Respect Responsibility Wisdom** Each value is associated with one of our Houses.

The students consistently attain high standards of grades, and their behaviour in lessons and around the school is exemplary - not only do they respect one another, but they have respectful and excellent relationships with all the staff.

THE ICT & BUSINESS STUDIES DEPARTMENT

There are five subject specialist teachers in the department, all of whom teach across the age and ability range as all staff contribute to the teaching of KS3 ICT. Our aim is to enable both students and staff to become critical and independent users of ICT and Business Studies.

We develop ICT and Business Studies students' capability in finding things out, developing ideas and making things happen as well as exchanging and sharing information. We also aim to encourage students to extend their learning into new and developing areas of the subjects.

We deliver courses in GCSE Business Studies, Cambridge Nationals Enterprise and Marketing, GCSE Computer Science and Cambridge Nationals Creative iMedia. At A-Level we run courses in A Level Business Studies and A Level Computer Science. In Key Stage 3 we teach students ICT and Computer Science in a carousel format taught by a specialist where possible.

All members of staff are enthusiastic about their subject and collaboratively design schemes of work but specialists lead the writing of the schemes of work that they are passionate about. The co-operative system of sharing schemes of work and resources within the department is key to the success of the projects. The nature of both subjects engenders an ethos of refreshing and changing units in the department, as the use of technology, and its application, is ever-changing in society.

The department is well resourced. There are two central departmental offices which are used as a base for our staff and central resources for our lessons. We have 4 dedicated ICT rooms, and a Business Studies suite. Each ICT room has a specialist based in it for their lessons, but they are bookable by other subjects when not in use by the department. The ICT rooms each have 32 PCs, a projector that is also linked to TV screens around the room, and whiteboards. The Business Studies suite has a main class teaching area with 15 PCs around it's periphery, a Sixth Form teaching space and a bank of a further 20 laptops in a trolley. All of the classrooms at William Farr School have projectors and network connections.

We have excellent access to printing facilities as large laser printers are placed around the school for staff and students to use (all print in colour as well as black and white) and we have a dedicated reprographics room which is staffed for class sets and specialised printing requirements.

THE ICT & BUSINESS CURRICULUM

In Key Stage 3, every student is taught ICT for one hour a week. Students are taught in mixed ability groups in Year 7 and in Science sets in Years 8 and 9. All students follow a common programme of study learning how to code in different languages and communicate information in a variety of media including text, graphics and sound. Students study coding using Python, HTML, Scratch, Game Maker and Spreadsheets. There are topics on staying safe online and cybercrime, as well as learning how to use software such as Adobe Photoshop. Students design websites, make presentations and mix digital music as part of their studies.

The GCSE Computer Science course follows programming, computer architecture and areas such as binary numbers, networks and social use of ICT. One paper of this course is now examined online due the new arrangements for this subject for June 2022. The Creative iMedia course focuses on creative multimedia, and is aimed at students who perform better when producing a portfolio of work rather than terminal papers. Students study web site design as well as digital photographic editing, and game design. In A Level Computer Science, students will build on their coding skills learnt in GCSE, delve deeper into computer architecture and explore other hardware and software at this level, preparing them for further study or employment. The NEA for this subject takes two terms with the students deciding the focus on their project.

Business studies is not offered at Key Stage 3 but is a very popular option at Key Stage 4. The GCSE Business Studies course is designed to give students an understanding of the dynamic environment in which businesses operate and the factors which impact upon business activity. The Enterprise and Marketing qualification enables students to grasp the key aspects of running a small business and gain the right combination of knowledge, understanding and skills required for the 21st century. In A Level Business Studies, apart from learning the theoretical aspects of business, examining case studies encourages students to use their initiative in problem-solving and gives rise to lively class discussions. Students will develop the knowledge and skills needed to analyse data, think critically about issues and make informed decisions – all skills that are needed for further study and employment.

BEYOND THE CURRICULUM

We have offered a number of activities to engage students in ICT and Business Studies, including Code Club run by the A Level Computer Science students, Young Enterprise, Charity events and trips such as the Tutor 2U Exam revision builders for A Level Business Studies students.

ACHIEVEMENT

The 2020 and 2021 results were Centre and Teacher Assessed Grades and these were awarded in line with the examination results achieved since the most recent changes in the GCSE and A level specifications. In 2019, GCSE Computer Science had 72% grade 4+ and 59% grade 5+, I-media had 62% at Level 2 Pass or higher and GCSE Business Studies had 92% grade 4+ and 76% grade 5+. Enterprise and Marketing was a new course running in Year 10. At A level, 83% achieved A*-B in Computer Science, whilst 55% achieved A* - B in Business Studies. Both courses had a 100% pass rate.

PSME

In addition to teaching within the department, the successful candidate will be expected to contribute to the school's Care and Guidance programme, including the delivery of PSME (Personal, Social and Moral Education) as part of his or her form tutor responsibilities.

"William Farr Church of England Comprehensive School is one of the best schools in the country at outperforming expectations for their pupils and improving their future prospects.

There is plenty that other schools could learn from William Farr Church of England Comprehensive School's success."

Sue Williamson, Chief Executive of SSAT

William Farr Church of England Comprehensive School

Lincoln Road, Welton, Lincoln, LN2 3JB

T: (01673) 866900   E: wfarr@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk

www.williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk