ACE ICT & Computing Intent

Our intent at ACE is to provide pupils with deep learning experiences that balance all aspects of ICT and computing. With technology playing such a significant role in society, we want to educate our pupils on how to use technology creatively, responsibly and safely.

What is the curriculum aim/vision for this subject?

- To produce responsible, competent, confident and creative users of technology, the Internet and online content.
- To equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to use technology in support of the broader curriculum aims at ACE.
- To develop transferable skills necessary for success in the modern workplace.
- To equip students with the necessary experience and/or qualifications to allow them to pursue their career goals.

What will ACE students gain from this subject?

- An appreciation of technology and the impact it has on their lives and the environment.
- The ability to use technology to enhance achievement across the curriculum at ACE.
- Experience in using technology and the Internet safely and responsibly.
- Skills necessary to protect personal information and data.
- The opportunity in KS4 to achieve a recognised qualification that can further facilitate studies in Digital Skills and similar subjects post-16.

We aim to do this by:

- Creating and delivering engaging lessons and resources for ICT and Computing.
- Ensuring the curriculum is up to date and on trend with new technologies and advances in computing and robotics.
- Providing the opportunities and challenge for all to achieve their full potential.
- Encouraging a culture of questioning and feeding the natural inquisitiveness of all pupils.
- Providing the best possible standard of teaching and opportunities for learning including cross curricular links.

How is our curriculum sequenced?

KS3

The Key Stage 3 curriculum at ACE combines content from The National Centre for Computing Education (NCCE) and content from the Ofqual Functional Skills Criteria for ICT. The Computing topics covered at ACE aim to inspire young people to use computational thinking and creativity to understand and change the world.

KS4

Key Stage 4 pupils at ACE will complete a Digital Functional Skills Qualification at Level 1. With the digital sector becoming a major source of employment in the UK, this course supports digital tasks and activities relevant to today's workplace and everyday life which should require learners to make connections between five skills areas.

Integration and Transition

Students can start at ACE any point and could have missed various topics in their mainstream setting. We make it our aim to ensure that pupils needs are put first and ensure their needs are met. Our aim is to ensure the student feels comfortable and safe through:

- Use of school data
- Setting high expectations
- Pupil passport
- Opportunities to identify strengths and areas of development
- Constructive feedback

IMPLEMENTATION:

How does learning develop over the five years?

At ACE, the curriculum for Years 7 to 9 reflects the structure and challenges of the National Curriculum. Pupils will…

- Use two or more programming languages, at least one of which is textual, to solve a variety of computational problems.
- Understand simple Boolean logic and some of its uses in circuits and programming.
- Understand the hardware and software components that make up computer systems, and how they communicate with one another and with other systems.
- Undertake creative projects that involve selecting, using, and combining multiple applications.
- Understand a range of ways to use technology safely, respectfully, responsibly, and securely.

At KS4, pupils will use the skills they have developed to complete a Level 1 Digital Skills qualification that covers five main areas:

- Using Devices and Handling Information
- Creating and Editing
- Communicating
- Transacting
- Being Responsible

What principles have guided our decision making in developing this curriculum? What is distinctive about our curriculum?

Our curriculum is built on the belief that ICT and Computing should not only teach technical skills but also empower students to connect with the wider world, think creatively, and make informed choices in a digital society. We have prioritised cultural awareness, healthy and balanced use of technology, active community engagement, and preparation for future careers.

Our curriculum stands out as it is tailored to meet the needs of the pupils that attend ACE. It combines Functional Skills ICT with the National Curriculum for Computing, while preparing pupils to go on and achieve a recognised qualification in Digital Skills.

How is the timetabled curriculum supplemented or enriched by other approaches to learning?

Our ICT and Computing curriculum is enriched through the development of coding and advances in technology including artificial intelligence, digital enterprise initiatives, and creative media workshops that bring learning to life. Themed events such as Safer Internet Day, STEM days, and cross-curricular projects connect ICT and Computing to the wider curriculum.

In what ways does our curriculum help to develop…?

Cultural Diversity and Identity – ICT connects people globally, allowing them to share, preserve, and explore different cultures and traditions. We use ICT projects, accessibility tools, and online collaborations to help students celebrate and share their own culture while learning about others.

Physically and Mentally Healthy Lifestyles – Technology supports wellbeing through fitness tracking, mental health apps, and safe computer use practices. We promote healthy habits through apps, online wellbeing resources, and teaching safe internet and computer use.

Community Participation – Digital tools help people engage with local groups, organise events, and take part in community decision making. Pupils at ACE use software to raise awareness of local initiatives, run charity campaigns, and take part in digital discussions.

Careers and Enterprise – ICT and Computing provides opportunities for job searching, online business creation, skill development, AI awareness and professional networking. ACE provides pupils with opportunities to develop coding, understand artificial intelligence and deliver challenges that build digital skills for future careers.

Technology and the Media – Computing enables the creation, analysis, and responsible use of digital media across multiple platforms. Pupils at ACE will learn to create sound, videos and media whilst also developing the skills to evaluate media sources for accuracy and bias.

Creativity and Critical Thinking – Digital tools encourage innovation, problem-solving, and the evaluation of information and ideas. Through coding, design software, and digital research tasks, pupils at ACE experiment with ideas, solve problems, and think critically about information.

IMPACT:

What forms do assessments take? What is the purpose of assessment?

In KS3, progress through the curriculum involves 3 summative assessments throughout the year. Teachers will identify appropriate points in the National Curriculum to assess pupil knowledge and understanding to progress confidently to the next stage. The assessments will track pupils progress and indicate if a pupil requires intervention as a form of subject support.

In KS4, pupils will need to meet the requirements from set tasks and a question paper completed at the end of the course. Pearson qualifications at Level 1 consists of one externally assessed assessment, available onscreen, on-demand. Each assessment comprises two sections, a test section and a task section.

How do we know if we have a successful curriculum?

- Pupil voice, staff voice, parental voice
- Learning walks and lesson observations
- Scrutiny of student work
- Self-evaluation and external moderation via links with other mainstream schools in the authority
- Successful post 16 transition
- Adapt teaching to enable access to all SEN students