

How can I support my child?

- ◆ Checking homework is completed
- ◆ When the SPB has been started discuss the task with them. It will be available on-line at:

<http://dida.edexcel.org.uk/home/>

Follow the links for SPB. Students will be told which particular one to use and at which level – they must use the correct one!

However, please don't ask them to begin this work before we do so in school as we want to introduce it to pupils and monitor their planning.

- ◆ Look at their SPB plans and help monitor progress of work.
- ◆ Help with evaluation tasks as required, for example they may be asked to gather people's views on a questionnaire they have produced in order that they can improve it.
- ◆ Give constructive criticism – much of their eportfolio work is about making publications fit for purpose and audience.
- ◆ Look at and discuss eportfolios with the student as they begin to build up
- ◆ Buy the student a memory stick so they can backup their work and easily transfer work to and from school. (We do have a facility for accessing schoolwork over the Internet but this is not always reliable).
- ◆ Encourage students to seek help and advice from their teacher.



Are there any useful resources?

◆ TEXT BOOKS

Although we will not be using a particular text book in class these are useful as additional resources for students:

Published by Heinemann:

USING ICT ISBN 0435450050

MULTIMEDIA ISBN 0435449834

Published by Payne-Gallway:

USING ICT ISBN 1904467652

MULTIMEDIA ISBN 1904467938

Other textbooks are often becoming available.

◆ WEBSITES:

The DiDA website:

<http://dida.edexcel.org.uk/home/>

DIDA Delivered website:

<http://www.dida-delivered.org>



The Friary School



ICT Department

AiDA/CiDA Information for Parents



Dear Parent

Your child is following an ICT course in key stage 4 known as AiDA or CiDA. This is a new course and so you may not be very familiar with it. This leaflet aims to summarise the key points of the course and qualification for your information. We hope you find this useful in understanding the course and to help you encourage your child to succeed.

The ICT Department.



What are AiDA and CiDA?

AiDA and CiDA belong to a suite of qualifications referred to as DiDA offered by the examination body Edexcel. DiDA is the Diploma in Digital Applications, a suite of paperless qualifications from Edexcel that focuses on the practical applications of ICT.

These qualifications aim to prepare students for the real world of work or further education.

As a suite of qualifications, students can gain the following: Award in Digital Applications (AiDA), which is equivalent to one GCSE,

- ◆ Certificate in Digital Applications (CiDA), which is equivalent to two GCSEs
- ◆ Diploma in Digital Applications (DiDA), which is equivalent to four GCSEs

Each qualification has different requirements in terms of timetable demands and at The Friary we offer AiDA to students in year 10 with the hope that successful students will progress onto the CiDA in year 11.

Edexcel claim that the suite of DiDA qualifications is designed to:

- ◆ develop students' ability to select and use digital applications appropriately and produce high quality outcomes;
- ◆ promote the use of digital applications for achieving a goal, rather than for their own sake;
- ◆ enhance creativity and communication;
- ◆ equip students with some of the skills that they will need in the workplace or in further education or training;
- ◆ develop project management skills;
- ◆ free students' work from paper, making it organised, searchable, dynamic and transportable; and
- ◆ encourage students to reflect critically on their own and others' use of digital applications.



How is the course structured?

The AiDA consists of a unit called 'Using ICT'. CiDA involves completion of two units, 'Using ICT' and one other – in the case of The Friary we offer 'Multimedia'.

Focussing on the 'Using ICT' unit the first part of the year will involve teaching and building up students' practical skills and competencies.

After introducing the course students will complete modules and exercises on:

- ◆ Spreadsheets
- ◆ Surveys (inc mind maps, Gantt charts, reports and eportfolios)
- ◆ Word Processing Skills
- ◆ Databases (inc creation, validation, forms, queries, reports, importing data)
- ◆ Presenting Information (letters, mail merge, leaflets, posters, newsletters and using scanners and digital cameras)
- ◆ PowerPoint

Once this has been completed students will begin the exam board coursework task known as a 'Summative Project Brief' (SPB). This SPB is available from the DiDA website and requires students to build up a substantial electronic portfolio of work and evidence. It is this electronic portfolio (or eportfolio) which is assessed for the unit. There are no traditional examinations with AiDA, CiDA (or DiDA) and so the coursework or eportfolio is vitally important. In addition to providing the final versions of tasks students must show planning, development, decisions taken, and evaluation skills.



Please explain the grading system.

Each unit is available at Level 1 (equivalent to GCSE G-C) and Level 2 (equivalent to GCSE A*-C).

Levels & grades

edexcel

A*	Distinction	
A	Merit	
B	Credit	
C	Pass	Distinction
D		Merit
E		Credit
F/G		Pass

Level 2 Level 1

As you can see from the above illustration, if a student, for example, completes a Level 2 SPB for Using ICT and gains a Pass, this is the equivalent to a GCSE grade C. Another student who completed a Level 1 SPB and achieved a Distinction will also gain a qualification equivalent to a GCSE grade C.

Students who progress to CiDA can take the Multimedia unit at the same level as they did for the Using ICT unit or at a different level. It is perfectly acceptable for students to take one unit at Level 1 and the other at Level 2. The points gained are accumulated and a final qualification, level and grade are awarded. However, in order to be awarded a final Level 2 CiDA qualification at least one of the two units must be passed at Level 2.

