ICT at the Bridge

Aims and Objectives

ICT lessons at The Bridge are underpinned by the Bridge ethos of Hope and a Future, aiming to equip our students to confidently embrace the ever- changing technological and connected world we live in and support their continued learning Post-16.

Students will gain the following skills:

- Touch Typing – Via an online course delivered by Typingclub.com
- Staying safe on-line - How to use the internet safely, responsibly and positively
- Knowledge of infrastructure – Gaining an understanding of physical and virtual technologies
- Digital media – Gaining an understanding of website design
- Office productivity applications - Competency in using spreadsheets, word documents and presentation software

Teaching and Learning Styles

We use a range of teaching and learning styles depending on student ability. Students are encouraged to use and develop their full range of Personal Learning and Thinking Skills in order to achieve lesson objectives. These will enable students to become:

Independent Enquirers – Students will be able to process and evaluate information in their investigations, planning what to do and how to go about it. They take informed and well-reasoned decisions, recognising that others have different beliefs and attitudes.

Creative Thinkers - Students will be able to think creatively by generating and exploring ideas, making original connections. They try different ways to tackle a problem, working with others to find imaginative solutions and outcomes that are of value.

Reflective Learners - Students will be able to evaluate their strengths and limitations, setting themselves realistic goals with criteria for success. They monitor their own performance and progress, inviting feedback from others and making changes to further their learning.

Teamworkers - Students will be able to work confidently with others, adapting to different contexts and taking responsibility for their own part. They listen to and take account of different views. They form collaborative relationships, resolving issues to reach agreed outcomes.
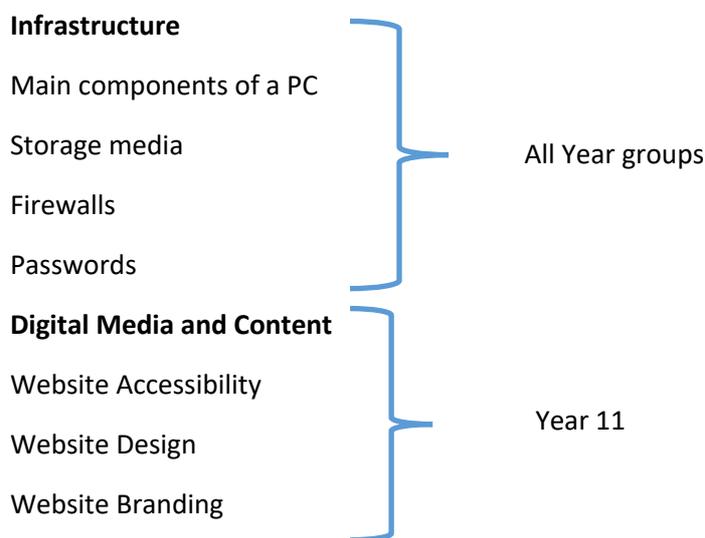
Effective Participators - Students will be able to organise themselves, showing personal responsibility, initiative, creativity and enterprise with a commitment to learning and self-improvement. They actively embrace change, responding positively to new priorities, coping with challenges and looking for opportunities.

Self-Managers - Young people actively engage with issues that affect them and those around them. They play a full part in the life of their school, college, workplace or wider community by taking responsible action to bring improvements for others as well as themselves.

ICT Planning

ICT is delivered at The Bridge with a one hour dedicated lesson for all Year 11 students and two x one hour lessons delivered to all other year groups. Classes have a maximum of six students to encourage full participation and learning and enable differentiated delivery of content. Breaking news stories are examined to highlight subject content. We celebrate world and national events for example World Book Day, Safer Internet Day and Anti-Cyberbullying week in which British Values are promoted as part of the students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. ICT at The Bridge presents itself with many opportunities for cross curriculum links and is often used to support the core subjects of Maths (e.g. spreadsheets, graphs and numeracy), English (e.g. Touch-Typing and extended writing), Science (e.g. research and evaluation), Art (e.g. research and posters) and PSHE (eg; staying safe online). As well as bespoke lesson content, Years 9, 10 and 11 follow an ASDAN (Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network) Short Course in Computing. This is a structured course that promotes active learning and progression and rewards achievement with a certification upon completion. Curriculum planning also takes into account the school's Unique Me principles for each half term.

The modules covered are:

Infrastructure

Main components of a PC

Storage media

Firewalls

Passwords

All Year groups

Digital Media and Content

Website Accessibility

Website Design

Website Branding

Year 11

Dependent upon their starting point at The Bridge, students in Years 10 and 11 may also embark on a scheme of work entitled 'My Business' where they create a fictitious business from the ground up utilising skills learned from using applications such as Google and Microsoft Office. This allows opportunities for the student to explore how a business is set up, from branding and location through to employment and associated legislation.

Teaching ICT to students with special needs

ICT is taught at The Bridge to all students, regardless of ability or previous learning. Lessons are tailored to suit the individual student's needs whether or not they are gifted, talented or have learning difficulties. When planning and delivering ICT and providing feedback to students EHCPs (Educational, Health and Care Plan) IEPs (Individual Educational Plan) and SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) are taken into account.

Assessment and recording

Assessment needs to value and recognise what students have done or completed successfully, thereby raising their self-esteem. Therefore, a variety of approaches to the assessment of individual achievement is used in ICT. After introducing a topic, theory is taught through a variety of activities. At the end of each ASDAN module, each student will complete a challenge based on the module

content. This may be completed individually or in pairs/groups. The challenge is then assessed against student identified success criteria using a green What Went Well (WWW) and Even Better If (EBI) sheet and time allocated to making improvements. Assessment may be self/peer or teacher based. Challenges achieved are recorded on a central ASDAN spreadsheet (including Food, PHSE and Art) to enable input on the ASDAN website at the end of the academic year ready for certification. Other lessons are marked in accordance with The Bridge's marking policy and feedback given to students either written or verbal. Student progression in Touch Typing lessons are supported using the RAG system (Red, Amber Green) with feedback to students via individual activity summaries. Achievements of pupils in ICT are reported to parents twice yearly, in December and July.

Resources

In ICT we use the ASDAN Computing Short Course to plan our activities and challenges. In the classroom students have access to desktop PCs and monitors and HSE compliant chairs. In addition a number of laptops are available to support students when away from the ICT classroom. Both laptops and PCs are loaded with appropriate applications to enable achievement of lesson objectives and free Wi-Fi is available throughout The Bridge. Other resources are available or will be purchased to support students with identified needs or topics being covered. All students have their own ICT folder where hard copies of their work are stored for monitoring, evaluation and review.

Monitoring and review

The Bridge Teaching and Learning Co-ordinator (David Turrell) is responsible for monitoring the standard of student work and the quality of teaching. Maria Jackson is the ASDAN Centre Co-ordinator, responsible for the regulation of ASDAN assessment and student registration and certification. Steve Moore is responsible for the delivery of ICT at The Bridge. The development of the ICT curriculum is reviewed annually by the Head of School and professional development needs are identified.