

STUDENT COMMENTS

Informative comments from students currently taking the course about why they chose IT and what they think of it.

"Information Technology is an extremely important subject in all areas of education and employment. A person's ability to use a computer will shape their job prospects and employability for the future. All pupils should be encouraged to study I.T. because of the growing importance and use of technology in the competitive business environment".

Mark Duffield, ICT Student

"I took I.T. AS Level because I wish to pursue a career in computing. I thought that I.T. would provide me with a good grounding in the general aspects of the career. The theory is very thorough and provides me with a wide understanding of modern technology, and the practical aspects of the course enables me to expand my user skills and various pieces of common software".

Christina Bennett, ICT Student

"Although I did not take I.T. at GCSE I felt it was important that I could use computers to a higher level, as they are such a necessary part of modern life. It has also helped me to achieve more in my other AS subjects".

David Everson, ICT Student

The Information Technology course is designed to give a theoretical and practical grounding in the life skills necessary to be effective in today's workforce. It is a subject that combines well with almost any other choice. Every year there is a healthy mixture of both Art and Science combinations within the group. Some students prefer the more technical aspects of the subject and combine it with Physics and Maths, while other popular choices include Art, English, Geography, Psychology. This mixture points to the universal currency of computer competence.

Information Technology aims to develop your problem solving skills and awareness of some of the social and economic issues in the use of technology. It is designed to give you the practical skills that you will need to function in a computer society.

These include:-

- ◇ The ability to choose when to use technology and what to use it for.
- ◇ The ability to research from a variety of sources.
- ◇ The interpersonal skills that will allow you to communicate effectively.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IS A POPULAR CHOICE AT AS AND A2 LEVEL.

INFORMATION and COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY



MALBANK SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM



DEPARTMENT

RESOURCES

Information Technology has a very large department in which the school invests heavily in equipment. In the previous few years over £80,000 has been spent on machines and the network. Every student has access to the Internet, the school's Intranet site and many CD based resources. Also available within the department is a plethora of equipment such as; digital cameras, scanners, web cameras, colour and laser printers.



STAFF

There are three members of staff within the IT department who teach IT to an AS/A2 level. They are; Mr Wolff, Curriculum Leader—ICT; Mrs Poole and Mr Condliffe. Mr Wolff and Mr Condliffe concentrate on the theory aspects of the course during both AS and A2, whilst separate lessons are taken with Mrs Poole, who works with the practical area of the course, including coursework.

Other members of staff within the IT department include the IT Technician and the Network Manager. The Technician Mr Owen, helps out with any problems or queries regarding hardware or software, whilst the Network Manager, Mr Wolton, ensures the computers are also operating at their optimal ability.

PASS RATES

Over the previous two years, the average ratio of boys and girls who opt to take IT at A Level is 7.3. However, the results show that both perform equally as well in examinations.



Information Technology at AS level is self contained and is often taken to complement an existing set of AS levels for a single year.

COURSE SPECIFICATION

Information Technology is divided into two parts, the AS Level and the A2 Level.

In the first year of the course students study for the AS Level and at the end of the year they sit the examination. The AS grade obtained can be used for entrance to university, and can often benefit students in their application process. It is a real rather than an estimated grade.

At AS Level students sit two written papers. Every candidate is required to submit a minor project, using either Microsoft Excel or Publisher, that tackles a limited problem on the computer. The coursework accounts for 40% of the overall AS grade.

If a student chooses to proceed to the second year of the course they will study for the full A2 Level grade. This involves two further exams at the end of the second year. Each candidate is required to submit a major project, using Microsoft Access, that researches a realistic problem. The coursework accounts for 20% of the final A2 grade. A student who completes the A2 course surrenders their AS grade as the marks used in the calculation of the final A2 grade.