## COMPUTER STUDIES FACULTY

The teaching of Computer Science and ICT at Nower Hill High school is dynamic and focused on continuous improvement.  The school invests significantly in its IT infrastructure each financial year in order to continuously upgrade its equipment and facilities.  The Computer Studies faculty is a thriving faculty, the number of students choosing to study the subject at KS4 and KS5 has increased every year. We currently have a team of 5 teachers, each with their own teaching room, as well as the use of a faculty office and team room. We are also very well supported by a technical team and admin assistant.

We are proud to cover the teaching of Computer Science and ICT across all key stages. At KS3, Computer Studies is delivered as a discrete subject to all year 7 and 8 students in two 50 minute periods per week. Our KS3 focus is to provide students an understanding of both ICT & digital media as well as Computer Science and the use of different programming languages. The current key stage 3 scheme of work includes topics that involve using Adobe Photoshop and Dreamweaver, Modelling & Simulation, App design, AI, Computer Architecture as well as learning to program in Scratch, HTML, JavaScript & Python.

At KS4, students in Years 9, 10 and 11 are offered the opportunity to study GCSE Computer Science or Creative iMedia. The new 9-1 OCR GCSE Computer Science course has been successfully taught since September 2016 with results that have been consistently above the national average. Computer Science has proven to be an incredibly popular GCSE option amongst our students allowing us to now have 5 full classes. We are also incredibly proud to be able to offer an alternative, vocational option to students with the Level 2 OCR Creative iMedia course. This course teaches students about creating digital graphics and the use of pre-production techniques, as well as getting students to create their own websites and video games. This has been a popular subject amongst our students and has seen a year on year increase in the numbers choosing to study it.

At KS5, students have the option to study A Level Computer Science or BTEC Digital Content Production (replacing the old A Level ICT). The OCR A Level Computer Science course has been taught since September 2015 with an increased uptake year on year and results frequently above the national average. Students are taught an understanding of computer systems, programming skills (using Java) and problem-solving. Additionally, students are also offered a Level 3 vocational qualification in Digital Content Production. This course gives students practical skills in website creation, magazine production, digital graphics, games production as well as coding using HTML/CSS/Javascript. A significant proportion of our Year 13 students are choosing to take the subject through to further education at University. We are also incredibly proud to have a growing number of students choose Computer Science related apprenticeship schemes, with 2 of our year 13 students now completing the Google and BT apprenticeship programs.

In addition to classroom teaching, we also strive to ensure that we have an active and exciting extra-curricular program for our students. External trips offered to our students have included British Airways Head Office, Bletchley Park, The National Museum of Computing as well as to Japan in 2017. We also had a trip to Florida planned for Easter 2020 which unfortunately had to be cancelled due to COVID, but we are hoping to start planning another trip abroad as soon as we can. We also run a range of extra-curricular clubs for key stage 3 students interested in programming, robotics and game making.

Last year, the faculty was incredibly pleased to have been appointed as a “Computing at School” lead school within the local area for the delivery of Computer Science. Nower Hill High School offers a wide range of professional, high quality, development programs, support for career progression and excellent resources in a high quality teaching environment. As a faculty, we are also fully committed to the sharing of good practice and the development of teachers at all stages of their career, whether it be experienced teachers, trainee teachers or newly qualified teachers, as well as supporting teachers within other local schools through the Harrow Collegiate.

We are a supportive, growing and successful faculty, where colleagues are valued for the contributions they make to the lives of the community we serve, as well as being recognised for the opportunities they provide for our students. We have very high expectations of our students and would relish the opportunity to work with teachers who want to excel and develop their career and teaching practices to be the best they possibly can be. We look forward to hearing from you.

**Satwinder Wilks**

**Head of Computer Studies**