This course is about the study of computational thinking - how to

deconstruct problems, apply logic and create solutions. Computer

programming is a big part of this, as is the study of computer components

and networking.

There is significant maths content and it is recommended that students

who find maths challenging discuss their options with their computing.

Programming Project

You will spend a significant amount of time learning what it means to be a computer

programmer. This means learning how to write code, but also how to break down a

problem into small parts, design solutions and test the code that you have written.

Paper 1 - Computer Systems

Over the course of Y10 and Y11 you will learn about the parts that make up computer

systems. This includes memory, storage, networks, software and

security. You will have a much better understanding of how to find

and fix physical problems with computer systems and an awareness

of the ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated

with the increasing numbers of computer systems.

Paper 2 - Computational Thinking

Around half of your curriculum time will be spent on programming

activities, mostly using the Python programming language. You will

gain confidence with problem solving and gain skills to help you think like a

programmer. In addition you will look at some theory topics including the different

types of programming languages and their translators.

How can I find out more about a course?

This booklet is your starting point, but you may find that you

want more detail about what a course is like. You can ask to

speak to a teacher who teaches the subject, but you can also

try to speak to some older students who are doing the course

themselves to try and find out what it is really like! You could

also use Kudos to help.

Put yourself in charge!

Lots of people will be happy to give you advice about what you

should choose, but the decision is yours. If you let other people

make the choices for you then you might end up studying for

courses that are good for them but not good for you!

School leaving age is 18.

From 2013 children in England will be required to stay in

education until they are 18. This change does not mean you will

need to stay in school, but you must continue to receive some

form of education or training.

This might mean doing A-levels at school or college. You might

enrol on new courses that are a mix of the vocational and

academic subjects. You could also start an apprenticeship

scheme. Your options need to make sure you keep the doors

open so you can access the courses or training you are

interested in after Year 11.