



Computer Science A Level (AQA)

Why study this subject?

This linear course provides an excellent extension to GCSE Computer Science, with a good balance of theoretical study and practical programming, to prepare you for future opportunities.

Entry Requirements

Please see the entry requirements page on the school website.

Content

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| 1. Fundamentals of programming | 8. Consequences of uses of computing |
| 2. Fundamentals of data structures | 9. Fundamentals of communication and networking |
| 3. Fundamentals of algorithms | 10. Fundamentals of databases |
| 4. Theory of computation | 11. Big Data |
| 5. Fundamentals of data representation | 12. Fundamentals of functional programming |
| 6. Fundamentals of computer systems | 13. Systematic approach to problem solving |
| 7. Fundamentals of computer organisation and architecture | 14. Non-exam assessment – the computing practical |

The course will include practical hands-on experience, projects and assignments, presentations, individual research, industrial and commercial visits and problem-solving activities.

Assessment

A Level examinations taken at the end of Year 13:

Paper 1 – This paper tests a student's ability to program, as well as their theoretical knowledge of Computer Science from subject content 1-4. It is an on-screen exam for 2 hours 30 minutes.

Paper 2 – This paper tests a student's ability to answer questions from subject content 5-12. It is a written exam for 2 hours 30 minutes.

Non-Exam assessment – This project assesses student's ability to use the knowledge and skills gained through the course to solve a practical problem. Students will be expected to follow a systematic approach to problem solving, as shown in section 13.

Future courses and possible careers

Computer Science is an expanding industry where changes in computing are forever altering the way we work and computing specialists are in much demand. This course prepares you for the more specialist Computer Science based higher education courses and for the world of work, in which women in particular, are under-represented and much valued!