

The Computing & Business department is staffed by a hardworking and committed team of four teachers. Student attainment is high, at all levels with GCSE and A level performance above the national average. The courses we offer are extremely popular at Key Stage 4 with a significant number going on to study these courses in the Sixth Form too. The department is constantly striving to raise attainment through curriculum development; focusing on sharing good practice and resources within our team and we utilise up to date research to inform and improve our teaching and learning strategies. Continued evaluation of all aspects of the department allow us to support all students to realise their full potential.

At Key Stage 3, all students have a weekly Computing 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, Scratch and AppShed. The students are constantly encouraged to develop their skills and build an interest in the way Computing affects them and the world around them.

At Key Stage 4, students have the opportunity to take the OCR GCSE Computer Science course or the BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology where students achieve highly. We also offer the BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise which is a tremendously popular subject.

In the Sixth Form, the department offers the OCR A Level Computer Science course alongside the BTEC National Extended Certificate in Information Technology. Weatherhead has a mixed Sixth Form and our Computing offer at Key Stage 5 attracts many external students to join us from local mixed schools and boys' schools. Students also have the chance to take the BTEC National Extended Certificate in Business.

The department consistently achieves a grade 2/3 in the ALPS achievement measure with 80% of students achieving a Distinction or Distinction\* in BTEC qualifications in 2019.

The department all work together in their own suite of 6 classrooms with a departmental office. Each classroom is fully equipped with up to date teaching technology, including an HD visualiser and 20+ desktop computers with a range of software applications and full access to the internet. There is also a 20 unit laptop trolley available within the department for staff to use. The department are at the forefront of remote learning and 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 all students in Key Stage 3.

Links with industry are a vital part of the study of Computing 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, including Unilever, UK Fast, Inn2 Web Design, Owen Drew Candles, Hoylake Sailing School and John Percival Associates.

For additional information, please visit our curriculum page on the school's website  
<https://weatherheadhigh.co.uk/project/ict-business/>