Computer Science

Who is the course for?

If you enjoy problem solving, and you are interested in learning to create programs and apps, this is the course for you. Many aspects of computer science involve similar skills and understanding to mathematics, so ideally you will be someone who enjoys and has a good ability in maths.

What will I study on the course?

In OCR GCSE computer science you will learn how a computer system works and how it is constructed and programmed to follow instructions. You will learn how to code in a real world language and make your own programs to solve problems. The qualification has a real focus on computational thinking, helping you to develop the skills to solve problems and design systems that do so. Some of the topics you will cover are: programming languages; algorithms; binary and hexadecimal; problem solving; computer hardware; computer software; networks; system security; ethical, cultural and environmental concerns.

How will I be assessed?

As with most of the new GCSEs, your mark comes from written examinations at the end of the course:

50% computer systems (written exam)

50% computational thinking, algorithms and programming (written

exam)

You will also do a programming project that will be submitted to the exam board as proof of your ability to code and test a working program.

Where can this course lead me?

Students who have taken a GCSE in computer science can then study the subject at A level or university and will have an advantage over their peers who are picking up the subject at these levels. As well as traditional routes there are a high number of apprenticeships at all levels for a variety of roles within the industry.

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The high demand for programmers and other ICT professionals, both in the UK and around the world means that computer science really does give many options. Computing skills are highly sought after, in a wide range of other fields such as medicine, electronics, engineering, financial and resource management, and science.

What else do I need to know?

There are many misconceptions about computer science, mainly that it is for boys, however the number of females in computer science is increasing every year.

GCSE computer science is one of the subjects that form part of the

‘EBacc’.

If you would like more information, please email Mr W Maddock on

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