

Ribblesdale High School Computer Science Department Profile

Our Computer Science department is a highly effective and ambitious team. There are two full time members of staff, supported by a small number of non-specialist teachers, who deliver some Key Stage 3 lessons. As Microsoft Training Academy, we are at the cutting edge of using technology and software in the classroom. We are always exploring opportunities to improve our teaching & learning through the implementation of technology, ensuring every day is a learning day for pupils and staff! We actively encourage and exploit 21st century teaching technologies, and have an active Microsoft Innovator Educator Expert (MIEE) within the department to support innovation. All teachers at Ribblesdale have their own Microsoft Surface device, which links directly to the whiteboard.

As a school, we are dedicated to rolling out a one-to-one scheme, and from September, all KS3 pupils will have access to a windows device to support their learning across the curriculum. The department also has three dedicated suites of 27 desktop computers, all installed with the latest software.

Key Stage 3

We teach our Key Stage 3 pupils for one hour per week. Our pupils enjoy and benefit from a high level of practical input and we always make sure lesson activities are differentiated to meet the needs of all our pupils.

In Years 7 and 8, pupils follow units of work based around the National Curriculum. There are detailed and well-resourced schemes for each year group. At a whole school level, we use Doodle (www.doodlelearn.co.uk) and other forms of online testing to formatively assess throughout the year at Key Stage 3.

In Year 9, pupils focus on their textual based programming skills. From September, we will follow the Python Microsoft Imagine Academy pathway, giving our pupils the opportunity to gain a recognised Microsoft certification.

The department are constantly evaluating its schemes of learning to include the latest developments to engage and challenge our pupils.

Key Stage 4

At Key Stage 4, GCSE Computer Science is a very popular option. Pupils opting to take the subject will follow the OCR syllabus and have two periods a week in Year 10 and three periods in Year 11. We hope to implement a vocational ICT course in the next year, to broaden the curriculum offer at Key Stage 4.

As a team, we constantly strive to deliver the curriculum in engaging ways and push our pupils to surpass their potential. We frequently collaborate and share best practice across the team and whole school level. There is a full and varied programme of bespoke CPD for all staff including a well-established NQT development structure. Ribblesdale is also part of a wider East Lancashire teaching alliance and training network locally and also nationally as a member of PiXL schools (<http://pixl.org.uk/>). Our results are evidence of our commitment and passion for our subject, not to mention the motivation and support we provide for our pupils. The team work collaboratively and support one another to achieve success; the ultimate goal.