THE CHARLES DICKENS SCHOOL - COMPUTING

Facilities

The School provides modern and industry-standard ICT facilities, including a fast communication infrastructure, 100Mb Internet connectivity, and site-wide Wireless coverage. Dedicated staff provide ICT Support within the School, and this is overseen by the Trust, which also provides ICT strategic leadership and development.

All staff are issued with a laptop running the Windows 10 Operating System, and all classrooms are equipped with interactive whiteboards. The Computing Department is based in three fully equipped ICT Suites each containing 30 PCs. A range of software is available, including general-use packages such as Microsoft Office and the Adobe CS Suite, as well as specialist packages for Computing such as an IDE for Python programming.

There are a number of additional ICT Suites and other facilities in use around the School by various Departments, with many subjects having access to their own dedicated suite of laptops. Teachers make full use of the interactive whiteboard software, and a range of other software packages, to support the delivery of outstanding Teaching and Learning. The ICT Suites are bookable for other subjects when not required for computing lessons.

The School currently uses web-based SharePoint VLE, which will improve communication, information management, and access to 24/7 learning, for staff, students, and parents.

A variety of activities are included in Computing lessons e.g. puzzles, games, investigations, practical tasks, as well as demonstration by examples, question and answer sessions, discussion and practice. Homework is set via Showmyhomework a web-based application to improve communication with home and marked regularly and all students have information on how assessments are made. High quality work and effort are rewarded with CDS reward points.

Key Stage 3

KS3 (Years 7 & 8) Computing is delivered through 2x 60 minute lessons per fortnight. We deliver an in-house curriculum that covers the new national curriculum specification for computing, including a range of different programming environments such as Kodu, Python and Pivot animation. Students use a range of resources including those made available on the Departments own Moodle site, and develop skills and understanding that prepare them to progress to GCSE Computer Science or ICT. Students will also cover all elements of e-safety and learn how to stay safe online.

Key Stage 4

Computing is currently a popular option subject at GCSE and is offered alongside a Technical ICT course. The courses offered are OCR Computer Science GCSE and OCR National Award in ICT. These are both delivered through 5 x 60 minute lessons per fortnight. The Computer Science course covers topics in the principles of Computer Science, application of computational thinking with a project on Computer Science. The main assessment is written examination papers at the end of the course. The National award course allows students to be creative in the development of spreadsheet products and project based learning. Learning is supported by a wide range of practical activities, ensuring that a variety of activities is offered to suit every type of learner.