

An Introduction to ICT and Digital Media

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An Introduction to Digital Media and ICT

We are committed to raising attainment which has helped to build a culture of achievement within the faculty. ICT and Digital Media pupils want to learn and are not content unless they are achieving their full potential.

We enable our pupils to become lifelong, enterprising, independent learners, whom are able to take risks and assume responsibility confidently. We ensure pupils develop a commercial awareness and the knowledge and understanding to pursue a career in ICT or Digital Media. The faculty understand the importance of celebrating the pupils' successes and place particular emphasis on this. There is a departmental drive on making pupils become independent learners which is done through pupils using more sophisticated styles of independent learning and enjoying high levels of motivation for the subjects.

In KS4, the Learning Journey starts by building up core knowledge, skills and becoming familiar with the specialist vocabulary before starting their BTEC in Creative Digital Production or Digital Information Technology.

In Media there is a focus on publishing media to allow students to maximise the technology available and to develop their skills and creativity in a controlled and safe setting. There is also a focus on developing the students' theoretical knowledge in order for them to have a clear understanding of the media rich world they live in. In KS5 we offer a diverse curriculum giving students the opportunity to continue their Learning Journey on an academic or vocational pathway so every pupil is able to realise their potential, the focus shifts to Film in their Level 3 BTEC in Creative Media Production.

In ICT there is a focus on the core skills needed to design interfaces or to use spreadsheets as well as a holistic approach to understanding ICT and it's role in the wider world. This continues into KS5 where students expand and develop their knowledge into areas such as website design to compliment the knowledge they already have.

Intent

We are committed to raising attainment which has helped to build a culture of achievement within the faculty. ICT and Digital Media pupils want to learn and are not content unless they are achieving their full potential. We enable our pupils to become lifelong, enterprising, independent learners, whom are able to take risks and assume responsibility confidently. We ensure pupils develop the knowledge and understanding to pursue a career in ICT or Digital Media. There is a departmental drive on making pupils become independent learners which is done through pupils using more sophisticated styles of learning such as OneNote and enjoying high levels of motivation for the subjects. To support this we encourage all of our pupils to attend our after school intervention, trips, visits and workshops delivered by our guest speakers linked to related careers.

In KS4, the Learning Journey starts by building up core knowledge, skills and becoming familiar with the specialist vocabulary before starting their ICT or Creative Digital Production courses. There is a focus on publishing media to allow students to maximise the technology available and to develop their skills and creativity in a controlled and safe setting. In ICT students are introduced to ICT through spreadsheets which allow them to see how ICT can be used in real world scenarios and give them skills that will set them up for life. In KS5 we offer a diverse curriculum giving students the opportunity to continue their Learning Journey on vocational pathways so every pupil is able to realise their potential.

We are also in the process of setting up a KS3 curriculum in Computing that will give the students the basic skills and knowledge needed to navigate their school and personal lives as they develop.

Implementation

In KS4, we operate a 3 year flight path, starting with the introductory foundation course in Year 9, which then leads to the final ICT or Digital Media course in Year 10 & 11. In Media, Year 9 students are introduced to the subject and are taught the key concepts of media theory as well as embedding some of the practical skills they will need going forward. In ICT students begin with spreadsheets before moving on to user interface design to ensure they have a solid foundation of these areas before moving into year 10.

A variety of teaching methods such as cold calling, turn and talk, Mini whiteboards etc are used to stretch all of our students to reinforce understanding and to encourage students to make judgements. ICT + Media students apply the theory that they have learnt to a real world setting where they need to understand client briefs and work towards producing media/ICT specific to the requirements of others.

From Year 10, in Media regular Milestone assessments are also a common feature of the spiral curriculum, as students will complete data response questions and short tests to check knowledge and understanding. All theory lessons start with 'Quick Q's' questions to recap previous learning followed by teacher input and then a student led task. Being able to analyse data and construct written answers is integral to the course. Teachers are encouraged to use as many past paper questions and case studies throughout the course as possible. As the majority of year 10 is made up completing coursework, students quickly gain independent work skills though they are always closely monitored and supported by their teachers.

In KS5, students are encouraged to take more ownership over their learning and become independent learners. Pupils studying a Level 3 BTEC vocational course are given regular deadlines for their coursework assignments and are expected to complete research, analysis and evaluations in and outside of the classroom. The KS5 curriculum builds on the KS4 curriculum and extends the learning and skills of the students who decide to take it up.

Impact

Our curriculum is planned to meet the needs of all of our pupils so that they can all make good or better progress in school. In addition to producing excellent results, our aim is to develop our pupil's employability skills so that they become well rounded individuals whom are confident and are able to be successful in their next step. In ICT and Media, students develop key lifelong skills like independence, ICT skills, resilience, self-awareness, consideration and cooperation with the aim to enable students to become fantastic role models and the very best version of themselves. The impact is that pupils become confident in their learning and are able to demonstrate the skills that employers are looking for in today's increasingly competitive workplace.

Our KS4 curriculum provides our pupils with a solid foundation for further studies and students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning and achievement. In Digital Media KS4 students begin with a transition year where students are given an introduction to the subject and are taught the key concepts of media theory as well as embedding some of the practical skills they will need going forward. This is then build on year on year to maximise the impact of the learning. This model is also followed in ICT and students are able to take their studies further in KS5.

By having both ICT and Digital Media course at KS4+5, we are able to recruit high numbers of pupils, especially in KS4. Pupils who choose remain in KS5 are prepared and ready for Higher Education or employment and supported making their next step through the ICT and Digital Media curriculum, their Careers Programme and the KS5 pastoral support.