

# ICT and Computing



Rishworth School's ICT and Computing Department has two, full-class suites of networked computers running Windows, Microsoft Office and a comprehensive range of application-specific software.

In addition, each student is provided with a cloud-based account for Google Apps for Education, affording them access to Google Classroom, Drive and Apps. These accounts are managed and monitored by the School.

The teaching environments are supported by a variety of tools that enable effective and engaging delivery of the subject, including interactive whiteboards, overhead projectors and network software that enables teachers remotely to view or control students' PCs. The enthusiasm shown by students for ICT and Computing is harnessed by the Department with real 'hands-on' approach in order to develop the necessary skills and experience. Students build confidence that stands them in very good stead for cross-curricular use of technology or for further study of the subject area at GCSE and A Level.

## **ICT and Computing at Rishworth**

### **Years 7 to 9**

All members of the Lower School have weekly ICT and Computing lessons, where they develop a broad range of cross-curricular skills using a wide variety of software including Word Processing, Spreadsheet, Database, Graphics, Presentation, Communications, Audio and Web-Authoring packages. In addition, time is spent developing high-level computational thinking skills through a variety of Computing modules that cover over half of the Lower School Scheme of Work. By the end of Year 9, students are expected to be confident and proficient in all of these areas and therefore in a strong position to either study the subject areas at GCSE or to use their skills to support their studies in other disciplines. The School places exceptionally strong emphasis upon e-Safety and offers a comprehensive approach to this area, including the delivery of a nationally recognised and government-developed e-Safety training programme. This is in conjunction with an extremely powerful and flexible, in-house web-filter that operates on all PCs within the School.

## Years 10 and 11

GCSE Information Communication Technology is a popular option choice for Rishworth students. The EDEXCEL GCSE Specification has been chosen for its forward-thinking and relevant approach to the subject. Moving away from viewing ICT as a stand-alone subject, this new Specification places ICT firmly as a life-skill, exploring the ways in which it shapes our society and how we, as individuals, can position ourselves to be safe, responsible and effective users of ICT on a day-to-day basis. This is an exciting GCSE that builds firmly upon the passion that young people demonstrate for the technology in their lives - from the Internet to smartphones and games consoles. Assessment is through a practical controlled assessment unit (worth 60%) and a terminal examination (worth 40%).

GCSE Computer Science is also offered and we deliver the AQA specification thanks to its rigorous and engaging approach to the subject. We envisage that the Computer Science GCSE will suit candidates of a strong, mathematical inclination who perhaps see themselves entering the lucrative, fast-moving and exciting spheres of cyber security or software development. Assessment is through practical assessment (worth 20%) and terminal examination (worth 80%).

## Sixth Form

For students who wish to extend and deepen their study in this subject area, Rishworth offers an international A Level in ICT. The CIE A Level Specification has been chosen to assist those who wish to progress to Higher Education courses or employment where an understanding of how ICT is used in society and in industry (along with the implications of its use) is an invaluable asset. A Level ICT students are required develop high-level personal, learning and problem-solving skills. They are required to provide ICT-based solutions to a wide range of problems and to be alert to current and emerging advances in technology. To perform well in this subject, students must be very confident users of ICT and should normally possess at least a Grade 'C' in either GCSE. This A Level is ideally suited for those wishing to pursue a career in the world of ICT and/or Business or those who simply wish to develop expert-level user skills. Assessment in each year is through two, equally-weighted terminal examinations – one practical and one theoretical.



