

ICT at Thomas Aveling

The ICT department consists of 4 full time teachers, each with different and complimentary skills.

The department has recently had most of its ICT rooms upgraded. All of the ICT rooms come with interactive whiteboards, and a range of specialist software has been made available so that a wider range of the curriculum can be accessed. Each classroom has 25-30 computers.

Brief summary of the ICT Curriculum

Key Stage 3

The ICT department teaches across the full ability range from year 7 upwards. All students in Year 7 and Year 8 follow the ICT4life program working through a range of topics that have an emphasis on core ICT skills. Due to the introduction of the revised National Curriculum changes are being made to key stage 3. Students are currently assessed through a mixture of formative assessments and short summative tests.

In Years 7 and 8 students are taught in mixed ability groups for one lesson each week. Students learn very important skills which fully equips them to start their Key Stage 4 courses in Year 9.

Key Stage 4

At Key Stage 4, ICT has changed dramatically over the last two years and now offers an innovative and flexible curriculum to our students which we now start at the beginning of Year 9; this is currently a mixture of BTEC and OCR national qualifications, however OCR will be phased out this year and GCSE computing will be introduced in September 2013 as an option

Key Stage 5

BTEC I-Media and standard BTEC courses are run at A level, offering a wide range of options for students.

Uptake at post 16 is increasing with students choosing to stay and study here at Thomas Aveling rather than moving onto college or other school 6th forms within the local area. ICT is increasingly successful at this level

Assessment at all Key stages

Assessment is a key to success. As well as using this summative assessment to track student progress throughout the school, teachers use a range of formative assessment techniques in lessons, including peer and self- assessment opportunities, rich questioning techniques, personalised learning and target setting.

We use effective Assessment for Learning (AFL) strategies to enable every student to develop as independent learners and this plays a significant role in guiding their own learning needs. The ICT department sets regular student targets, and reviews by the individual subject

teachers ensure that all our students are constantly monitored and tracked so that they all make academic progress as they progress through the school. This ensures that no child is performing below their expected level of academic achievement.

Where we are now and the future

We are a successful team with access to shared resources, reporting and results and all relevant ICT grading grids within the department. The department also consists of a good mixture of teaching experience and expertise in different subject areas which is another of its notable strengths. Members of the ICT department have knowledge and experience from a broad range of industry.