

COMPUTER SCIENCE (GCSE)

OVERVIEW

GCSE Computer Science is a fantastic course that allows students to broaden their knowledge of how computers function. If you are interested in learning about how to make computers do what YOU want and would like to know what actually happens INSIDE THE MACHINE, then this is the course for you. Not only will you learn to code in a programming language, you will also learn about what makes computers work and key problem solving skills that can be applied across a variety of different situations that you will face in life.

ASSESSMENT

Component 1 – Computational thinking and programming skills: External Examination (50%)

Computational thinking, code tracing, problem-solving, programming concepts including the design of effective algorithms and the designing, writing, testing and refining of code.

Written examination: 2 hours

Component 2 – Computing concepts: External Examination (50%)

Theoretical knowledge from subject content including computer systems, computer networks, cyber security, software development, databases and legal issues.

Written examination: 1hr 45mins

PROGRESSION ROUTES AND POSSIBLE CAREERS WHERE THIS SUBJECT IS USEFUL

The growth in the use of mobile devices and web-related technologies has exploded, resulting in new challenges for employers and employees.

This course has been designed specifically to provide the foundation of skills and knowledge necessary for pupils to progress into the gaming, mobile and web-related industries. The importance of Computer Science as a discipline in itself and as an 'underpinning' subject across science and engineering is growing rapidly and there is a growing demand for professionals who are qualified in this area.

SUITABILITY

This course would suit any pupil who enjoys problem solving and analysis. Pupils who excel in ICT should consider taking GCSE Computer Science. Although knowledge of gaming can help with logic, the likelihood of playing games in Computer Science is slim to none. There is a huge cross-over with Maths concepts in the course, so although not necessary, a strength in Maths will help in Computer Science.

