

ICT

ICT is seen by us as an essential tool for all pupils. They must know what they can do with computers and communication equipment, have knowledge of common applications and how to find help using them. More than this they must be accurate and critical of their output.

The school is an examination centre for City and Guilds and offers all students the chance to gain internationally recognised qualifications in practical ICT subjects. We are able to organise examinations when we deem that the pupils are fully prepared, they can be held at any time of the year. One or two sessions are usually run during the academic year and each examination can be taken at three different levels – Essential, Intermediate and Advanced.

Pupils have discrete ICT lessons with the Business Studies department in years 7, 8 and 9 but pupils of any age or any length of stay have the opportunity to improve their facility with this subject. It is not unusual to see pupils of different ages working towards the same qualification.

In year 7 they are afforded the opportunity to learn to touch type before exploring methods of formatting documents in preparation for an external examination in word processing.

In year 8 we concentrate on spreadsheets and sit the spreadsheet exam when pupils are ready usually in the Trinity Term.

In year 9 we cover databases and aim to put the pupils through the examination in the Lent Term. The Trinity Term can then be used to look at website design or graphical applications.

We have had extremely good results over the years and pupils are pleased to have vocational qualifications when applying for further education or employment.

All pupils have their own logon and have access to the networked computers in the Business Studies Department equipped with broadband internet before school, at break, during the lunchtime and after school until 5.30 pm. The rooms can be booked for use by other members of staff for class use or groups can be sent to do independent research.