



St Mary's Catholic School

## Computing Department

The Computing department occupies 3 rooms on the first floor of the south wing of our new building. The classrooms are bright and airy, and are equipped with excellent quality modern furniture, 30 recently installed desktop PCs and a Smartboard with accompanying high quality sound systems. These resources enable staff to prepare exciting presentations and other sources to demonstrate skills and techniques to students, in addition to delivering their own original materials in an engaging and stimulating manner.

There are currently two specialist teachers in the department, one full time and one part time, including the Head of Department. There are also other full time experienced members of staff from the Mathematics and Geography departments who successfully contribute to Computing, ensuring that there is strong cohesion in the teaching staff.



Computing Department



Other departments have access to trollies of laptops in each wing of the school, or, as in the case of Business Studies, Health and Social Care and D&T, have IT equipment permanently set up in their teaching areas. All teaching areas of the school are fitted with a state of the art interactive boards with speakers, and there is wireless connectivity throughout the school.

### **Key Stage 3**

In Year 9 students may elect to study Computer Science or ICT as an option subject. We also run a club on Thursday lunchtimes where students in Years 7-8 can learn more about programming.

### **Key Stage 4**

ICT and Computing courses are very popular choices for students at Key Stage 4. The school offers two options at KS4 for students who wish to study either Computer Science or ICT. For Computer Science we offer the AQA GCSE course. The course consists of both practical programming and computing theory. We also offer the BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology, a practical course where students learn and apply the fundamentals of computing and information management. Results at KS4 have been excellent in recent years with highlights including:

- 77% Grade 5 or higher in GCSE Computer Science over the past 3 years and 51% Grade 7+

### **Key Stage 5**

In the Sixth Form we offer two courses. Students may choose to study AQA A Level Computer Science. This course is suitable for students who have studied Computer Science at GCSE level and will allow them to extend their programming skills and understanding of the underlying concepts. We also offer the BTEC Nationals Extended Certificate in IT. Students take 4 units across the two years and are assessed via a mix of coursework and exams. Again results have been excellent with highlights including:

- 71% Grades A\*-B in A Level Computer Science over the last 5 years and 100% pass rate
- 80% of Level 3 BTEC IT grades over the last 5 years were Distinction or better and 100% achieved Merit or better

There are comprehensive schemes of work with accompanying teaching resources for all key stages. Students are encouraged to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding of ICT and Computing using varied approaches to learning.

We have developed close links with industry and many fantastic extra-curricular opportunities are available to students. These include events hosted by local universities and IT companies such as Accenture. We also organise work experience for Sixth Form students with Accenture through the Industrial Cadets programme.