

The Computing Department

Welcome

ICT & Computing is an exciting, forward thinking curriculum which is designed to equip our students with the skills and knowledge necessary in all jobs as well as more specific ICT sectors. St Joseph's School has responded to nationally changing government directives aimed at making ICT & Computing in schools a more rigorous option. We believe strongly in being able to equip our young people for the increasingly technological world of work and also to provide them with thorough routes into the ICT & Computing industry.

Our aims are

- To provide enjoyment and creative stimulation in a safe environment.
- To help ALL students gain confidence in their own ability and achieve success.
- To enable all students to learn communication and technology based skills through experimentation with different techniques and software.
- To be as dynamic and innovative as the changing world of technology and provide this to our students as soon as we can.

Key Stage 3

Students have one lesson of ICT per week. We develop the students' abilities to search for relevant information and use all the available software to communicate this to the highest standards. We teach a wide range of topics and provide many opportunities to extend a topic of interest to students further than this. All students learn about digital literacy, systems, programming and web design.

The entire curriculum is available to view on the St Joseph's Computing website – www.thecomputing.zone

We are currently teaching the following topics:

Year 7	Year 8
eSafety Understanding Computers Image Editing Scratch (programming)	Vector Imaging Podcasting Understanding the Internet Python (programming) Binary

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Key Stage 4

Following on from the foundations built at Key Stage 3, students have the option to study one of the following well respected qualifications:

GCSE Computing

The course gives students a real, in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. Students will no doubt be familiar with the use of computers and other related technology from their other subjects and elsewhere. However, this course will give them an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes', including computer programming, which many students find absorbing.

The course provides excellent preparation for higher study and employment in the field of computer science. The increasing importance of information technologies means there will be a growing demand for professionals who are qualified in this area.

The course will develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills through the study of computer programming, giving students a fun and interesting way to develop these skills, which can be transferred to other subjects and even applied in day-to-day life.

Technical Award in Interactive Media

The course aims to empower learners to play an active role in the digital sector rather than being simply consumers of digital content. Tailor-made to meet the needs of today's creative industries, this qualification covers digital imaging and website development.

The course is ideal for students who want the opportunity to explore and acquire a broad understanding and knowledge of the creative digital industries, and the ability to apply that knowledge in practical contexts.

Extra-curricular clubs

We understand that not all students have access to a computer or the internet at home, so to ensure they still have the opportunity to complete their homework IT rooms are open during breaks, lunch times and after school.