

DEPARTMENT OF IT AND COMPUTING

In A Level Computer Science, success rates are 100% with High Grades at 39%, well above Sixth Form College and National average. In BTEC IT, success rates are also 100% across all courses with 70% of students achieving Distinction* or Distinction in their overall qualification.

Staff in the department have a strong commitment to student centred learning where applicable and the successful candidate will be expected to continue in this tradition. All classes are of mixed ability and an enquiry-based approach to learning is encouraged. Staff are expected to be friendly and approachable and to value each student as an important individual. The staff in the department always offer positive encouragement where possible and provide an enjoyable yet serious approach to work.

The staff work closely together and see being part of a team as important. There are regular section meetings, all staff contribute to a common bank of prepared material and opportunities for staff development and training are excellent.

Resources

The Department has 2 computer classrooms each with 24 computers plus teaching machines, an additional 15 station computer room for student study and an office. Specialist software available includes Visual Studio, Adobe Creative Suite, Blender and Thonny. The department currently subscribes to web-based resources PGOnline, Craig 'n' Dave, KnowItAllNinja and ActiveLearn. Moodle and Microsoft Teams are used extensively as a student resource across all courses and for uploading and for tracking students' work. The Learning Resource Centre is well stocked with Computer Science and IT books and study aids.

Computing and IT Courses

Our suite of courses caters for students hoping to study computer related subjects as part of a broader programme, (usually with the goal of higher education in mind), and those who have opted for a more vocational route. Currently our courses include:

A Level Computer Science (OCR)	3 sets Year 1 2 sets Year 2
BTEC Level 3 RQF Information Technology (EdExcel)	
• Certificate	1 set
• Extended Certificate	1 set
• National Diploma	1 set Year 1 1 set Year 2

Students are encouraged to develop their skills within industry with many students completing relevant work experience at local software development companies.

Students benefit from varied enrichment opportunities which have recently included

- a visit to local software development company Phixos to learn about developing safety critical software systems used in commercial and military flight systems.
- an insight into the world of Cyber Security from secure software experts at Boswell Ltd.
- a visit to the National Museum of Computing at Bletchley Park, once the top-secret home of the World War Two Codebreakers where Alan Turing created the first computer.
- the CyberClub enrichment program - an extracurricular club for students keen to work in the Cyber Security industry to engage with safe, challenging, problem solving activities provided by GCHQ.

Our students are successful in gaining university places to study Computer Science, IT and related subjects. Others have used the relationships forged with local companies such as Phixos, Sanctuary Housing and Resource Group and DRP Group to secure Higher Apprenticeships, enabling them to continue with their studies whilst also gaining hands on experience in industry.