COMPUTER SCIENCE

GCSE qualification

EBACC SUBJECT



Studying Computer Science means studying for a career that has real prospects, an industry that is desperate for new talent to fill the enormous skills shortage that exists, for example in Software Engineering (Programming). As a result of the skills shortage employees in the Computer Science employment sector can expect to earn considerably higher salaries than those in many other sectors.

Careers on offer include: Software Engineer, Network Engineer, Systems Analyst, Games Developer, Web Developer, IT Manager and Support, and many others.

At Key Stage 4 students are offered two technology pathways in the Computing curriculum, GCSE Computer Science or Cambridge Nationals IT, students normally pick just one of these should they want to do a Computing subject as an option.

GCSE Computer Science is a technical subject that explores how computers work, the hardware and software used, how networks and the Internet work, and what security is needed. They develop programming skills and produce a variety of programs that solve different problems.

The course is demanding and should only be undertaken by students who have enjoyed Computer Science topics in year 8 such as Python programming. Students need to be well organised and have a positive work ethic, confidence with Maths and a creative attitude to problem solving.

Assessment is by way of two 90 minute exams, each worth 50% of the overall grade.

Component 1 - Computer Systems (50% - 1hour 30 mins)

Component 2 - Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming (50% - 1hour 30 mins)

Grades will be awarded 9-1.