COMPUTING DEPARTMENT

JOHN COLET SCHOOL

The Computer Science department at The John Colet School is a successful, innovative department. As a school, we have a proven track record of raising achievement and attainment at all levels, and within Computer Science, we ensure we provide the support needed for students to achieve their targets.

The department has four dedicated IT suites with interactive smart displays and a bank of laptops with excellent hardware specification and a wide range of software. We use latest industry standard software including Microsoft Visual Studio, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Dreamweaver, Adobe Flash, MySQL and Serif WebPlus are some of the many application software we use to teach our students on various levels. Computer Science department is successfully leading on using Google classroom for more engaging and interactive learning across all year groups.

Computer Science is compulsory at KS3 with two lessons in a fortnight and a popular option at KS4 with four lessons per fortnight. At GCSE level we offer OCR Cambridge Nationals in Information Technologies and OCR GCSE Computer Science (9-1). We have been teaching GCSE Computing since September 2010, following OCR specification and have embedded computational skills into our KS3 since then.

Students at KS3 are given exposure to Computer Science with programming and problem solving heavy content. We use MIT Scratch, MIT App Inventor and Python to teach programming elements at KS3. However, we are constantly evolving and always looking for new tools and techniques to help our student reach their maximum potential.

At post-16 level, the department provides BTEC Nationals in Information Technology Foundation Diploma.

There is a strong sense of teamwork within the department – supporting each other and sharing good practice is seen as integral to our development. Our subject LSA supports our students both during the lessons and in afterschool provisions. They work closely with us to ensure that the needs of our students are addressed promptly.

We have a comprehensive set of schemes of work, which we have planned as a team with all the necessary resources. The schemes of work are regularly reviewed as we strive to make sure that our students are enjoying the best planned lessons.

The Computer Science team are actively encouraged to participate in continued professional development by visiting other lessons within school as well as attending courses outside of school.

We believe that the key to computational engagement is when students can see the application of knowledge in real life, as well as feeling the success of more open problems which encourage them to think independently.

Our department benefits from excellent support from technical a team with two specialist technicians who are very keen to work on new ideas to support Computer Science curriculum.