

# Interview with Gary Morgan

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**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 Baccalaureate 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 stagger 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.*