

COMPUTING: jcottee@rushcliffespencer.org.uk

COMPUTER SCIENCE (A LEVEL)

AIMS OF THE COURSE

This course has been designed for students who wish to go on to higher education courses or employment where knowledge of computing would be beneficial. Students can study Computing and go on a career in computing, medicine, law, business, politics, or any type of science.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CONTENT

Assessment	Overview	Marks	%
2:30	P1 - Computer Systems	140	40
2:30	P2 - Algorithms and Programming	140	40
	Non-Examination Assessment (NEA)		20

The Computer Science course builds a foundation for a myriad of computer-based professions. It begins by covering computer systems, including software development and data structures, before moving on to algorithms and programming. In addition to practical skills, students will learn computational thinking and problem-solving skills which are then assessed in an NEA.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I LEARN?

Studying Computer Science at A level provides valuable skills in programming languages, data structures, computer architecture, problem solving and critical thinking. This prepares you for a variety of careers in technology, from software development to cybersecurity. You will gain a strong foundation in computer science principles and practical skills for future success.

WHAT GOES WELL WITH COMPUTER SCIENCE?

Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics, Cambridge Technical in IT, Business Studies, Economics, and Design and Technology all complement Computer Science.

POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS

The focus of the skills acquired is programming and, as such, can be critical in giving students an advantage in a technical career, whichever field it may be in. This course also provides the ideal foundation for those students who wish to pursue Computing or ICT at degree level or as a career- which could be in cybersecurity, games design, software engineering, web-design, network management, systems architecture and many more.

ADDITIONAL EXAM BOARD DETAILS

<https://bm03.short.gy/jc7rZJ>

PREVIOUS GRADES

Exam Board: OCR

	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	X	Totals
2023	1	1	5	3	3	1	0	0	14
2024	1	5	7	2	1	2	0	0	18
2025	0	4	5	3	0	1	0	0	13

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 5 GCSE grades 4-9 including Mathematics and English Language
- Grade 6 in Mathematics
- Grade 6 in Computing/Computer Science
- Applicants who can demonstrate a genuine interest in computing who have not studied this subject at GCSE may be considered at interview