

The Computer Science Department

Westcliff High School for Girls

The Department

The Computer Science Department currently consists of Mr James Gardner, Head of Department and Mr David Margett. All members of the department are responsible for teaching Computing to Years 7 to 8, and Computer Science at GCSE and Advanced Level.

Facilities

The department is housed in a computer suite of four air conditioned rooms, each of which is equipped with 33 networked PCs. The student network runs on a number Suse Linux Enterprise Servers over Category 5 UTP cabling connecting to 400 OpenSuse workstations running entirely free and open source software. Staff workstations run Windows 7 and a range of proprietary and open source applications. The school has high speed Internet access and every pupil has their own E-mail address and access to the WHSG private cloud which hosts personal and departmental data. All teaching rooms are equipped with data projectors, screens or interactive whiteboards. High quality monochrome and colour laser printers are available for network printing throughout the school. Additional computing facilities are available for use in IT5, WL1 and the E-Learning Centre, and in Hylands as a Sixth Form resource.

There is a whole school IT Support department of comprising two staff: Mr M. Moore (Network Manager), and Miss Jenny Lidbury (IT Technician).

Curriculum

At Key Stage 3 all pupils are taught Computing on a weekly basis. The current Year 7 and 8 are following two year Key Stage 3 course in Computing.

Students in Years 9 to 11 can take OCR GCSE Computer Science (J276). They begin their Key Stage 4 studies further developing an understanding of Computer Science, primarily using the Python programming language.

At Advanced Level, students have just started studying the AQA Computer Science specification (A Level Award 7517).

Public examination results have been very pleasing over the past few years. In the summer 2018 examinations, for example, 62% of candidates achieved 9 - 7 and 100% attained 9 – 4 at GCSE. At A-Level candidates achieved 57% A* - B.

IT continues to be widely used on a cross curricular basis in other subjects throughout the girls' school careers, to assist in their understanding and enjoyment of their learning. In some lessons, such as Technology, Science and Music, pupils use IT for specialist work such as modelling, measurement, control, and composing applications.

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