

# Information Communication & Technology

## GCSE AQA

### Specification

AQA Specification A (3521) GCSE ICT

### Syllabus details

Assessment is through a combination of course work and written examination.

### What does the course include?

This GCSE is a modular course, which requires you to extend your knowledge and understanding of ICT so that you can design, create, analyse and evaluate the use of computers, software and related equipment in the real world.

### Will I enjoy this course?

You will enjoy this course if you want to study a subject that:

- Enables you to learn about the role of ICT in the wider world and the impact it is likely to have on your future career path.
- Develop the skills required to make effective use of the different types of ICT software and hardware
- How to use software such as word processors, databases, spreadsheets;
- About practical design of ICT systems;
- How to apply ICT to real life situations and solve problems;
- How to use ICT to research, acquire, manipulate and present information

### How will I learn?

The course will be divided between two core ICT teachers. You will develop skills in planning; information seeking and you will learn how to evaluate your work. In addition to several hours taught theoretical sessions, you will have ample opportunity to take advantage of the College's well-equipped learning centre for individual study and preparation of projects. Your course tutor and your teachers will also assist and support you to ensure that you maximise your opportunities to succeed, however you will also be expected to develop independent learning skills and hence, you will be expected to spend at least six hours each week on your homework.

### How will my work be assessed?

In the summer term you will take a 1 ½ hour external exam which account for 40% of the marks. Coursework accounts for 60% of the final GCSE mark (coursework consists of an AQA set assignment 30% and a project

### What skills will I need to be successful in this subject?

This is a new, exciting and challenging course of study. It is essential, therefore, to possess an interest in Information and Communication Technology and a genuine desire to investigate how computers function and operate, and the functionality and application of software packages. This is both a theoretical and practical course, which will draw upon your analytical and problem solving skills and competencies.

### What are the entry requirements?

Students should have a range of GCSEs at grades D to E, including grade D in English and Mathematics.

### What are the opportunities after this course for further/higher education and employment?

Students that leave can take up employment in administration, business, retail or in ICT. Students completing this course successfully go on to take the A-level Applied ICT, Computing or a range of other A-levels and vocational courses.

Students wishing to further their education can look forward to careers in:

- Media/ Marketing/ Advertising/ Business
- Graphical Design
- Architecture
- Software Engineering or Development, Website/ Graphical Design
- Hardware Engineering or Maintenance