



## **Business Studies, ICT and Computer Science Faculty (BICS)** **Overview**

The Academy is extremely proud of its Mathematics and Computing status. Within the BICS Faculty we strive to enrich our curriculum through the recruitment of specialist staff with both teaching and industry experience; allowing our students access to specialist knowledge as well as gain a deeper insight into how our subjects will support them in both their future education and career goals.

We actively encourage the appropriate use of ICT across all subjects within our faculty. We are focused on ensuring that our curriculum is enriched with opportunities for the students to enhance their skills for work and core competencies; through engaging and interesting lessons, real world scenarios and appropriate employer engagement opportunities.

### **Faculty Aims**

- To use Information and Communication Technology to enhance, enrich and extend learning for all students and staff.
- Encourage pupils to recognise the appropriate uses of, and be confident with, Information and Communication Technology.
- Increase pupil's motivation and self-esteem by improving the presentation of their work, and their progress through the implementation of whole school teaching and learning policies including Marking, FMW and DIRT policies.
- Help pupils to develop an awareness of the uses of Information and Communication Technology for the individual and society.
- Use appropriate resources to deliver Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4 and 5 courses in all subject areas.
- Provide all pupils with equality of opportunity with regard to ICT and Business Studies resources.
- To enhance professional development for all faculty staff.
- To invest in appropriate new hardware and software to support and enrich the learning environment for all students.
- To enrich the curriculum through employer engagement and work place visit links with local employers and outside agencies.

### **Teaching and Learning**

The faculty currently consists of 6 full time members of staff: 3 Computing and ICT specialists and 3 Business Studies specialists one of whom also supports the delivery of ICT up to Key Stage 5. The organisational structure of the faculty consists of 3 heads of subject: A Head of Business Studies, a Head of ICT and a Head of Computer Science who all link into the Head of Faculty.

Computer Science and ICT is taught 1 lesson a week in years 7 and 8 where students follow a series of project based units which span approximately 6 to 8 weeks.

ICT, Computer Science and Business Studies are all option subjects and are selected by year 8 students to be studied in year 9. In Year 9 students will complete a base line year where they will have the opportunity to complete practice assessments in order to enhance their skills set in preparation for starting their chosen courses in year 10.

ICT currently follow the OCR Cambridge Nationals in iMedia Specification with the new cohort starting the Pearson tech Award in Information technology from September 2019. Computer Science follows the OCR GCSE specification and Business Studies currently follow the Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise at KS4.

At Key Stage 5 both Pearson level 3 BTEC Award in ICT and AQA A level Computing are offered, and Business Studies offer AQA A level Business Studies as well as Pearson level 3 BTEC Business Studies.

## **Resources**

As Sir Christopher Hatton Academy is a specialist in Mathematics and Computing, there are a large number of ICT resources available to the department. Our access includes 4 main ICT classrooms each containing 30+ networked PCs, an interactive whiteboard, a laser and a colour printer. In addition, we have 2 smaller computer suites which boast between 15-24 networked PC's, a projector and printer as well as access to a 6<sup>th</sup> form teaching classroom.

Within the department equipment and resources are available to support multimedia development and teaching of the ICT curriculum. The BICS Faculty also has a vast amount of resources accessible via the faculty one drive to support delivery of our courses and to allow collaborative working, we also embrace the use of school monitoring and reporting systems to allow effective communication with all stakeholders including our students and their parents.