

# Computing KS4 Learning Journey



## What is the course about?

This exciting GCSE gives learners the opportunity to investigate and gain an in-depth understanding into how computers work, and how they are used. Learners will no doubt be familiar with the use of computers and other related technology from their other subjects and elsewhere. However, the course will give them an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes', including computer programming, which many learners find absorbing.

The course will help you to learn about critical thinking, analysis and problem solving. We hope you'll find it a fun and interesting way to develop these skills that can also be transferred to other subjects and even applied in day-to-day life.

This qualification aims to:

- Develop learners understanding of current and emerging technologies, understanding of how they work and apply this knowledge and understanding in a range of contexts
- Acquire and apply a knowledge, some technical skills and an understanding of the use of algorithms in computer programs to solve problems using programming
- Use learners' knowledge and understanding of computer technology to become independent and discerning users of IT, able to make informed decisions about the use and be aware of the implications of different technologies
- Acquire and apply creative and technical skills, knowledge and understanding of IT in a range of contexts
- Develop computer programs to solve problems
- Develop the skills to work collaboratively
- Evaluate the effectiveness of computer programs/solutions and the impact of, and issues related to, the use of computer technology in society



## What will I do and how will I be assessed?

**Component 01 - Computer Systems** Component 01 focuses on Computer Systems and is similar in style to the old A451 unit. It is an examined unit and makes up 50% of the assessment total.

**Component 02 - Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming** Component 02 is a new written exam, focused on computational thinking and algorithms. Students will be tested on the elements of computational thinking and logic. They are principally assessed as to their ability to write, correct and improve algorithms. It is an examined unit and makes up 50% of the assessment total.



## What can I do afterwards?

Students who enjoy Computing at GCSE and are keen to continue can study A Level or other Level 3 Computing courses, such as, A Level Computing and ICT and also BTECs in IT and Creative Multimedia.

At university there is a wide range of computer based degrees with options to specialise in areas of particular interest to the student. Post, or even pre-university.

## Electronic Links

[Bitesize](#)

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