

Business and Computing

Curriculum Information



How has our curriculum been designed?

Intent

At St Augustine's our Business and Computing curriculum at Key Stage 3 and 4 has been designed to ensure a student develops the knowledge and skills throughout their experience to allow for progression and the ability to access higher level courses at Key Stage 5 and beyond.

We aim to create the very best Business and Computing students. The aim of the Business curriculum is to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to develop their employability and identify business problems and opportunities. The aim of the Computing curriculum is to challenge students to think, act and speak like those working in the field would.

Classes at each Key Stage are mixed ability. This reflects the fact that we are a fully comprehensive school. Students across all specifications show high levels of engagement and progress.

Within the Business and Computing department, we have a range of experienced staff that teach their specialisms. Our curriculum is designed to utilise the experience of the staff and therefore, we are in the position to offer a range of courses at both KS4 and KS5.

Through Business lessons students will become morally responsible as they learn about integrity within a workplace and that businesses are no less morally accountable than individuals and should be driven to contribute positively to society. Through studying Business, we seek to form the character traits of curiosity and integrity.

Students will learn the fundamentals of business, including marketing, finance, human resources and the economy. Students will be able to engage meaningfully in the world of business through developing their confidence with innovation, driving ideas, marketing products and learning to make informed judgements on a variety of business scenarios.

Through Computing lessons students will develop an understanding of algorithms and become wise and discerning through learning about online behaviour. Students will think critically about information provided online and will ensure that their own behaviour is driven by kindness and integrity.

Students will learn about the functions and applications of computers. This includes an understanding of both hardware and software and how this can helpfully be manipulated and developed. Students will also learn about the risks and opportunities that an increasingly technologically advanced world presents. Students will be able to both use and create computer programmes to make life and work more efficient and effective. Students will draw on and develop their problem-solving skills to find efficient IT solutions for a variety of applications.

Implementation

Techniques to develop long term memory, helping students master subject specific vocabulary are embedded into the curriculum. Students are assessed in a number of ways across the department. Knowledge quizzes are utilised in addition to regular assessment questions, topic tests, presentations and mock exams. Prior learning is revisited to ensure students' understanding is retained and becomes embedded in long term memory.

To Complement the schemes of work, students engage in Business and Computing through visiting speakers and trips. These activities allow students to gain valuable insight into the subject.

Lessons across the department are taught by subject specialists. All staff in the department make full use of Microsoft Teams and all students have access to the department resources through this platform. Tracking data is reviewed according to the school schedule. Intervention groups are identified as a result of this.

Impact

We know our curriculum is working in the Business and Computing department as examination results are consistently above the national average.

The quality of teaching and learning in the Business and Computing department has been praised during learning walks and lesson observations. The engagement of students in the department can be observed in lessons and recorded in student voice.

The number of students choosing to study Business and Computing has increased at both KS4 and KS5 over the years. A number of our students go on to study the subjects further at university.

Research Links/Professional Links

Edexcel GCSE Business [here](#)

Cambridge National Enterprise and Marketing [here](#)

Edexcel A Level Business [here](#)

Cambridge Technical Extended certificate in Business [here](#)

Computing programmes of study KS3 and KS4 (National Curriculum in England) [here](#)

OCR GCSE Computer Science [here](#)

BTEC Digital Information Technology [here](#)

Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma in ICT [here](#)

Sequencing

Topics have been sequenced logically to allow students to build on prior knowledge and skills. For vocational courses theory for the examination is covered prior to students beginning the coursework. This allows students to utilise knowledge and exam skills when writing up coursework. Clear links have been highlighted on the learning journey to ensure opportunities to revisit prior learning are taken advantage of.

Key Stage	Level	Qualifications	Exam Board
4	2	GCSE Business	Edexcel
4	2	Cambridge National Enterprise and Marketing	OCR
4	2	GCSE Computer Science	OCR
4	2	Digital Information Technology	Pearson BTEC
5	3	A Level Business	Edexcel
5	3	Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate in Business	OCR
5	3	Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma in ICT	OCR