



ST PAUL'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

BUSINESS and COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

"Whether you want to uncover the secrets of the universe, or you just want to pursue a career in the 21st century, basic computer programming is an essential skill to learn."

Stephen Hawking

"A business has to be involving, it has to be fun, and it has to exercise your creative instincts."

Sir Richard Branson

"Everybody should learn how to program a computer...because it teaches you how to think."

Steve Jobs

"I want to work for a company that contributes to and is part of the community. I want something not just to invest in. I want something to believe in."

Dame Anita Roddick

"Information technology and business are becoming interwoven. I don't think anybody can talk meaningfully about one without the talking about the other."

Bill Gates

The ability to understand how computers work and how they can be effectively used, and have the opportunity to be imaginative and enterprising, is now a basic requirement in every child's education. In the dynamic and technological world in which we live, it is a necessity. The Business & Computer Science Department has invested a substantial amount of time, effort and resources to ensure that our pupils have the opportunities to meet these challenges.

We aim to offer pupils an understanding of the real business, financial and technological world and help them develop their enterprise and IT ability to the fullest extent possible. We strive to provide opportunities for learning how enterprise, computer science and IT can assist pupils in their work in other curriculum areas, and to stimulate the development of learning talents in each individual to help them grow and become life-long learners. We do all of this whilst promoting a responsible attitude to the use of IT and equipment, in a safe and non-threatening environment for learning.

A flexible Computer Science curriculum in Years 7 and 8 allows pupils to develop their learning in a number of ways. They will continue to improve their technical skills in office-based applications to an extent, but great emphasis is put on developing programming skills and logical thinking. Pupils learn to plan their use of IT for a particular audience, and then to analyse, evaluate and improve their work on an ongoing basis. Pupils' initial experiences and the challenge of computer science will provide them with a body of knowledge, establish techniques and develop thinking skills that will last them a lifetime. Pupils are also encouraged to develop learning habits that can be applied to many different situations across the curriculum and away from the school environment.

In Year 9 (in preparation for Years 10 and 11 GCSE), pupils can opt for a course in Business Studies or Computer Science. The department also currently offers a Level 2 course in BTEC Enterprise or Digital Information Technology for those pupils who would benefit from an

alternative approach to learning to that offered by the traditional GCSE curriculum. Through all of these courses, pupils are developing the knowledge and skills to help them in the wider world.

In the sixth form, pupils have the opportunity to follow Business, Computer Science, Economics and Information Technology at Advanced Level. We also offer a BTEC Technical Certificate in Enterprise. These courses prepare pupils for Higher Education courses, further training or employment.

The courses currently offered by the department are as follows:

Year	Subject
7-8	Computer Science
9 (preparation for) 10-11	GCSE Computer Studies (OCR)
	GCSE Business (AQA)
	BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise
	BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology
12-13	GCE Business Studies (AQA)
	GCE Computer Science (OCR)
	GCE Economics (AQA)
	BTEC National Diploma in Business
	BTEC National Extended Certificate in Business
	BTEC National Extended Certificate in Information Technology
	BTEC Technical Certificate in Business Enterprise

The Business Studies & Computer Science department consists of nine members of staff. The Department is part of the Communication & Design faculty, responsible to the Head of Faculty. We have developed excellent Business, Economics and Computer Science/IT courses over a number of years enabling us to provide high quality education for the pupils in our care. We are extremely excited about current developments within Business and Computer Science education and are committed to providing further opportunities for pupils to learn about this curriculum area.

We have over 200 networked computers within the department. Laptop computers, digital projectors, visualisers and interactive whiteboards are used to enhance learning in lessons and pupils use a filtered internet service to help support their work. We have the assistance of an ICT Support Team, together with a Faculty Administration Assistant.

Our classes often include a diverse mix of ability. As practitioners we therefore develop lessons which offer a 'split-screen' approach and support pupils of all abilities. We constantly reflect upon our practice and adapt teaching to meet new developments in pedagogy. Regular team meetings, departmental CPLD and frequent daily discussions allow us to work as a close team, sharing ideas and outstanding practice, contributing to decision-making in the department and supporting each other as necessary. We value our strong working relationships and use these to drive progress.

The person appointed will join a lively, friendly and committed team who work most effectively in a collaborative way. S/he would have a real opportunity to enhance the further development of this successful department where pupil learning and achievement is a priority and standards are set high. We pride ourselves on excellence and the variety of experiences available to the pupils ensures that we can meet many needs. We are a happy team where a sense of humour and ability to work as part of that team is paramount.

Nick Tedds
Head of Business & Computer Science Department
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