

Interview with Gary Morgan

How many students are there in your school?

- 2300

How many teachers?

- 150

How many subjects are taught?

- 22

On average, how many pupils in each year?

- 350

How many currently study ICT at KS3 and KS4?

- 1150 at KS3 as they have one hour a week
- Around 100 pupils at KS4
- Since The Welsh Bacallaureate has been brought into the school, all pupils are required to study ICT in some form just not at examination level

Has this number varied over you period at this school?

- Yes, I would say it has fluctuated between 140 and 80 pupils studying ICT in one year group

What do you think the reasons for this may be?

- In many cases, what was being taught in KS3 ICT is not stimulating pupils, now technology has moved on, a lot of the students will have access to mobile devices, they want to utilise these pieces of hardware to learn new and exciting skills more relevant to their daily lives.
- Limited number of machines, every KS4 pupil had to have access to a machine.

What is the pupil to teacher ratio at KS4?

- 1:25

Are schools likely to introduce the new computing curriculum at all levels or stager the implementation?

- As some schools already teach KS5 computing it is likely KS3 and KS4 will start the new programmes of study together.

When would the new curriculum be introduced?

- The beginning of the autumn term – September 2013

How many hours of teaching are currently allocated to KS4 ICT?

- *Five hours a fortnight*

Do you think this is sufficient?

- *Yes, I feel that is adequate for exam preparation*

How many hours would be allocated to computing when the change is made?

- *The same number of hours, this is the norm for KS4 exam subjects*

How many ICT teachers are there working in your school?

- *4 teachers*
- *I was Assistant Head so only allocated half a timetable, therefore only 3 ½ teacher timetables*

How many teachers would you require when the ICT curriculum moves to Computing?

- *Probably the same number as the one discipline would replace the other.*

Would all of these teachers be able to cope with the change from ICT to Computing?

- *No,*
- *I was the only teacher with experience in teaching computing as I was responsible for teaching it at KS5.*
- *They would need in service training in a time scale that will allow them the opportunity to build their confidence with the content before having to teach it*

Are the school likely to bring in specialist computing teachers or re train those currently employed as ICT staff?

- *As the three members of staff were brought in to teach ICT, it is the schools responsibility to re train them if they intend to transfer to computing.*
- *It is against the law to make a teacher redundant through no fault of their own.*
- *If the school wanted to replace the ICT teachers, they would have to find another role for them as the school has a duty of care for the displaced employees*
- *The option of bringing in specialist computing teachers would only be feasible if more money was allocated to the department to increase the teaching budget.*
- *They may consider using Maths teachers to cover computing lessons as Senior Staff 'assume' the logic behind the two subjects are similar therefore able to teach both*

How many Maths teachers are there?

- *16*

What is the staff turnover rate like for an average year?

- *On average around 10 out of 150*

Is it common for new starting teachers to drop out?

- *Very rare, once in a blue moon*

How many hours of training are the current staff likely to need in order to be at an adequate standard to teach the new computing syllabus?

- *My estimate would be 25 hours*
- *Maybe a two day inset*

Would this training be provided on site or externally?

- *This would probably be done externally,*
- *There are currently firms like "Dragon Fly" that are private training providers who would run courses suitable.*

During the period when the training is taking place, is it likely that the school will employ substitute computing teachers to replace those away?

- *No, work would be set by the ICT teachers and other subject teachers from within the school would be assigned to monitor those classes.*

When would the training be done?

- *It is likely that the insets would take place after the exam period in the summer term when there are fewer pupils in the schools therefore a reduced number of lessons that will require cover while the ICT teachers were out training.*
- *Obviously if the curriculum change was going to start in September then the training would be done in the months prior to this.*

Where would the money to fund this training come from?

- *I am assuming the government would provide additional funding to allow schools to manage this change. As the Department of Education are responsible for this movement from ICT to computing I would expect them to allocate a section of the budget to allow for retraining of teachers.*
- *They must be aware schools don't have spare money to fund training courses therefore this change would only be feasible with help from the government.*

What budget does Whitchurch receive?

- *£140,000*

Do you currently have sufficient resources?

- *Yes, as the number have declined in the last few years, we would be able to accommodate a few more students*

How many room do you currently have allocated to ICT?

- *4*

If you were going to increase this figure, how much is it to refurbish a computer suit?

- *£5000*

How much would an additional teacher cost?

- £25,000

How much would adding a new computer cost?

- £500

Do you think I would be difficult to cope with say 100 more pupils?

- Yes
- *I definitely think additional resources would be needed*
- *I also feel some of our current equipment may need replacing if the move to COMSC was going to happen to ensure the machine speed could cope with programming languages etc.*