

COMPUTER SCIENCE AND IT AT WADDESDON

The Computer Science and IT Department at Waddesdon Church of England School is highly successful and dynamic, offering courses to a wide range of students throughout the school. We are an experienced and enthusiastic team committed to excellence and the maintenance of high academic standards. Applicants should be equally committed to the education of all young people, whatever their background or ability.

The facilities comprise four extremely well resourced PC based IT suites which are looked after by a highly competent team of IT technicians led by our Network Manager. Students are encouraged to use the facilities during lunch times and after school to support their learning.



All students in Key Stage 3 (Years 7 and 8) receive 1 lesson of CS/IT a week which is taught in mixed ability tutor groups. The Key Stage 3 curriculum covers a range of IT and CS topics. The topics covered give the students a solid foundation to build on for further study at GCSE.

Year 7	Year 8
IT Skills	IT Skills
E-Safety	Database Designs / Spreadsheet Modelling
Spreadsheet Modelling	Computer Science including Python
Computational Thinking	Computer Systems

GCSE courses begin in Year 9, in line with the school's accelerated curriculum. We currently offer the OCR GCSE in Computer Science which has become increasingly popular in the last few years. We are very proud of our excellent results and the fact that our uptake of girls onto the course year on year has bucked national trends. Last year, with the first examinations under the new specifications, 75% met or exceeded their FFT20 Targets. 87% of students achieved grade 9-4, with 50% achieving grades 9-7.

The topics covered are: Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming as well as Computer Systems. We currently also deliver the NEA, but this will change for the next cohort of students.

We currently do not offer a Key Stage 5 qualification, but believe this area has a huge amount of potential with the calibre of students that we have at Key Stage 4 and the new students who join us in the Sixth Form. In the future, we are also looking to offer a more vocational route into IT alongside our more traditional qualifications.

We also enrich our CS students by giving them a host of extra-curricular opportunities. There are two main educational visits that we carry out in Years 9 and 10 and we are looking to add a further visit for our Year 11s in the form of next year's EGX Gaming Expo in London. In the classroom, we offer students learning beyond the curriculum by giving them a practical group task to complete. Our current Year 11 created their own Arcade Machine, and our Year 10s will be investigating how to build and programme a vending machine!



Outside the classroom, our students are also encouraged to pursue independent learning opportunities by taking on a summer IT challenge.

All these aspects have led to a thriving, exciting and enthused department of which the staff and students are very proud.

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