GCSE Exam Board:

AQA

Entry Requirement:

At least Grade 5- in Year

9 Computing

1. WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?

The GCSE in Computer Science presents an exciting opportunity for students at Twyford .

The course is designed to address the skills shortage in the Computing industry and

provides excellent opportunities for progression to A Level , University and IT careers.

Students should choose Computer Science if they are passionate about how computers

work and would like to develop coding skills. You should have an eye for extra detail,

enjoy problem solving and have the resilience to follow things through to the end.

2. WHAT WILL I LEARN?

There are three assessment components in the GCSE Computer Science course:

Paper 1, Paper 2 and a Non-Examination Assessment (NEA).

Paper 1: Computational Thinking and Problem Solving

Students will learn and apply computational thinking to solve practical problems.

Content of study covers fundamentals of algorithms, programming, fundamentals of

data representation and computer systems.

Paper 2: Written Assessment

Paper 2 will give students exposure to some of the theoretical aspects of Computer Science

including fundamentals of computer networks, fundamentals of cyber security and ethical,

legal and environmental Impact of digital technology on wider society.

Non-Examination Assessment

Students will be required to analyse the requirements of a computer program, design, test

and evaluate their solution.

3. HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Paper 1: Computational thinking and programming skills

Computational thinking, code tracing, problem-solving, programming concepts including

the design of effective algorithms and the designing, writing, testing and refining of code.

Written exam: 2 hours, 90 marks, 50% of GCSE.

A mix of multiple choice, short answer and longer answer questions assessing programming,

practical problem-solving and computational thinking skills.

Paper 2: Computing concepts

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes, 90 marks, 50% of GCSE

A mix of multiple choice, short answer, longer answer and extended response questions

assessing SQL programming skills and theoretical knowledge.

5. WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THIS SUBJECT AT GCSE AND BEYOND?

To be successful in Computing you need to have strong analytical and problem solving skills.

You need to be a confident independent enquirer, self-manager and have the tenacity to

spend considerable time practicing programming in Python to develop your skillset.

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