Frequently asked questions for Computer Science

1. What is the exam board?

OCR - Oxford Cambridge and RSA.

2. How many exams are there and what percentage of the total is each exam?

There are two written exams. Each exam is worth 50% of the course.

3. Is there any coursework?

No - 100% exam. There will be programming tasks students will need to complete and will be examined as part of Paper 2 of the course.

4. How much of the course is coursework?

No coursework – but we will be developing programming skills to help you prepare for paper 2.

5. Are there any key resources that I should buy to support my child taking this subject?

Students are encouraged to obtain the revision books from CGP, ClearRevise revision guide by OCR as well as an OCR endorsed text book for independent reading.

6. How often are they tested?

Students will be carrying out end of unit exams and mock exams in years 11 & 10. Within each unit of work there will be supplementary tests as well as end of term tests to monitor on going progress.

7. What key qualities are required to do well in GCSE Computer Science?

- Maths

Students should have a strong mathematical background, especially in the field of algebra.

- Literacy

Student are expected to articulate answers efficiently and using correct computing terminology to answer exam questions but also enhance their understanding when developing their programming skills.

- Logical Reasoning

Student need to be able to analyse a problem in a systematic way in which can be solved using a programming language. The level of logic requires efficiency and be able to rationalise their solutions.

- Tech Savvy

Students should have a passion for technology and have a curiosity to learn at a technically higher level.

- Programming

Students should have a passion for programming and have a curiosity to learn at a higher level.

8. What if students do not wish to be a programmer? Can they still study the course?

Yes. Not only will Computer Science benefit programmers and other IT roles but it can help enhance their problem solving, logic and analytical skills in every other career path. Students will be able to think more efficiently and have a better understanding in technology in their desired field of work.