

GCSE Computer Science FAQs

What is the difference between Computer Science and ICT.

Computer Science and ICT are two different subjects but at the same time have many similarities. **Computer Science** is more about how **computers** work, and about **programming**. **ICT** is more about people in business, and tailoring commercially-available applications to their needs, whereas Computing is more about the hardware and creating the software. A useful analogy is learning to drive a car. **ICT** in this analogy would mean learning to drive the car. **Computer Science** would be more about understanding the mechanical structure of the car and how the car works, can be adapted or improved.

What exam board do you use?

CAIE- Cambridge Assessment International Educations

What programming language do students learn?

Students will learn to program in a language called Python. In addition to this the course also touches upon HTML and expressing code using pseudocode and flowcharts.

What does the assessment look like?

The assessment consists of two components. A programming component and a theory component. In the new specification these two components have an equal weighting. The programming paper is worth 50% and the theory paper is worth 50%. Both papers are written papers.

What does a GCSE in Computer Science actually entail?

Learners gain confidence in computational thinking and programming, an appreciation of automated and emerging technologies and the benefits of their use. They develop an understanding of the main principles of problem-solving by creating computer-based solutions using algorithms and a high-level programming language. Learners also develop a range of technical skills including the ability to test effectively and to evaluate solutions.

Will I need a textbook for the course?

In short yes, but you will be given both the course textbook and revision guide at the start of the course



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When do the exams take place?

The exams take place at the end of year 11, so in the second year of the course.

Any further questions you can email

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