ICT at PHS

KS3 is a hybrid course combining some of the National Curriculum computing material and a skills course designed to support the KS4 iMedia course.

At KS4 we offer iMedia, but it is possible to offer Computer Science GCSE to those who choose to self study.

Literacy and Numeracy

AT KS3 literacy is supported during the tasks undertaken, From magazine covers, newspaper articles and quizzes that have to be created. Alongside the Google quizzes that are supplied and need to be completed on Google classroom. At KS4 the coursework element of iMedia requires students to complete numerous written tasks.

At KS3 numeracy is particularly supported during the spreadsheet, Scratch and Python units of study. Even during the iMedia course the ability to convert from binary to decimal to Hex is required.

Moderation

There is no formal requirement for internal moderation of the iMedia coursework. However DP is an active member of social media groups and exam board forums for the course and is in contact with many of the main course activists such as Jennie Eyres. External verification of grades awarded by DP will be carried out with the support of colleagues at other schools prior to formal submission.

SEN/Interventions

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-Wall displays are an essential element to successful ICT/Computing/Media lessons. They set the tone for the standard of work and support students with material that is needed for iMedia coursework.
-Resources - Google Classroom is packed with videos (mostly created by David Phillips) to support all learning. Most lessons can in theory be run with non specialist teachers if required.
-Large tasks are broken down to avoid overloading students with ADHD
-Google Classroom is essential to tracking progress and completion of tasks within the iMedia coursework elements. Feedback on how to improve will be given verbally but also documented within comments on Google Classroom.
-The use of Google docs within Google Classroom enable scaffolding to be allowed.
-students with a particular aptitude for computer science or an IT strength are identified and individual pathways for extended learning are plotted.

Assessment

KS3
All assessment is carried out using Google Classroom. Students are expected to upload work for marking on a regular basis, indeed uploads are expected most lessons for grading. The Google Classrooms utilise a combination of practical assignments, Google docs and Google quizzes. There is also some additional input from data generated by websites such as Bebras, typing.com, Idea.org.uk and Cyber Explorers. End of term tests are set to assess progress.

KS4
The 2 iMedia coursework elements of R094 and R097 are broken into numerous small chunks and uploaded to Google classroom. They are then “ragged” and this enables effective tracking. Progress of R093 will be assessed using Google Classroom assignments and numerous past papers.

Rationale

The curriculum is designed to raise the digital skills and confidence to independently learn new digital skills beyond the classroom. The focus is on using software that is accessible to all, but allows the stretch and challenge of the most able.

The KS3 course will take elements of the NC for Computing, however as we offer iMedia at KS4 then a greater emphasis will be placed on software skills to support the KS4 option. However any students that show a potential for Computer Science will be provided with opportunities to develop those skills and potentially take GCSE CS if deemed appropriate.

The iMedia course offers a pathway into Media Studies at A level and numerous vocational ICT courses at KS5. The skill developed would also provide students with more useful digital skills that can be applied to any form of career pathway.

Staffing

DP teaches all classes and all year groups. Helping with the consistency throughout yr7 to 11

Subject enrichment and Personal Development

During KS3 and 4 students will be encouraged to use a number of online platforms for self progression such as Idea.org.uk, Cyber Explorers, Coursera, Edx, Udemy, W3Schools, code.org and many more. These are particularly applicable to those showing an interest in Computer Science.