

Curriculum Overview – Computer Science

Year	Overview	KS3	Student Resources
7	Students in Year 7 will have 3 significant blocks of study during their lessons so that they are enabled to engage in the Year 8 programme of study successfully	Online safety – How to keep safe online. Networks – How computer systems communicate with each other. Programming – Developing programming skills.	MS Office applications Mind craft
	Extra-Curricular: After school club for all year groups based around programming and areas of students' personal interest.	Assessment: End of unit tests covering key content from each unit. CET Assessments.	
8	In year 8, students build upon their knowledge from year 7 and look into the wider world of computing.	Computational thinking - How computers think. Cyber security – What is a online threat and how to protect yourself. Computer systems – How larger systems of computers communicate with each other.	MS Office applications
	Extra-Curricular: After school club for all year groups based around programming and areas of students' personal interest.	Assessment: End of unit tests covering key content from each unit. CET Assessments.	
9	In Year 9, students develop their programming skills and look at how AI can support this.	Text based programming – Creating computer programming code. Interactive product – Creating interactive products AI –What is AI and how it is used.	MS Office 365 Python
	Extra-Curricular: After school club for all year groups based around programming and areas of students' personal interest.	Assessment: End of unit tests covering key content from each unit. CET Assessments.	

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Year	Overview	Autumn 1 (Weeks 1 – 7)	Autumn 2 (Weeks 8 – 14)	Spring 1 (Weeks 15 - 20)		Spring 2 (Weeks 21 - 25)		Summer 1 (Weeks 26 - 32)	Summer 2 (Weeks 33 - 38)	Student Resources
10	Year 10 students begin studying for both papers of the OCR J277 Computer Science exam. Although units for both exam papers are taught during this year, the focus is on achieving competency with the required computational thinking and programming skills, culminating in the compulsory programming project in the final term of the Year. This will enable students to develop and practice the key skills required for the <i>Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming</i> exam paper which will require students to create program code using either pseudocode or a high-level language. All skills developed in the classroom will be taught using the Python programming language.	Data representation: units of data storage, how computers use binary, calculations of data requirements, converting binary, denary and hexadecimal numbers, adding binary numbers, binary shifts, ASCII and Unicode character sets and the use of binary to represent text data. Computational thinking: abstraction, decomposition and algorithmic thinking, flowcharts and pseudocode to represent algorithms. Programming fundamentals: variables, constants, operators, inputs, outputs, data types and assignment in Python; basic programming constructs including sequence, selection and iteration; arithmetic and Boolean operators.	Key Stage 4 Formal Assessments – Classroom Based	Systems architecture: embedded and general-purpose computer systems and their characteristics; computer hardware including the CPU, fetch-decode-execute cycle, CPU components and performance, primary storage and the purpose of and difference between ROM and RAM; virtual memory; secondary storage and its characteristics. Boolean logic: AND, OR, XOR and NOT logic gates, logic circuits, truth tables. Additional programming techniques: string manipulation, working with files, storing and manipulating data in records using SQL. Producing robust programs: defensive design, including authentication, input validation and the use of subroutines within programs.		Key Stage 4 Formal Assessments – Classroom Based	Testing: purposes and types of testing of testing, iterative and terminal testing, syntax and logic errors, test data, refining algorithms. Searching and sorting algorithms: binary search, linear search, bubble sort, merge sort, insertion sort. Programming project: students will have the opportunity to design, write, test and refine a program to complete a given task.		Year 10 Mock Examinations	OCR J277 resources Class text book Solo Learn
	Extra-Curricular: After school clubs for students to pursue areas of personal study or intervention based on curriculum focus.	Summative assessments – End of topic tests based on past exam questions; programming challenge to develop a solution to a given problem.		Summative assessment – End of topic tests based on past exam questions.			Summative assessment - Programming project based on previous non-exam assessment activity.			
11	Year 11 students continue studying for both papers of the OCR J277 Computer Science exam. The focus for Year 11 is on the theoretical knowledge required for the <i>Computer Systems</i> exam paper, although units covering both exam papers will be taught. Revision and recap time is built-in for the final term of the academic year.	Computer networks: LANs, WANs, factors that affect network performance, P2P networks, network hardware, the Internet, client-server networks, network topologies, wired and wireless networks, Wi-Fi and Bluetooth, IP and MAC addressing, common protocols, network layers; threats to computer networks including malware, social engineering, DDoS attacks, data interception and SQL injection; threat prevention methods. Computer Ethics: impact of technology on wider society, including ethical, legal, cultural, environmental and social issues; legislation relevant to computer science, licensing.	Year 11 Mock Examinations A – Classroom based / Exam room	Data Representation: recap of prior learning and use of binary to represent text; how images are stored as pixels, represented in binary, metadata, colour-depth and resolution and how they affect the size and quality of an image; how sound is stored in digital form, the effect of sample rate and bit-depth on the size and quality of a sound file. Compression: the need for compression; lossy and lossless compression. Operating Systems: purpose and functionality of operating systems and utility software, including user interfaces, memory, user and file management; purpose and functionality of utility software including	Year 11 Full Mock Examinations – Examination Rooms	Data Representation: recap of prior learning and use of binary to represent text; how images are stored as pixels, represented in binary, metadata, colour-depth and resolution and how they affect the size and quality of an image; how sound is stored in digital form, the effect of sample rate and bit-depth on the size and quality of a sound file. Compression: the need for compression; lossy and lossless compression. Operating Systems: purpose and functionality of operating systems and utility software, including user interfaces, memory, user and file management; purpose and functionality of utility software including encrvotion.	Year 11 Mock Examinations A – Classroom based / Exam room	Programming Languages: purpose and characteristics of high-level and low-level languages, translators and interpreters; IDEs and their functionality. Exam revision	GCSE Examination Window	OCR J277 resources Class text book Solo Learn

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				encryption, defragmentation, and data compression.		defragmentation, and data compression.				
	Extra-Curricular: After school clubs for students to pursue areas of personal study or intervention based on curriculum focus.	Summative assessments – End of topic tests based on past exam questions		Summative assessment – End of topic tests based on past exam questions.		Summative assessment – End of topic tests based on past exam questions.		Summative assessment – End of topic tests based on past exam questions.		