

What will Year 7 students learn and how many lessons will they have each week?

In Year 7, students will get 2 lessons a week in Computing and will study a wide variety of topics. Students will look at programming in Scratch, Small Basic and on the BBC Micro:Bit website throughout the year. We will also look at using Spreadsheets, creating leaflets in Desktop Publishing software and look at manipulating images in Photoshop. Finally, students will look at Networks and how they work, how to stay safe online and creating flowcharts to control a program.

What will Year 7 students need to bring with them to lessons?

Students will not need to bring anything with them to their computing lessons.

Will Year 7 students have homework in this subject? How much?

Students will be set one piece of homework a week.

How can I support my child at home with their learning in this subject?

As a parent, you can effectively help with your child's learning by checking through their completed homework – have they read the task and correctly and included all required information? Supporting your child by asking them relevant questions when they are revising is also a great help. Within lessons we will be using two pieces of software – Microsoft Teams and Microsoft OneNote it will benefit them if they can get access to these pieces of software at home.

What opportunities are there for further study and careers in this subject?

KS3 Computing gives students the opportunity to develop not only valuable knowledge about how computers and networks work but also their programming, problem solving and computational thinking skills. It will also train you in a variety of skills using different software packages such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher and Photoshop. Students may continue to study Computer Science at GCSE and A-Level. A qualification in Computer Science can lead to a range of career opportunities within the industry – such as Software Developer, Web Developer, Games Developer and IT or Cybersecurity Consultant.

What is the difference between Computing and ICT?

The difference between Computing and ICT is that Computing focuses on how the components in the computer work together, how data is passed from one computer to another over a network and programming solutions to problems. Whereas ICT focuses on how data is stored and processed, the system lifecycle that a software application will go through before launching to the public and using software such as Word, Excel & PowerPoint.

Are there any trips planned?

Organising trips is something that we are passionate about. If it is safe to do so, we will look to organise visits and attend competitions. In the past I have ran trips to Rutherford Appleton Laboratory in Oxford for the Ada Lovelace day, Bletchley Park and The National Museum of Computing for Internet Safety Day and a STEM Day, The Ridgeway Centre for TeenTech where students get the opportunity to try their hands at experiments and leading edge technology and Barclays in Northampton for a IT Girls Day where they explore careers in IT.

What Programming Languages do you Study?

Within KS3 we will look at Scratch, MakeCode and AppLab (block-based programming environments). We will also look at Small Basic, Python and HTML & CSS (text-based programming environments).