

ICT (incl. Computer Science at KS3) Curriculum Statement 2023/2024

Build resilience, self-reliance and perseverance	Raise aspirations and promote "self-challenge"	Experience a broad range of subjects and learning opportunities	Increase the "cultural capital" of students	Support Mental Health and Wellbeing	Develop deeper understanding and a love of learning and self-development.
A	B	C	D	E	F

Intent

The ICT Department aims to enable all learners to become forward looking and digitally aware (A) so that they can navigate their way through life, within and beyond Sandwell Academy (B). They must also be appreciative of the positives and negatives of a Digital society (C) and be equipped with the skills and knowledge to take advantage of all opportunities that come their way (F). Whilst remaining safe online (E).

Implementation

All students are taught the skills to not only use the essential ICT programs but also to research and develop further their interests (F). They do this through discreet lessons and with the use of the online curriculum which contains extensive resources and allows the students to become independent learners (B).

ICT and is also used widely across all other subjects and it is therefore crucial that the students are taught to question the validity of data, analyse its source and author and the potential for bias (D). They will become proficient in a variety of software tools and they will learn a wide range of methodologies where they will design and create their own digital assets (C). Whilst these may vary significantly throughout the different year groups, the common theme is a standard development framework, such as the Software Development Lifecycle. Students will learn to analyse the current product, decide whether there is a the need for a change before designing, implementing and testing the new product. The ability to reflect and evaluate such changes are key skills across all aspect of life (E). They will also be taught how to stay safe and legal whilst on line and e-safety is a topic covered in all years (E).

In Key Stage 3, general ICT and Computer Science skills are taught as part of the curriculum. After this students can choose to study BTEC ICT at Key Stage 4 and 5. These options are always oversubscribed. Students are also given a 20 week Computer Science rotation at KS4 so all pupils have the opportunity to study aspects of information technology and computer science at sufficient depth to allow them to progress to higher levels of study or to a professional career.

Session 3 are used to further develop computer science skills as well as to aid ICT exam classes (A). All resources are on the OLC and students can revisit these independently. We also create additional resources to ensure students can catch up where necessary (B).

Impact

ICT students at Key Stage 4 and 5 have always and continue to perform above their academy targets (B) and National Data. The pass rate for Level 2 and Level 3 is very good with an increasing percentage of students achieving Distinction* / Distinction