



16 July 2018

Dear Parents,

### ICT Year 8 and 9

In ICT next year all Year 8 students will be working towards an IGCSE in ICT. The only difference between a IGCSE (International GCSE) and an GCSE is that students can take the qualification in other countries. This is a challenging course taken mostly by candidates across the world at the end of Year 11. The qualification involves a Theory Examination (2 hours) and two Practical Examinations (each 2 ½ hours). We have been offering this qualification at Key Stage 3 for 5 years now and offer it because we believe it prepares students well for all the practical software skills they will need in their future study and future careers. In addition, that it helps them understand the workload, independent learning skills and resilience required for the examinations in Year 10 and 11.

It should be noted that because we have 3 lessons a fortnight in the subject it is not possible for us to cover all the theory in class time. Preparation for this is done as fortnightly homework, followed up with a test on these topics every two weeks. Supporting and encouraging your son in ensuring this work is always completed on time will help him stay on track.

Your son may find the following books beneficial in helping him prepare for the qualification, but they are not essential for success:

Complete ICT for Cambridge IGCSE Revision Guide. By Stephen Doyle [ISBN: 978-0-19-835783-4]

*This book just covers the theory element.*

Cambridge IGCSE ICT Second Edition. By Graham Brown. [ISBN: 978-1-471-80721-3]

*This book covers the whole course in detail and its authors are the chief examiners for the course.*

Cambridge IGCSE ICT Study and Revision Guide. By Graham Brown and David Watson. [ISBN: 9781471890338]

*This is a new revision guide that complements the core text book listed above. Unlike the other revision guide both the theory and practical are covered.*

If the school is in receipt of pupil premium funding for your son, a copy of the above books will be provided in September.

Finally, I often get asked what the difference is between ICT and Computer Science. Primarily ICT covers software skills and Computer Science is about programming and understanding how and why computers work. There is some cross over between the courses, but not a lot. We offer Computer Science as an option subject at Key Stage 4 and 5.

We wish you an enjoyable and restful summer break.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs F. Round & Mr. R. Lally