

Computing

Computing is a rich and deep discipline in its own right, like Physics and Mathematics. It explores foundational principles and ideas, rather than training you in skills related to particular software. Computing's aspects of design, theory and experimentation are drawn from Engineering, Maths and Science respectively.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Paper 1

This paper tests your ability to program, as well as your theoretical knowledge of Computer Science.

- On-screen exam: 2½ hours
- 40% of A Level

Paper 2

Tests your ability to answer questions about subjects such as data representation, computer systems, network and databases.

- Written exam: 2½ hours
- 40% of A Level

Non-exam assessment

Assesses your ability to use the knowledge and skills gained through the course to solve or investigate a practical problem. You will be expected to follow a systematic approach to problem solving.

- 75 marks
- 20% of A Level

HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?

The emphasis is on computational thinking, a problem-solving method based on abstract thinking; algorithmic and mathematical reasoning; and scientific and engineering-based thinking. It is a fundamental life skill¹ that is applicable to nearly any subject. Students who learn computational thinking begin to see a relationship between different subjects, as well as between school and life outside of the classroom².

During the first year, you will also learn to program in Python, which you will use to solve computational problems and to explore key concepts.

WHY STUDY IT?

Computing has an immense impact on modern life. The job prospects are excellent and the field is rigorous, intellectually vibrant and multi-faceted. As well as traditional career routes such as Software and App Development, Computing nowadays plays an essential role in every possible discipline, from Entertainment to Communications; Medicine to Weather Forecasting; Design and Engineering; and from Criminology to Manufacturing.

¹ Jeannette Wing, <http://bit.ly/khscomp1>

² Google, <http://bit.ly/khscomp3>

A Level

Board: AQA

2 Year Course

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Our entrance requirements are 6 GCSE/ BTEC passes at Grade 4 (or equivalent) or above. It is also desirable for students to achieve a Grade 5 or above in the subject (or related subjects) that they wish to study at Sixth Form.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT

It is essential that you discuss your subject choices fully with teachers and parents.

The subject page is available to view below.



Contact Mrs Abbott
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