COMPUTING, IT AND DIGITAL MEDIA FACULTY

Aims:
The faculty has highly supportive hard-working staff, committed to helping pupils achieve their full potential. The aims of the faculty fully support those of the school, whilst striving to:

- Develop a sense of passion and commitment to computing, media and technology
- Promote an enjoyment of learning, where pupils are encouraged to become independent, multi-skilled learners that achieve highly.
- Employ a range of teaching techniques providing equal opportunities to all students.
- Ensure all pupils reach their full potential and to foster a lifelong interest in computing and information technology.
- Enable young people to make sense of the modern world, 'the global village', helping them to become valuable citizens and provide the context and background for all other human activity.

Facilities:
The faculty has four full-size dedicated teaching rooms in the main school, all of which are equipped with computers and interactive whiteboards. The Faculty has also invested in robotics, virtual realit head sets, a 3D printer and mini programmable computers in order to enhance the teaching of computing.

Staffing:
The structure of the Faculty from September 2021 is, as follows:

Vacancy	Teacher of Media/Computing
Laura Johnson	Head of Faculty
Aaron Cowley	Teacher of Computing/ICT
Kevin Smith	Teacher of Computing/ICT (part-time)

Curriculum:
Computer Science, Creative iMedia/IT and Media are increasingly popular subjects with our pupils, with options offered at GCSE and A-level as well as vocational options at KS4/5. Imedia will become part of the faculty from September 2021, having previously been part of the Performing Arts faculty, and comes with it's own sizable cohorts at KS4 and 5. From September, the Media and IT options at KS4 have been combined to offer one course (OCR Cambridge National in Creative iMedia) with the potential to deliver different units to the anticipated, multiple, classes dependent on their interests, which may include video and sound editing, games concept design, digital photography, creating 2D and 3D digital characters and creating interactive multimedia products.

In Key Stage 3
All pupils are offered a 2 hours per fortnight of Computer Science and ICT.

In Key Stage 4:
Rainhill students take their options in Y9, and start GCSE in Year 10.

Current Year 10 Computing: OCR GCSE Computer Science
Current Year 10 IT: OCR Cambridge National in Creative iMedia
Current Year 10 Media: Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Creative Media Production

Current Year 11 Computing: OCR GCSE Computer Science
Current Year 11 IT: Pearson BTEC Tech in Digital Information Technology
Current Year 11 Media: Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Creative Media Production

Sixth Form:
Media is a popular subject which, as detailed above, has recently been added to the Computing Faculty. It is a successful subject, with healthy cohorts, currently following the Pearson BTEC Level 3 National in Creative Digital Media Production. Computer Science A-level was offered for the first time from September 2017 resulting in one student progressing to Girton College, Cambridge to study Computer Sciences. With healthy numbers at GCSE this is seen as a potential growth area. In addition, the Faculty currently offers the Cambridge Technial Level 3 in IT qualification (Emerging Practitioners Pathway), providing an alternative pathway for students keen to develop their skills in ICT. Small classes allow us to offer personalized support.

Extra-curricular:
Our students have the opportunity to experience using technology through robotics at KS3 and a coding club has been introduced for girls at KS3 to boost recruitment into Computer Science through the options process. The department also makes use of virtual reality to further enthuse students.

Students are a welcome presence in the Faculty, to enhance their ICT skills and develop new computing skills, with an open door policy at lunchtime and after school.

Alan McKeegan
Deputy Headteacher – Director of Studies (line manager of Computing Faculty)
February 2021

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