



GUILDFORD COUNTY SCHOOL

Specialist Music College

Headteacher: Peter Costello MA

Patron: Julian Lloyd Webber FRCM



Dear Parents,

Key Stage 4 ICT – Change of Exam board

In previous years, Year 10 students who did not choose ICT as one of their option subjects took the short-course GCSE with the exam board Edexcel. At the end of Year 11 they could gain half a GCSE. Those who opted to do ICT as one of their GCSE options took the full course GCSE in ICT, also with Edexcel, leading to a qualification of one full GCSE.

This year we have changed the course structure for ICT at Key Stage 4 to enable students to achieve more qualifications in their GCSEs and to allow them to cover a wider variety of ICT skills. Students will now follow an OCR Level 2 Nationals course in ICT. This course allows us to teach a wider range of ICT skills rather than concentrating on examined materials.

The new course also allows students to achieve more GCSE qualifications in ICT than were previously possible. They can gain between one and four GCSEs, depending on how many lessons they attend. The course is 100% coursework, with no final examinations. Work is graded Distinction, Merit, Pass or Fail, equivalent to the following grades at GCSE:

Distinction:	A*
Merit:	B
Pass:	C

Students in Year 10 who did not choose ICT as one of their option subjects will be able to achieve the equivalent of a full GCSE qualification in ICT. Students who opted for ICT will gain two, three or four GCSEs in ICT, depending on how quickly they learn the skills and complete coursework. We will monitor the completion and quality of coursework closely to ensure that students remain up to date in the course.

We believe this new course will enable students to achieve more valuable qualifications at GCSE, will help them acquire a wider range of ICT skills, and will ensure that they are well equipped with essential skills required in the workplace today.

If you would like further information about OCR Nationals in ICT please refer to:
http://www.ocrnationals.com/level2_ict.php

Yours sincerely

Darren Beasley
Director of ICT

Guildford County School
Specialist Music College

tel: (01483) 504089 | fax: (01483) 300849
ask@guildfordcounty.co.uk
www.guildfordcounty.co.uk