Information and Communication Technology (ICT), generally relates to those technologies that are used for accessing, gathering, manipulating and presenting or communicating information. The technologies include hardware (e.g. computers and other devices); software applications; and connectivity (e.g. access to the Internet, local networking infrastructure). What is most significant about ICT is the increasing convergence of computer-based, multimedia and communications technologies and the rapid rate of change that characterises both the technologies and their use. Australia is part of a global shift to the knowledge economy. It is driven by the requirement for rapid innovation in competitive global markets and is enabled by the capacity of ICT to store, process and deliver information. At San Sisto College, we recognise that students must have an education that enables them to participate successfully in and contribute to that world.

The use of ICT helps young women develop already widely valued skills and abilities such as literacy and numeracy. It also helps with the development of other significant outcomes such as higher order thinking skills. Importantly, ICT and good teaching also combine to produce the generic skills, such as team work and problem solving, that are so important not only for life in the information age, but also for lifelong learning.

Much of the research focuses on the role of ICT in the successful development of cognitive skills. Other research indicates how, in ICT rich environments, young people develop new forms of learning, including the types of self-managed and cooperative learning necessary for successfully contributing to the information economy and for lifelong learning.

- ICT contributes to the development of advanced skills of technological competence, problem solving, critical thinking and teamwork;
- ICT makes more learning material available and provides more sources of learning; and
- Both of the above help students perform better in their study of many of the KLAs, but especially in Technology, English, Studies of Society and the Environment, Science and Languages other than English.

ICT outcomes highlight the uniqueness of the subject and its particular contribution to lifelong learning. Students develop the knowledge, practices and dispositions necessary to:

- apply information and communication technology practice in everyday situations
- identify and engage with social and ethical issues related to information and communication technology and its subsequent impacts
- independently and collaboratively participate in a rapidly changing interdependent and globalised world using information and communication technology
- understand how to use information and communication technology to build and participate in online communities

There are four strands in the Information and Communication Technology Education:

- Accessing and Constructing Digital Information
- Digital Communication and Publishing
- Interfacing with Machines
- Participating in Online Communities
Assessment focuses on students’ demonstrations of learning outcomes. Students are made aware of what is being assessed, the assessment techniques being used and the anticipated evidence that will be gathered in order to make judgments about their demonstrations of learning outcomes. Assessment may take the form of challenges, writing tasks, written tests, practical tasks and oral presentations.

**Cross-curricular learning experiences**

Cross-curricular planning involves teachers from different subject areas collaboratively planning for learning and assessment. It allows students to experience a real world integrated learning experience. (An asset to their lifelong learning) Examples, which have been conducted at San Sisto College, are ICT and Art, ICT and Commerce.

**After ICT**

Upon completion of ICT, students may choose to continue with further information and communication technology studies, either in Years 11 and 12 in IPT or Computer Studies, at TAFE, with other learning providers, or alternatively enter the workforce.