

INFORMATION ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

Subjects: BTEC IT and A level Computer Science

There are five faculties at Peter Symonds College, each of which comprises a number of subject areas. IT and Computer Science sit within Faculty 5, alongside Mathematics, Modern Foreign Languages and the T level in Education and Early Years. There are three IT courses (BTEC IT Level 3 (Diploma and Extended Certificate) and the Level 2 Certificate in IT), as well as A Level Computer Science. There are two full time IT teachers and three (two full time and one part time) teachers of Computer Science, although they are managed by the same Head of Subject. All staff are well qualified, conscientious and enthusiastic. Team work is a characteristic of this area which encourages experimentation and collaboration, including team teaching and shared resources, whilst also giving the individual teacher and student the scope to pursue their own strengths and interests. There is also an emphasis on sharing good practice to improve the quality of our delivery.

The BTEC level 3 courses follow the Pearson RQF specification, whilst the L2 IT follows the Cambridge Technical specification. A level Computer Science follows the AQA specification. Students program using the Visual Studio environment, programming with Visual Basic and C#.

There are currently 230 students studying A level Computer Science, 46 students studying BTEC IT Diploma, 54 students studying BTEC IT Extended Certificate and 45 students studying IT at level 2.

Some teaching groups are shared and individual student progress is monitored by all teachers. Workshops are offered to support students to achieve. Students are encouraged to take part in the British Informatics Olympiad (BIO) and in the Cyber Centurion competition.

Accommodation comprises three, 24 seated, computer classrooms with all the necessary software to support the delivery of the qualifications. Students have access to a considerable amount of resources on the College intranet site, which is kept up to date.

This high performing College offers good opportunities for career development. The College organises and supports INSET opportunities within the college, and encourages staff to attend relevant events organised externally.

Director of Curriculum and Support

Catherine Bartlett

Date: 4/1/24