PIONEERING GIRLS' EDUCATION SINCE 1878

DIGACY

at Northampton High School

NORTHAMPTON
HIGH SCHOOL

GDST

DIGACY an integrated approach to digital literacy

We often think of education in terms of numeracy and literacy, but digital literacy has a vital role as well, which is why we have set up the 'Digacy' programme at Northampton High. Through Digacy, we aim to bring together the various strands of digital learning to ensure that our students have a healthy and holistic understanding of their digital personas and are ready for the changing world of work, where excellent digital skills are taken for granted.

Online safety and Digital Leaders

Digacy also supports teachers and students as they engage with some of the more intangible aspects of the changing digital world. These areas are tackled through Digacy in the PSHE curriculum and, in addition, we have pupil digital leaders in both junior and senior schools. These pupils look at practical approaches to highlight online safety issues, in partnership with teachers and other pupils.

Digacy framework and curriculum

We have built the Digacy programme around the following areas*:

- **Citizenship** - identity, wellbeing, online safety, digital rights;
- **Interaction and collaboration** - sharing, showcasing experience;
- **Creation** - coding, presenting, setting up websites, researching, evaluating;
- **Data and computational thinking** - critical thinking, how data and information link in the digital world.

Through the concepts above, Digacy is seen in both the academic curriculum and in cocurricular areas, such as our bespoke Transferrable Skills lessons in Years 7 and 8. Coding and logic are taught as early as Year 2 in junior school and in senior school, all Key Stage 3 pupils have Computing lessons as part of the core curriculum, with the option to take the subject at GCSE and to sign up to a Computational Thinking elective in the Sixth Form. Resources range from full computer suites, banks of iPads and laptops, to a film room with green screen and studio spaces including iMacs, synthesisers and sequencing technology.

*Based on the Digital Competence Framework: **tinyurl.com/56kye6yu**

The 360 Degree Me eportfolio - 'Brand Me' awareness

Running alongside the formal curriculum, we have introduced an eportfolio programme to all year groups from Year 6 onward. The eportfolio is a personal website designed and curated by the pupils, showcasing the best examples of their learning journeys. At the heart of the eportfolio is a belief that harnessing the power of technology will enable students to actively manage their digital footprints. In this way, we believe they are better placed to avoid some of the negative issues associated with social media, as well as developing a 'Brand Me' awareness and website building skills that demonstrate their interests and aptitudes for future professional audiences.

Support for learning and 1 to 1 devices

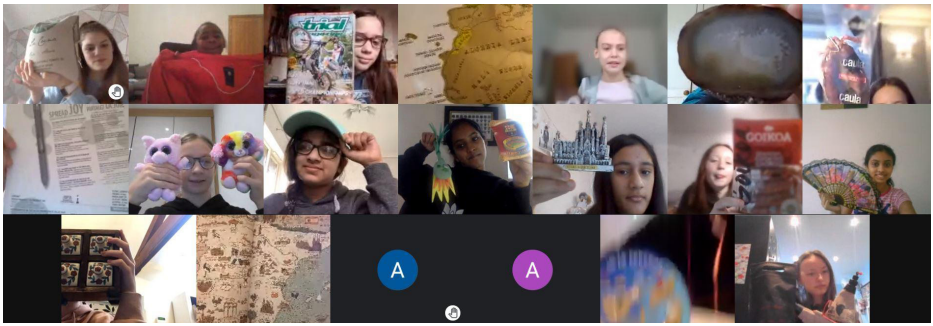
Northampton High uses Google Classroom to support learning in and out of the classroom. Pupils from Year 5 upwards bring their own devices to school and can access a wide range of digital tools to support learning throughout school. In junior school, pupils use Purple Mash, a creative online space with an exciting mash-up of curriculum activities, tools, programs and games to support and inspire inventive learning online. In senior school, digital tools like mentimeter, padlet, kahoot, flipgrid, quizlet, newsela, kami, mote and readtheory are amongst the many available that help teachers to support pupils individually, inspire curiosity and create inquisitive learners. As a backbone to this, our shared platforms, Firefly and Google Drive allow us to offer seamless learning approaches, ensuring all pupils have access to the materials they need, and their teachers' expert advice, no matter where their learning takes place.

The GDST difference

Each year the GDST runs Techathons for junior and senior age groups where delegates are challenged to come up with technical solutions for problems the world faces, supported by inspiring mentors from the world of tech. Themes have included Artificial Intelligence, 3D printing to support water conservation and harnessing the power of music. The GDST also partners with FutureLearn, the online education provider, to develop MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) and SPOCs (Small Private Online Courses). These include courses for advanced study skills and for helping teachers to develop their own transformational use of technology in teaching and learning.

AI TECHATHON

Future Learn



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