HIGHDOWN SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM CENTRE

Frequently Asked Questions



ICT & COMPUTING DEPARTMENT

Which programming languages will the students learn?

Students will learn a variety of block and syntax-based languages, we currently focus on scratch in lower year groups before moving onto cover Python from year 9. In addition students will also learn some scripting languages as they learn to develop websites.

What software do you use?

Our core software is the office 365 suite and Teams which allows students to access essential software in school and at home, we also use a wide variety of specialist applications throughout the year depending on the module being taught. Where possible we aim to use open-source software to enable students to use their skills outside the classroom, but the school also offers the Adobe creative suite of applications.

What does our curriculum cover?

It changes every year to keep pace with changes in the industry, it goes without saying we teach students about key office productivity software but they will also learn skills that could lead to careers in cybersecurity, networking, programming and creative media. Our newest module teaches the basics of 3D CAD design and printing and we look forward to seeing what our students will create this year.

Do you only use the Microsoft Operating System?

We use windows on most of our computers coupled with Microsoft productivity software as this is what the students will find used in 90% of the industry, those who choose to study computer science at higher levels will gain some experience in a Linux based environment. The office 365 software we offer to students will work on both apple and android platforms.

What exam boards do you use?

AQA for GCSE and A-Level computer science BTEC for ICT A-Level equivalent OCR for Creative Media GCSE