



Introduction:

The increasing use of technology in all aspects of society makes the use of ICT an essential skill for life. Our aim is not only to help pupils master some of the technical skills and techniques involved in ICT, but also to understand how to apply these skills effectively, safely and responsibly. The ability to use ICT is fundamental in modern society.

ICT can be used to find, develop, analyse and present information, as well as to model situations and solve problems. It enables rapid access to ideas and experiences from a wide range of people, communities and cultures, and allows pupils to collaborate and exchange information on a wide scale. It is a powerful force and pupils should have an understanding of the social, ethical, legal and economic implications of its use.

Content:

In Years 7, 8 & 9 ICT is embedded into the curriculum of each subject and pupils are given the opportunity to explore and use the most common ICT programs and applications in the context of their learning. Pupils use the Apple iWork suite of applications that includes Pages, Numbers and Keynote.

In the course of Key Stage 3 they develop their research skills and decide what information is appropriate for their work. They begin to question quality of information. They learn how to amend their work and present it in a way that suits its audience.

Pupils become increasingly independent users of ICT tools and information sources. They have a better understanding of how ICT can help their work in other subjects and develop their ability to judge when and how to use ICT and where it has limitations. They think about the quality and reliability of information, and access and combine increasing amounts of information. They become more focused, efficient and rigorous in their use of ICT, and carry out a range of increasingly complex tasks.

They work on collaborative documents and develop the ability to question the accuracy, bias and plausibility of information found using ICT. They review, modify and evaluate work, reflecting critically on its quality, as it progresses.

Starting in September 2022, Years 8 and 9 students will also have the opportunity to study Computer Science in which they will be introduced to the basic principles of computational thinking.

Skills:

Pupils learn to organise and upload their work in Google Classroom, they also develop a range of skills, including:

- Using online research
- Evaluating the credibility of online sources
- Word processing
- Annotating digital texts
- Presentation skills
- Using spreadsheets to draw simple graphs and analyse data
- Reviewing, modifying and evaluating work
- Creating quizzes in Google Forms, Quizlet etc
- Computational thinking

Safe use of the internet:

All students are given e-safety guidance in PSHEE lessons and are taught as part of the curriculum how to recognise and avoid unsafe practices (including cyber-bullying) when using ICT resources.

All parents and students are asked to read and sign a contract with regard to the use of digital technology, iPads and an ICT Acceptable Use Policy.

Staff are also issued with guidelines which is included in the school handbook and covered in the induction of all new staff.

Homework:

There is one homework tasks set per week. Each homework should take 30 minutes

Assessment:

Students receive a grade for each significant piece of work. Staff write targets for the pupils as a standard part of marking. The examination at Christmas assesses the first term's work. The Summer examination assesses the year's work as a whole. Any movement from one group to another is usually made at Christmas and at the end of the year.

Average time spent each homework:

30 per piece