WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

ICT & BUSINESS STUDIES DEPARTMENT

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

SCHOOL VISION

William Farr Church of England Comprehensive School aims to provide the highest quality of education whereby everyone is encouraged to strive for excellence in all that they do and each student is known, valued and achieves as an individual.

We will know that we have achieved our vision when:

- Every student has the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding through a broad and balanced curriculum.
- Every individual is confident and behaves in a way that reflects the Christian principles on which the school was founded.
- Everyone knows that they are valued.

THE ICT AND BUSINESS STUDIES DEPARTMENT

The department currently has three full-time and two part-time staff in the ICT and Business Studies Department, all of whom are specialists in our 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.

We aim to enable 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 ICT and Business Studies

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 are trusted to write 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. We have 4 dedicated ICT rooms, and 1 dedicated Business Studies room; each room has a specialist based in it for their lessons, but they are bookable by other subjects when not in use by the specialist teacher. The ICT rooms each have 32 PCs, projector that is also linked to TV screens around the room, and whiteboards. The Business Studies room has a main class teaching area, 15 PCs around it's periphery and a bank of a further 20 laptops in a trolley based in the room. All of the classrooms at William Farr School have projectors and network connections.

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.

As our rooms are often booked by other departments, there are two central departmental offices which are used as a base for our staff and central resources for our lessons.

THE ICT & BUSINESS STUDIES CURRICULUM

In Key Stage 3, every student is taught ICT and Computer Science for one hour a week. Students are taught in mixed ability groups and follow a common programme of study in KS3.

In our lessons, pupils will be taught a wide range of skills using industry-standard software, and experience using ICT in order to learn how to code in a variety of languages, and communicate information in a variety of media including text, graphics and sound.

Topics covered include how to handle and process information; using ICT to solve problems, sequencing instructions and programming. Pupils will also develop an awareness of the increasingly important role Computing and ICT is playing in our society.

In Years 7 to 9 we follow our own Program of Study for Computing and ICT that has been devised to stretch and enhance the strengths of our students whilst meeting the requirements of the new programs of study. It also prepares students for the two options available in either Computer Science or ICT in Year 10 and 11. We 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 will be designing websites, making presentations and mixing digital music as part of their studies. Business studies is not offered at Key Stage 3.

In Years 10 and 11 we offer four options at Key Stage 4 – GCSE Computer Science, OCR Creative iMedia, GCSE Business Studies and Cambridge National in Enterprise and Marketing.

An aspiration for many young people is to be self-employed and start their own business. The skills required for this, such as being able to work collaboratively and creatively, solve problems and have awareness of businesses and customers, are also those requested by employers.
The Enterprise and Marketing qualification will allow students to get to grips with key aspects of running small businesses with a focus on enterprise and marketing. To do this the course was created by consulting with teachers, employers and entrepreneurs to make sure that students will gain the right combination of knowledge, understanding and skills required for the 21st century.

The popular 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. Everyone works in a business or has contact with a business whether this is privately owned e.g. shops, hairdressers, builders, garages, solicitors; controlled by the government e.g. health, education, defence; or a voluntary organisation e.g. a charity.
All types of business activities are investigated, including the types of business organisations; the work carried out by various departments and the roles of people in these organisations.

The role of Computer Science and ICT in society has grown enormously over the last few years. Employers want employees who are computer literate. Universities expect their students to begin their studies with good programming and ICT skills. ICT is considered an essential part of all other subjects, as it is required for use of software, research and improving the presentation and collation of information. Computer Science is a major growth area in employment in the UK and world-wide, and yet there is a serious shortage of skilled professionals in this area. The GCSE Computer Science course follows programming, computer architecture and areas such as binary numbers, networks and social use of IT. 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 over several weeks rather than a traditional GCSE structure. Students study web site design as well as digital photographic editing, and game design. This is a Level 2 VCQ course and is part of the Cambridge Nationals suite of qualifications.

In Years 12 and 13, the subject is available as A Level Computer Science and A Level Business Studies.
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 in this area, again a skills shortage in this subject opens many avenues for our students.

The NEA for this subject takes two terms and students themselves decide the focus for this. Many will relate it to their own interests and investigation, some link it to a practical aspect e.g. for their employers outside school, and they produce the most creative coding they can this way.

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 offer a number of activities to engage students in ICT and Business Studies, including Code Club – lunchtime activities for all students, run by Sixth Form A Level Computer Science students, Young Enterprise, Charity and trips such as the Tutor 2U Exam revision builders for A Level Business Studies students.

"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

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