

Archbishop Tenison's

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

COMPUTER SCIENCE



Computer Science A Level Course Overview

- 2 year A Level course; OCR syllabus
- Suited to pupils who like solving problems and are mathematically / logically adept (entry requirement of Maths grade 6 or higher)
- There is a heavy emphasis on learning computer programming and the mathematical / logical skills used to express computational laws and processes.
- A Level Computer Science is key to further study and career opportunities in AI, Machine Learning, Web centric design, programming, networking.



How do we teach the subject?

- Pupils acquire knowledge mostly by applying that knowledge in some way
- By applying the knowledge pupils acquire programming, development and software use skills, and gain working knowledge of industry standard development frameworks. Previous frameworks and languages used include:-
 - PHP /Codelgniter / mySQL
 - Flask with Python and MySQL
 - Django with SQLite
 - Python and Pygame
 - HTML / CSS / Java Script
 - Java / VB.net





Assessment at a glance

| Component | Assessment | Weighting |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| 01 – Computer Systems | Written Exam – 2 hours 30 mins | 40% |
| 02 – Algorithms and Programming | Written Exam – 2 hours 30 mins | 40% |
| 03 – Programming Project | _ | 20% |

- All exams are hand written on an exam paper there are no digital exams
- All students gain substantial amounts of practice at writing answers to examination questions during the two years – we start about 3 weeks into the course
- Programming Projects are developed through the final year and are submitted 6 weeks before the final exams – we expect a *top* grade from all students



Successes and Opportunities

- Significant numbers of high grades and pass rates (50% A*, 66% A*-A, 100% A*-B in 2020 – all students are studying Computer Science at University)
- Mostly grade A projects created in industry standard frameworks (Flask, Django, Pygame with Python)
- Our students consistently achieve much higher grades than in other GCSEs. We hugely outperform the national & exam board averages in both exams and coursework (average grade 6.63% in 2020)
- high grades are attained when students have not taken GCSE Computer Science or IT; the core requirement is mathematical / logical ability
- Very high acceptance rate for top-rated universities



Course Resources at a glance

