

# Information and Communication Technology

The world of computers and Information Technology is fast paced. Technology and software are constantly being updated or invented to meet, and keep up to date with, a rapidly changing environment. ICT allows students to access a variety of different software applications in a safe and secure environment. ICT teaches them the skills that will hone their technique in order to make each piece of work suitable for its intended purpose, whilst allowing them to be both creative and independent in their thought process throughout. The skills learnt in ICT will allow the students to transfer their skills to all subjects, as well as benefiting them for their future careers.

## The Content of the Key Stages

### Key Stage 3

At Key Stage 3 ICT is taught through a variety of different themes. Year 7 concentrates on giving the students a broad skill set in order to build upon in future years. Year 8 focuses on the more creative aspects of IT and encourages the pupils to become more independent through longer assessment tasks. Year 8 also increases the variety of software used, whilst improving their skills from the previous year. Year 9 brings the previous two years together and introduces some of the more complex features of each software application in order to produce 4-5 different pieces of assessed work based on longer more in depth tasks, which will both challenge and reward the students in equal measure.

### Key Stage 4 (GCSE)

At Key Stage 4 students will study how computers are used in the world today and look at 'Information' and the various 'Technologies' that are used to 'Communicate' it. During the course students will study the following areas:

- ✚ Publishing
- ✚ Spreadsheets
- ✚ Database
- ✚ Communications
- ✚ Multimedia

The aim of the course is to use your acquired knowledge of the above areas and apply it to the design of systems. Students will need to be able to:

- ✚ Analyse
- ✚ Design
- ✚ Implement
- ✚ Test
- ✚ Evaluate
- ✚ Document

Students will also learn about the wider applications and effects of ICT. To do this, students will reflect on the way they and others use ICT and discuss, review and consider the impact of ICT in the wider world.

### Key Stage 5 (AS/A2 Level)

This course in ICT offers the opportunity to identify and solve problems by developing ICT systems in a range of different contexts. Students learn about the effective use of ICT systems and an understanding of the opportunities they offer to both organisations and society. Students are required to use hardware and software applications to solve problems.