

Information about the Computing and Business Studies Department

The Computing and Business Studies Department is part of The Faculty of Technologies, which comprises of the following departments:

* Computing and Business
* Food Studies and Health and Social Care
* Design Technology and Engineering

Currently there are Heads of Department for each discipline, with the faculty led by the Assistant Headteacher: Teaching and Learning. The Faculty is ambitious and forward thinking and is popular with our students at KS4.

The Computing and Business Department is staffed by two experienced members of staff with Business only taught at KS4.

The aim throughout Key Stage 3 is for teachers to develop students’ thirst for learning a broad range of transferable ICT skills. The Department aims to create a positive attitude towards the subject, instilling confidence and enjoyment whilst developing an ability to think deeply, in order to solve problems and to succeed at the highest possible level at Key Stage 4. We aim to develop an appreciation of the subject and develop cross-curricular links with other subject areas in the faculty.

The Key Stage 3 programme of study is related to the ‘real world’, so students can learn and apply their skills to relevant and useful context. At the end of Key Stage 3, students can select Computer Science or ICT as one of their option subjects at the end of Year 9. Students can also choose to study Business Studies. GCSE Business consists of two units which will allow the students to investigate small businesses as well as how to build a business. Both units are assessed by a written examination and students study the Edexcel qualification.

Extra-curricular opportunities are used to promote positive attitudes towards Computing and to support the school wide programme, The Derby Diploma. Open to Key Stage 3 students, there is a weekly Coding Club – an introduction to Python and Programming through the BBC Microbit. Other extra-curricular opportunities exist across the Faculty of Technologies.

The Computing and Business Department has four dedicated computing suites. Two of the computing suites were fully renovated recently and the remaining computing suites have benefitted from software and hardware upgrade. There is a Network Manager who supports the upkeep and maintenance of the suites. Each of the suites contains a teacher computer, interactive Promethean board and a visualiser together with a wide range of software packages.

The Faculty of Technologies boasts some of the best facilities in school with the new ‘CREATE’ building and ‘EXCITE’. Both areas have significant investment with the latest state of the art learning environments and facilities. They serve as a centre of excellence and a teaching and learning hub for both staff and students. The facilities are used to host the Design and Technology Health and Accreditation training, Rotary Radcliffe Young Chef competition alongside the Engineering Educates Coding programmes with the University of Manchester.

