

## Pupils design their own school website

As well as launching our official website, we've asked the pupils to get involved too by creating their own. At the moment, the KS3 students are working together to design and produce a website made by children for children about Castle School that will provide a pupil's perspective on life at the school, both in the prep and senior schools. Computer Science teacher Stephen Vaughan praised the initiative saying, 'this has really given classes something to focus on. They have had to think about their audience, as well as layout, content, navigation and appeal and come to understand that what they produce will be available for all to see on the world wide web, a potentially huge audience, so they don't want to get it wrong.'



The new Estyn guidelines are placing more emphasis on equipping young people for life and developing practical skills that will transfer to jobs in the future and this project meets those expectations. At the same time ICT teacher, Ruth Harris, commented, 'There is of course the added bonus that the pupils love these sessions. Everyone gets involved and has the chance to add their ideas and see them transform into images, text and graphics on the screen. They are developing a deeper understanding of how they might use these skills later on in life in an increasingly digital world and it just so happens to tie in with the new curriculum that requires digital skills be taught in school.'

Most importantly though, the pupils really enjoy this new course and love the fact that by the end of year 9 they will have gained a qualification in ICT equivalent to a GCSE, something they mightn't be able to do elsewhere. Becky John in year 7 said, 'the lesson was really entertaining and different. I learnt how to make logos very quickly using new software and I really enjoyed it. Graphic design is going to be important when building our website.' Grace Lowther told us she had been shown how to cut out images so she could get rid of the background and also make text in 3D. 'It really helps having a funny teacher to show us what to do as she makes it fun so it sticks in my brain.' Sienna Shepherd added, 'I already knew how to do some things but was shown an easier way of doing them. I can't wait for the other lessons!'