

HIGHWORTH GRAMMAR SCHOOL
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Computer Science Teacher **Further Information**

Highworth Grammar School is a successful 11-18 selective girls' school with approximately 79 boys in the Sixth Form. There are 1534 students on roll – 1079 in Years 7-11 and 455 in Years 12 and 13. Our school is widely recognised as being innovative and highly successful. Highworth has a strong academic reputation and our students are recognised as mature and reliable young people. We aim to deliver the best possible education to all of our students in a safe and secure environment

Our motto of 'Reach for the Stars' embodies the daily working life of the whole school community; students are encouraged to see learning as a lifelong activity. A key feature of our motto is happiness which is achieved through excellent student behaviour in lessons; clear policies and guidance; strong leadership; and enthusiastic community spirit. It is important that both staff and students feel confident, happy and valued.

Students at Highworth are given rewards for creativity, problem solving, achievement resilience and team work. We value the development of a full range of skills to offer students the best preparation for future challenges. Working here allows staff to share this balanced approach to education; embrace new ideas; and sustain a sense of enjoyment in their own learning.

We are proud of the many opportunities provided for achievement in music and the arts. We believe this is crucial in our ethos in encouraging our students to be independent, creative and highly motivated lifelong learners.

During the June 2013 Ofsted Inspection the school was judged as an Outstanding School. In 2019 our A Level results placed us in the top 25% of schools nationally.

FEATURES OF THE SCHOOL

These include:

- Caring, supportive and committed staff
- Commitment to professional development
- High academic standards with a large proportion of outstanding lessons
- Vertical Tutoring
- Wireless environment, full internet access
- Cloud storage and software provided by Google.
- Site wide video streaming provided from YouTube education
- Laptop for every teacher
- Wireless multimedia projector for every classroom
- 28 mobile laptop trolleys
- New sports hall
- 10 dedicated Science labs
- 3 Performing Arts studios

- Music Technology suite and recording studio
- DT suite with latest technology
- Research into use of new technologies/pedagogy
- Department areas suited
- Cover supervisors to minimise staff cover
- 10 day timetable with five one hour lessons per day. Current maximum teaching time for full time teachers is 45 out of 50 teaching periods

Students

The school has a wide catchment area, taking students from over 40 primary schools, many of which are situated in small villages within the Kent countryside. Entry at age 11 is by the Kent Education Committee Selection Procedure, which aims to identify the top 25% of the ability range. Some students transfer to our school at 16+ from other schools.

Staff

We are fully committed to the professional development of all our staff. All new teachers and NQTs follow a well informed and structured induction programme. All staff are encouraged to pursue personal goals and the school fully embraces interest in pastoral and pedagogical innovation. Every member of staff takes part in the annual performance development scheme which also embodies our motto of Reach for the stars.

Curriculum

Our curriculum at Key Stage 3 includes all the National Curriculum subjects (Art & Design, English with Drama, Geography, History, Mathematics, Modern Languages - French, German and Spanish, Music, Physical Education, Dance, Religious Education, Design Technology, Computing and Science).

We offer all Key Stage 3 subjects through GCSE and A Level together with Business Studies, Dance, Economics, Film Studies, Further Mathematics, Government & Politics, Media, Photography, Psychology, Sociology and Theatre Studies.

In the current Year 12, students take three or four A Level subjects, continuing with at least three to full A level. They can also take the Extended Project. The majority of our students proceed to courses at Universities and in the last academic year all students who made applications, successfully found suitable places in higher education.

THE COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

The aim of the Computer Science curriculum is to enable students to solve problems and develop essential skills for life. Students study the design, development and implementation of systems that solve problems in a variety of business, scientific and social contexts.

Computer Science is taught discretely at Key Stage 3 and as a subject choice at GCSE and A-level.

In Year 7 students focus on key areas of computing such as using media, networks and programming using Scratch.

In Year 8 students develop these basic coding skills and start to develop mobile applications, websites and further programming using Python.

In Year 9 students look at other areas of the discipline such as algorithms, data science and cybersecurity

In Key Stage 4 and 5 students follow the respective OCR Computing Qualification J277 & H446.

Throughout the courses the focus is on real life applications so that students can readily relate their work to their daily experiences.

The subject is located in two computer rooms with 32 and 22 windows based computers. The department used the school's Google Education platform heavily with all lessons, materials and assessments planned out on Google Classroom. The department is seen as lead in the use of the platform, always looking to innovate current teaching and learning practice using a full 'flipped classroom' approach in KS4 & 5, and a video reference in KS3, with the intent to develop strong independent learners.

Moving forwards the department is looking to develop extra curricular activities, and forge links with employers, nationally and in the local area, with an emphasis on encouraging more girls to consider careers in STEM subjects.

% of total entries 2019	
COMPUTER SCIENCE GCSE	
9-7	56.3
9-5	87.5

% of total entries 2019	
COMPUTER SCIENCE A LEVEL	
A*-B	30.0
A*-E	90.0

*Highworth Grammar School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people.
This post will require an enhanced disclosure from the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS)*