

## What is the course about?

The computer science GCSE will teach you about Computer Systems covering all the physical parts involved in a computer, and Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming which is what you need to be able to write Computer program and solve problems using computers.



## What topics will I study? The course is split into three main sections:

### Computer Systems

This is where you will learn about the physical part of a computer and their networks. The topics include: Computer Systems architecture • Memory • Storage • Wired and wireless networks • Network topologies, protocols and layers • Network security • System software • Moral, social, legal, cultural and environmental concerns

### Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming

This is where you start to think like a programmer. You will cover: Programming techniques • Translators and facilities of languages • Algorithms • High- and low-level programming • Computational logic • Data representation

### The Practical Part

You will write a program to solve a given problem. Usually we teach using VB.Net but if you are particularly interested in a specific programming language we can discuss this.

## What percentage of the final grade is from coursework?

Coursework and practical skills will account for 20% of the final grade in this qualification.

## What about after Key Stage 4? (Careers and College)

Obviously if you want to become a programmer, work in the IT or Games industry then Computer Science will start you off on this path however it is important to realise that Computer Science underpins Maths, Science, Animation, Web Design, Media and many other career paths which you may be considering. It is a rigorous GCSE which will be viewed favourably by colleges, 6<sup>th</sup> form centres and employers.

## Exam board and useful website?

OCR - <http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-computer-science-j276-from-2016/>