Qualification Available

GCSE

Examination Board

AQA

Introduction

This course will inspire students who wish to study Computer Science and gain an insight into

related topics. As the course progresses students will develop an understanding of current and

emerging technologies and how they work, applying them in other contexts. The course covers

topics such as computer systems, binary logic, hardware, software, input and output devices,

databases, networks, the Internet and writing computer programs.

Technical skills will be acquired and the students will be able to work independently, as well as

developing skills to work collaboratively in order to solve problems. Computer programs will be

developed and a range of languages will be used. The programs vary in complexity and may

include the use of Python, HTML, CSS and Visual Basic. Other programming languages may be

used from time to time.

The course consists of two parts and the marks are allocated as follows:

i) Paper1: Computational thinking and programming skills, Written paper 2 hours, A mix of multiple

choice, short-answer and longer-answer questions assessing a student’s practical problem solving

and computational thinking skills. 50% of the GCSE.

ii) Paper 2: Written assessment Written paper 1 ¾ hours A mix of multiple choice, short-answer,

longer-answer and extended response questions assessing SQL programming skills and

theoretical knowledge. 50% of the GCSE.

Resources

The school has excellent IT/Computing resources. Every lesson will be in a dedicated Computing

room and taught by an IT/Computing specialist. Apart from using the computers students will have

access to PG Online’s latest software. Additional resources will be available including a set of

Raspberry Pi devices for use in programming. The latter will have accessory kits to go with them.

The course prepares candidates to make informed decisions for further learning and career

choices such as Cambridge Technical IT or A Level Computer Science courses. Students who opt

for this subject will need to meet certain entry requirements and have a good ability in

mathematics and science.