

A Level Computer Science Awarding Body: AQA

Course content

During this course you will develop a wide range of skills including:

Fundamental of algorithms

Programming

Computer Systems

Fundamentals of computer networks

Fundamentals of cyber security

Ethical, legal and environmental impacts of digital technology on wider society including issues of privacy

Aspects of software development

Programming project

Assessment

The A Level is wholly assessed towards the end of year 13, and comprises the following modules:

Online Exam (40%) Students answer a series of programming theory questions and then use their coding skills to write and adapt a series of programs and sub-procedures. (150 minutes duration).

Written Exam (40%) Students answer short and extended theory questions on the topics that they have studied throughout the course. (150 minutes duration)

Coursework (20%) Students use their programming skills to solve a real life problem, as well as learning project management skills.

Progression:

This course is ideal for those with an aptitude or interest in computers and should be the first choice for those who wish to take the subject further either educationally or as a career option. It also offers significant skill development for those taking the subject for university entry. The skills developed are used directly in many areas of science, maths, engineering and electronics. There is an extremely high demand for students with a computing background. Achievement of this qualification can support students to go on and study relevant

IT degrees in a Higher Education institution such as Computing and IT, Computing Science, Software Developments, Software Engineering, ICT and Computer Networks or Business Information Systems.

Entry Requirements:

Students considering taking this course should have minimum GCSE grades in Computer Science or ICT at grade 6 as long as the ICT GCSE content included programming in a high level text based programming language, and a grade 6 in Maths GCSE. Pupils must have undertaken their GCSE work the year prior to starting the A level Computer Science course.

