

ICT/Computer Science Department Curriculum Rationale

<p>KS3 Rationale</p> <p><i>We teach our students to understand and develop skills and knowledge for the modern digital world in preparation for life beyond West Hill.</i></p> <p><i>As a department we follow the National Curriculum and ensure the taught curriculum is predominantly computer science focused to ensure student are adequately prepared for the transition onto the GCSE Computer Science course. Additionally, students are given the opportunity to develop their digital literacy proficiencies to ensure they are adequately prepared for utilising their digital skills and knowledge to aid them in their KS4 years.</i></p>	<p>KS4 Rationale</p> <p><i>We teach our students to understand and develop higher level skills and knowledge for the modern digital world in preparation for life beyond West Hill.</i></p> <p><i>As a Department, we offer the GCSE Computer Science course as it gives interested students the opportunity to opt to further their Computer Science skills and knowledge that they have built up over KS3.</i></p>
<p>Pedagogy within the classroom</p> <p>High expectations of all students regarding behaviour for learning and outcomes.</p> <p>Pace - Every lesson matters. Lessons are well planned and purposeful. “Do now” activities will be followed by brisk and timed activities.</p> <p>Challenge - All students are challenged in order for them to make the best possible progress from their individual starting points</p> <p>Questioning will be effective in developing pupil knowledge and understanding, assessing progress and informing teacher planning.</p> <p>Progression - All learning builds towards an end point. Students are being prepared for their next stage of education, training or employment at each stage of their learning.</p>	<p>Links to School Improvement Plan</p> <p>Increase the use of low stakes assessments, revision tools and consolidation resources so that students increase in confidence and remember the content they have been taught in the longer term.</p> <p>Ensure that incisive feedback is in place and that students are given opportunities to respond to it so that students learn from mistakes, close gaps in their learning and ultimately take more responsibility for their own progress.</p> <p>Literacy - Promote a passion for reading and a thirst for knowledge. Any gaps in reading to be addressed rapidly.</p>
<p>Skill Progression</p> <p>Students build on prior knowledge and skills to help them prepare for the next stage of their education.</p> <p>Skills are consolidated from one year to the next, providing the foundation for increasing challenge.</p> <p>Work given to students to be more demanding and to match the aims of the ambitious curriculum.</p>	<p>SEN</p> <p>Working to increase our own knowledge of different areas of SEN and how to differentiate appropriately.</p> <p>Understanding the SEN needs of all students on the SEN register in the class.</p> <p>Being flexible and adaptable in teaching approaches to meet the needs of all students, not just those with no SEN.</p> <p>Not seeing the “label” but seeing the child.</p> <p>Having as high expectations of lower-ability as we do for the highest; recognising that these students may need even more knowledge to plug gaps in their learning than their peers, not less.</p> <p>Creating a “no-excuses” culture: never letting a child’s SEN become an excuse for inadequate or poor-quality work.</p>