A-Level Computing

Course Name	Start Date	End Date	Site
AS Computer Science	09/09/2019	23/06/2020	College Main Site

Introduction to this course

The A Level in Computing allows you to learn about both the hardware and software aspects of Computing. You will gain an appreciation of the underlying principles of modern computer systems and software development using a range of programming language and software packages.

Entry Requirements

You need five GCSEs at grade 9 - 4 (A* to C), including English and maths. You should have an interest in communication skills and want to develop your creativity and imagination. GCSE Science grade 4 (C) or above is desirable but not essential.

Career prospects

This programme is excellent preparation for studying a degree in Computing/IT and provides valuable skills, such as abstract thinking, problem-solving, algorithmic and mathematical reasoning needed for success in Science and maths. Previous students have gone on to study Computer Science at university, progressed to other qualifications such as Apprenticeships in IT or gained employment in the industry.

With higher level training, you can progress to roles such as Computer Programmer, Systems Analyst or Software Engineer.

How will I be assessed?

Through coursework and examinations, where Unit 1 is an on-screen examination allowing candidates to demonstrate their programming skills through a pre-released problem-solving scenario.

Course content/units

Mandatory Units

Unit 1 - problem-solving, programming, data representation and practical exercise
Unit 2 - Computer components, the stored program concept and the Internet
Unit 3 - Operating systems, databases and networking
Unit 4 - Computing practical project

Expenses for this course

Consumables and resources - Up to £25. Recommended textbooks - Approximately £20. A USB flash memory stick would be useful but not essential.

Mode of Study

AS Level is a one year course and A Level is a two year course. Enrolment is only in September.