

The ICT Department

The ICT department's philosophy is to support each other in order to be an effective department. We strive to promote good standards of behaviour and learning but we can't always do that on our own. The subject leader involves the members of the department in many of the curriculum decisions and this collaboration moves the department forward. The ICT calendar indicates what units of work should be delivered in the year and schemes of work and assessment objectives are held on the central area of the network. In addition to delivering the ICT curriculum the department fulfils an extensive role in supporting ICT across the curriculum.

ICT is taught as a compulsory subject in KS3 & 4 and each group has two lessons a week. The groups in both key stages are set on ability within the constraints of the populations of each year that are given to the HOD. In KS3 each half of the population is taught at the same time so movements between groups can be easily facilitated if necessary.

In KS4 the groups are set loosely on ability but there is a strong emphasis on placing students who have been troublesome in KS3 away from peers and we have found that if we place a small number of students in a higher ability group they settle down and work harder.

KS3

In KS3 the national strategy units of work are broadly followed and are updated regularly. The units of work are based on the assessment criteria of the ICT national strategy. Sample lesson plans were used in the first few years, lessons are now loosely based on these but have been adapted and improved as technology has moved on. A monitoring workbook in excel has evolved over the years in order for staff and the Subject Leader to track student achievement and assessment for learning.

KS4

In KS4 the WJEC GCSE is delivered to all students with the exception of less able students either being entered for the short course or entry level. There are SOW available for each unit of work and a system has evolved in excel over the years to aid assessment for learning.

KS5

In KS5 the decision to move to the WJEC GCE was taken when the AVCE was abolished. The teaching of the A level is organised so that one teacher is responsible for one unit of work. The A Level that is very popular, this year we have an AS group of 28 and an A2 group of 20.

High expectations of behaviour are promoted and an ICT discipline policy written in response to the whole school one is in place.

ICT Departmental Meetings

A briefing of 10 minutes takes place each morning and weekly meetings take place. Minutes are held on the central area of the network for SLT to read.

Technical Support

The school has a Network Manager and one technician to support curriculum and admin networks and provide a help desk for staff and students. The responsibility of installing and management of software for these networks is the ICT department's responsibility. The help desk is accessible for both students and staff and an online facility is available for all staff to log support or repairs needed.

ICT Suite

The ICT department has four computer rooms that have 32 computers in each. There are a number of other classrooms that have computers in other subject areas. Rooms S4, 20 & 3 are further rooms that the ICT department use for some lessons when the timetable organisation demands more than four rooms be used at any one time.