HP *Byte Wise*

Keeping parents in the loop one Byte at a time

Introduction

We hope this newsletter finds you well and that you've had an enjoyable and restful half term break. As we embark on the next half term, we are excited to bring you the second edition of our newsletter, designed to keep you informed about the latest happenings in our Computing departments.

The first edition of our newsletter received an overwhelmingly positive response, and we are delighted to see the level of interest and engagement from our school community. Your feedback is invaluable to us.

In this edition you can expect to find:

- What your child is learning
- An introduction to the new BTEC Digital IT Course
- Linked Careers
- Tips for supporting your child

We are committed to providing the best education and support for your children in their digital journeys.

We hope you find this newsletter both informative and an an enjoyable read. Together we can continue to inspire curiosity, creativity and a lifelong love of technology.

Mrs Foster
Director of Computing

What are KS3 students learning this half term?

All KS3 will be finishing their units from last half term (please see previous newsletter).

They will then be starting the following units:

Year 7 - Computer Networks

In this unit your child will learn how we connect devices together, what hardware is needed and how data is transmitted from one device to another.

Year 8 - Developing for the Web

In this unit your child will learn how to use the HTML markup language to create their own web pages and create their very own website.

Year 9 - Spreadsheets

In this unit your child will utilise their problem solving skills using spreadsheets. They will learn about data, how it can be formatted and the functions we can use to manipulate it.

What are KS4 students learning this half term?

Year 10 BTEC Digital IT

Last half term, your child was learning the theory around user interfaces, how they work and how they should be designed taking into consideration client requirements and target audience.

This half term students will be completing practice coursework where they will need to interpret a client brief, design and create their very user interface.

Year 11 Computer Science

Python Programming
Your child has been recapping variables, data types, input, output and subprograms.

This half term your child will be further enhancing their programming skills using data structures, selection and iteration.

Component 1 Revision
It's so important that your child recaps the knowledge they have learn in year 10. This half term we will be revising data presentation and computer networks.

Year 10 iMedia

Your child is going to start the term by completing their next coursework required for their course.

This coursework requires them to create a digital games loading screen so please encourage them to take notice of the loading screens they see when they play their games!

Year 11 iMedia

We are doing everything we can to ensure that your child achieves their very best grade. This is why this half term we are giving them the opportunity to improve their R097 grade.

Your child will be looking at interactive digital media products using a client brief provided by the exam board. They will be expected to plan, design, create and test their very own website using the software Rocket Cake (free to download).

Useful Resources

W3Schools
A website full of great tutorials on a variety of programming languages!

Rocket Cake
Year 11 iMedia students will benefit from downloading and practising with Rocket Cake to create their own websites

Photopea
A free browser based replica of Photoshop. Year 10 iMedia students will be using this for their next coursework so it would be great if they could practise their skills!

Introduction to BTEC Digital IT

Course breakdown
There are three units:

- Component 1 - Exploring User Interface Design principles and Project Planning Techniques (Coursework) - 30%
- Component 2 - Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data (Coursework) - 30%
- Component 3 - Effective Digital Working Practices (exam) - 40%

Component 1 - Exploring User Interface Design principles and Project Planning Techniques
(Coursework) 30%
Learners will develop their understanding of what makes an effective user interface and how to effectively manage a project. They will use this understanding to plan, design and create a user interface.

Component 2 -Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data
(Coursework) - 30%
Learners will understand the characteristics of data and information and how they help organisations in decision making. They will use data manipulation methods to create a dashboard to present and draw conclusions from information.

Component 3 - Effective Digital Working Practices
(exam) - 40%
Learners will explore how organisations use digital systems and the wider implications associated with their use.

Linked Careers

Your child has a Unifrog account with School. When signed in they can access the following websites to explore our recommended careers!

Web Developer

Network Engineer

Data Analyst

How can you support at home?

Boost Sessions
For year 10 and 11 we have boost sessions that your child can attend. Encourage them to take part so they can revise important concepts or improve on their iMedia coursework.

Encourage revision
Help your child establish a regular study routine for computing. Get them to revise topics they haven't been taught for some time by creating flash cards/mind maps and practicing exam style questions.

Extra curricular projects
Encourage your child to complete projects outside of lesson time. This will allow them to work on their problem solving and critical thinking skills.

Extra Curricular Clubs

Monday Lunch - HP Podcast - Room 41
Wednesday Lunch - Digital Leaders - Room 33
Thursday Lunch - Computational thinkers - Room 33
Thursday after school - GCSE Computer Science Boost - Room 39
Thursday after school - OCR iMedia Catchup - Room 41

Important Dates to Consider

Year 10 BTEC Comp1 LOB B2 Deadline: Thursday 16th November 2023
Year 10 BTEC Comp1 LOB B3 Deadline: Thursday 30th November 2023
Year 10 BTEC Comp1 LOB B3 Deadline: Thursday 14th December 2023
Year 10 iMedia R094 TA1 Deadline: Thursday 9th November 2023
Year 10 iMedia R094 TA2 Deadline: Thursday 7th December 2023
Year 11 iMedia R097 TA1 Deadline: Friday10th November 2023
Year 11 iMedia R097 TA2 Deadline: Friday 1st December 2023
Year 11 iMedia R097 TA3 Deadline: Friday 22nd December 2023