

Subject area:	ICT and Computing
Course:	Computer Science
Qualification:	GCSE

Course Details - What will the course consist of and how will it be delivered?

The course gives students a real, in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. An insight into what goes on ‘behind the scenes’, including computer programming.



The course will develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills through the study of computer programming, giving students a fun and interesting way to develop these skills.

The course is arranged into three units:

First unit – Computer Systems: This unit covers everything about computer systems, the theory on which the first examination is based.

Second unit – Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming: This unit covers key concepts and programming skills, the theory on which the second examination is based.

Third unit – Practical Project: Students will need to understand standard programming techniques and be able to design and code a solution to a problem. This is an independently completed controlled assessment.

Person Specification - is this the right course for you?

Are you.... Interested in understanding how computers work? Then computer science might be the course for you, but you must realise that the final exam consists of multiple choices, short answer and extended-writing therefore students must be competent in longer written answers to succeed. The controlled assessment requires a detailed program design and development to be completed so a high level of literacy skills and the ability to work independently is desirable.

As the course involves extended programming candidates should be highly skilled in mathematics it is advised that if you are not targeted grade 5 or above in Mathematics then Computer Science may not be for you.

Further progression on completion of the course - what opportunities could this course lead towards in the future?

The course lends itself to further study of Computer Science at Level 3 and then onto degree level.

The course provides excellent preparation for students who want to study or work in areas that rely on technical problems. These areas include engineering, financial and resource management, science and medicine. There is also progression onto employment opportunities including computer programming, web design, ICT apprenticeships, application development, software development and games development.

Technical data:

Qualification Level:	2	Grading:	9-1
Awarding Body	OCR	% Written Exam	80%
Hours per week	2	% Coursework	20% (controlled assessment)
Number of GCSE or equivalent	1		