ICT

Information on Subject



Information and Communications Technology (ICT) is used widely within today's society. Indeed, we are constantly confronted with advances in everyday life, including the programming of traffic lights and programmed options on our televisions, washing machines, microwaves and mobile telephones. This also extends to the continuous updating of computer software and hardware. ICT has a major role to play in the lives of our young people. Here, in Castlederg High School, we see ICT as being of paramount importance to the development of all pupils embarking upon the journey of life, therefore developing and preparing them for the 21st century.

TechFirst School

We are delighted to be one of only 20 schools in Northern Ireland to achieve Silver recognition as a TechFirst School. This reflects our commitment to developing digital and technology skills and preparing our pupils for exciting future careers.



TechFirst is the UK Government's flagship technology skills programme, building on the success of CyberFirst, which has supported young people exploring technology and cyber security careers since 2016. Its ambition is to open doors, widen participation and create opportunities for young people from all backgrounds, including increasing opportunities for girls and those traditionally underrepresented in the sector.



Key Stage 3

All pupils in Key Stage 3 follow a planned programme of activities using a variety of computer applications, such as Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Expression Web and Scratch, thus allowing the pupils every opportunity to develop their skills and competencies when operating a computer. Opportunity is also available for pupils to use the internet and email facilities as a means of communication.

The ThinkUknow education programme developed by CEOP is delivered by the ICT Department to help children learn about the risks they may encounter whist using the internet and other interactive technology. It explores a number of themes focusing on three key messages:

- how to have fun online
- how to stay in control online
- how to report a problem.

Key Stage 4 - GCSE Digital Technology

Overview

Digital Technology explores how information and communication technology is used to store, process and present information efficiently and accurately. The influence of digital technology in all aspects of our lives continues to accelerate. Current and emerging technologies and information services are transforming how we communicate with each other, how we work and the ways we learn. It is essential that we can understand how this technology works in order to make proper use of it. It is also necessary to investigate and understand security issues in order to keep our data and information systems secure from hackers or to recover data in the event of a disaster. This qualification is for students who are interested in current and emerging technologies and the impact they have on our business and social lives and who wish to utilise them effectively.



Course Structure:

Unit		Unit Title	Assessment	Weighting
Compulsory	Unit 1	Digital Technology	External written examination	30%
Multimedia units	Unit 2	Digital Authoring Concepts	External written examination	40%
	Unit 3	Digital Authoring Practice	Controlled assessment	30 %

Career Pathways

Digital is everywhere and is at the heart of the UK economy, underpinning growth through both the development of new technologies and the provision of services to businesses and consumers. All national trends and forecasts predict the continuation of demand for high level skills in the sector.

Click here to test your knowledge

Key Stage 5 –

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Information Technology BTEC Nationals offer learners modern, work-related qualifications which open the door to higher education and a career because they:

• are each designed with a clear purpose to support defined progression routes into higher education or employment

• build high-level skills such as teamwork, creative thinking and presentation skills.

• develop independent research and study skills essential for success at university.



Course Structure

Unit	Unit Title	Assessment	Weighting
3	Using Social Media in Business	Assignment	90 GLH
2	Creating Systems to Manage Information (Database)	Practical examination	90 GLH
1	Information Technology Systems	Written examination	120 GLH
5	Data Modelling (Spreadsheet)	Assignment	60 GLH

Career Pathways

"BTEC helps students get the skills that today's employers are looking for…

BTEC is considered the gold standard of vocational learning."

Peter Jones, CBE