



QUEENS' SCHOOL
Dare to be Computer literate!



Computer science dept.
December 2023 News

Introducing a new Head of Department

It was very sad to say goodbye to Mrs Wassall, who retired at the end of last year. Our new Head of Department, Mrs Lynch, has moved over from the Maths Department. Mrs Lynch has a degree in Computer Science and many years of development work prior to becoming a teacher.

Key Stage 3

Year 7s have had a fantastic start to Computer Science at Queens'. They have been having fun coding with Scratch – a method of block coding that many will have used in primary school. This culminated in them making their own animated Christmas eCards. Their creativity was amazing!



Year 8's have been having fun with The Games Factory, learning how to use the software, and then developing their own computer game. We have some remarkably talented students!

Year 9's have been taking a more academic look at computer hardware, and will be moving on to Python coding in the New Year.

For all Key Stage 3 we have changed the way they record their work. Rather than using an exercise book, we now do everything electronically. It is amazing how natural this is for the students.

*[The Robotics Club is back this year, but unfortunately the competition that we had previously attended has now ceased to be. We are looking to have conversations with local schools see if an inter-school competition might take its place.]



Key Stage 4

Mrs Curtis is leading an innovative trial this year, whereby A-level students lead revision sessions for Year 11s. As well as helping the year 11's, pedagogical studies show this approach is particularly beneficial to the 'teachers' as it can expose gaps in their understanding, that they have to address.

Key Stage 5

The Year 12s have transitioned well from GCSE to A-level, and Year 13's start the year very focused on their mock's and on their NEA project.

Both years are enjoying the new 'Monday Monitor' which aims to prepare them for the traditionally difficult topic 'Legal, moral, ethical and cultural issues'. The Monitor gives us an opportunity to talk about current IT issues and how they impact society. Recently we have discussed the Tesla recall and the cyberattack on Ukraine's largest mobile telecoms company.

