

# DIGGACY

at Northampton High School



NORTHAMPTON  
HIGH SCHOOL

GDST

GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

# 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 also, 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 PSHEE 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, via the official Childnet programme.



## - 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. 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, demonstrating their interests and aptitudes for future professional audiences.

## 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 these concepts, Digacy is seen in both the academic curriculum and in cocurricular areas, such as our bespoke Transferrable Skills lessons in (Upper Third and Lower Fourth (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 ranging from full computer suites, banks of iPads and laptops, to a Film room with green screen and studio spaces including

iMacs and sequencing technology, are available to all students across the school.

\*Based on Digital Competence Framework:  
<https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales-2008/digital-competence-framework/framework/>



## Support for learning

Students have 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 programme of curricular activities, tools, programmes and games to support and inspire inventive learning online. In Senior School, exam students have access to the award-winning platform GCSEpod, which gives them clip-based learning opportunities linked to their exam boards. Everyone has access to

FireFly, our virtual learning environment, with its mind-boggling range of online resources and online Prep function that ensures parents and guardians can keep track of the work pupils are doing in and out of school.



## 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.

