What will I learn?

You will develop your understanding of

current and emerging technologies and how

they work. You will also look at the use of

algorithms and develop computer programs

to solve problems. In addition, you will

become independent and discerning users of

IT. You will also acquire and apply creative

and technical skills and the knowledge and

understanding of IT in a range of contexts.

Moreover you will learn to evaluate the

effectiveness of computer programs/

solutions and the impact of computer

technology in society.

How will I learn?

You will learn through both practical

and theory based work.

Your practical work will involve

writing programs for given purposes

such as games and functions. You

will also use advanced technologies

such as blogs, wikis and Web 2.0

tools so that learning is enjoyable,

accessible and contemporary.

You will experience a combination

of taught lessons and independent

study to develop your skills,

competence and confidence.

Skills for Success

This course gives students the

opportunity to discover how

computer technology works and to

take a look at what goes on

‘behind the scenes’.

Through the introduction of

programming, it helps them expand

their problem-solving skills. For

many, it will be a fun and interesting

way to develop these transferable

skills, which can be applied to

further learning and everyday life.

Learning to program and code is

seen as a key future skill which will be used in all industries.

How will I be assessed? Component 1 - Computer Systems: This will introduce learners to the Central Processing Unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software. This unit will be assessed by an examination (50%). Component 2 - Computational thinking, algorithms and programming: Section A is worth 50 marks, and assesses students’ knowledge and understanding of concepts of Computer Science. Students then apply these to problems in computational terms, where they may use an algorithmic approach. Section B is worth 30 marks, and assesses students’ Practical Programming skills and their ability to design, write, test and refine programs.

What can I do next? Further Education GCSE Computer Science provides an excellent foundation for Computer Science at ‘A’ Level along with other IT related Level 3 courses. Career Routes Your study of Computer Science will provide the opportunity to develop skills that employers value and can enhance your career prospects. IT skills can be applied in a variety of different occupations and contexts, including the IT industry. Many universities offer degrees in computing including programming and games design.