



COMPUTER SCIENCE & IMEDIA

COMPUTER SCIENCE, Digital Literacy and / OR ICT Technical Award

Why is the study of Computer Science important?

Computer Science is the study of the principles and use of computers. Its study will make you question how the systems that you use in a modern day society work and encourage you to explore the concepts behind the technology you use and develop skills to become a creator of technology yourself. From Year 7 you will have the exciting opportunity to develop and consolidate basic ICT skills that will allow you to access more complex Computer Science concepts. From there you will study the four cornerstones of Computational Thinking, these are crucial as they can be applied to any computer science context and will provide firm foundations for other topics within the subject. From this, key programming constructs can be learnt, allowing you to develop programming skills in more than one environment, this will help you to understand key similarities between different programming environments and develop key skills in problem solving and debugging. These skills will be further consolidated and mastered in text based programming languages throughout your study, applying the cornerstones of Computational Thinking in a wealth of scenarios to develop your problem solving skills. Computer Science theory is also explored, looking 'under the bonnet' of the computer systems that you use on a day-to-day basis. Key systems hardware are investigated, including how networks are formed, the inherent security risks that networked devices produce and how to mitigate against these risks. Computer Security is currently one of the biggest risks to national security, is relevant, interesting, and provides you with knowledge that can help you become a responsible e-citizen. Your study of Computer Science will encourage you to think deeply and help you more effectively to become a resilient problem solver that understands the technological world in which we live – a great life skill that all universities and employers will appreciate.

Across your study you will explore fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation. You will analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs. Furthermore, the subject will teach you to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically and understand the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society. Lessons will provide a wide range of opportunities for practical application of key concepts through a chosen programming language as well as plentiful opportunities for you to investigate how computers work. In addition, there will be opportunities for extended discussion about the ethical, moral and social implications of technology in society. Computer Science offers significant challenge, this is because it is a subject that encourages technological progress and breaking new ground, but this is what makes it exciting! Can you apply the concepts, knowledge and skills you have learnt in a creative way that others haven't thought of before? Can you identify an area of computer science that provides further technological development? Seems challenging – but you are going to love it! Computer Science will expand your mind!

Big Questions will be explored such as are the developments in artificial intelligence affecting job prospects and opportunity? Is technology creating a digital divide that further disadvantages people in developing countries? Can you create a program for a specific scenario to solve a problem? What opportunities and issues does the internet develop? All of these questions are key and can be explored by understanding key computer science concepts both through theory and practical application. I bet you can't wait to get started?

Why is the study of Digital Literacy important?

Digital literacy has become paramount in any workplace or educational setting in the world. A good understanding of how to use technology to perform common tasks is a requirement that students need to be prepared for. Students will learn how technology can be used and apply this to real-world settings, investigating modern-day problems spanning the bridge between humanities and technology. This includes investigations into recent war, political issues and hands-on life-skills to prepare students for post academy life.

Why is the study of ICT Technical Award important?

In the ever changing digital world, digital media is the method of choice for people to access information. ICT Technical Award is media sector-focused, including film, television, web development, gaming and animation, and have IT at their heart. Not only is it about creating suitable products for audience and purpose, but it requires being able to justify decisions as to the reasons for design choices and how they are a suitable medium within an industry.

Across the study of ICT Technical Award you will learn about essential working practices for working in the creative and digital media sector. This includes developing an understanding of the client brief, time frames, deadlines and preparing products that meet the needs of the client. As well as learning how to plan and design a product to meet the brief of a user, you will learn graphics, web design, video editing and skills to create interactive products. How we communicate and interact with technology has changed significantly in recent years. Having the skills to create graphics, edit videos and create websites is more relevant than ever, and possessing these skills demonstrate a knowledge and ability to communicate effectively in the digital world.

What skills will the study of Computer Science teach you?

You are a citizen in this world and you need to know how to solve problems using technology and the key concepts involved in the technology that we have become so dependent on. It will teach you to...

- Apply computational thinking techniques (abstraction, decomposition, pattern recognition, algorithms) in a range of scenarios to solve problems.
- Develop resilience by not being afraid of challenges when solving problems, but to break them down and keep trying.
- Be creative in a subject that may not be renowned for it – there is no limit to creativity when you create the solution.

- How to act responsibly online to ensure that you and others stay safe online.
- Identify the key programming constructs (sequence, selection, iteration) required to solve a problem.
- Apply the key programming constructs (sequence, selection, iteration) to any programming language.
- Work independently and part of a team to solve complex problems.
- Construct reasoned arguments to ethical, social and moral problems that have arisen due to technology and communicate these in an effective way.
- Identify links between different elements of computer science
- Evaluate different methods of representing data and decide on the most suitable method for presentation/storage

What skills will the study of Digital Literacy teach you?

Real-life scenario based work will be at the core of all of the units of study, for example students will learn:

- how to prepare the necessary documentation and campaign for running for Prime Minister
- how spreadsheet software can be used to plan trips, calculate expenses and salaries, including investigations into British wages
- how to present ideas clearly and articulation of opinions
- How to use financial planning tools to plan for the future and understand key financial priorities

What skills will the study of ICT Technical Award teach you?

The skills you will learn through ICT Technical Award include:

- creating graphics through using a range of tools and techniques using specialist software (spreadsheets, databases, DTP software etc)
- creating documents that are of an appropriate format for a range of scenarios
- creating multi-page websites that includes a range of different media types that are suitable for audience and purpose

What will you know and understand from your study of ICT Technical Award ?

- how to interpret client requirements and produce plans with timescales to meet these requirements
- the different hardware and software requirements for a range of products
- what legislation applies to creating digital products
- what the different formats that are used in media products are used for and when it is appropriate to use them
- how to analyse a range of products for audience and purpose

- how products need to be adapted to suitable for a range of different devices
- How connectivity methods affect user experience and how this needs to be factored when designing media products

How does your study of Computer Science support your study in other subjects?

Study of any subject in our curriculum takes full advantage of links with other subject areas - we term these as interdisciplinary links and we make the most of them because we know that deep learning requires the transference of knowledge and skills from one topic of learning to another. Once you can transfer your learning across topics and subject areas then you are really mastering what you know and how to apply your understanding and skills.

Computer Science touches on so many other subjects such as mathematics as you develop skills in problems solving, including decomposition (breaking down problems), abstraction (removing unnecessary detail from a problem) and pattern recognition. All of these skills will support your teaching in Mathematics as these are very important in being able to solve mathematics problems in a range of contexts. There are also links with Science as binary logic can be applied to electrical circuits in Physics and much of the technology from Computer Science can be mapped back to core principles of Science. For example, how sensors are used to monitor motion, force and/or pressure. You will learn methods of thinking and research that are widely applicable to other subject areas helping your thinking in all subjects.

How can you deepen your understanding of Computer Science?

The Computer Science department offers lots of great opportunities for you to really engage with this fabulous subject. In Year 7 & 8 we engage with an external program called iDEA (Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award). This is an online program that students can complete in addition to their lessons to develop digital and enterprise skills. It is an initiative from the Duke of York and is the digital equivalent of the Duke of Edinburgh programme. Across Year 7 to 13, students engage in the Bebras Challenge. This is a national competition run by Oxford University that assesses Computational Thinking skills. Students have the opportunity to take part in this competition and if they are in the 10% nationally, they will be invited to Oxford university to take part in a new challenge.

Why not continue the iDEA programme at home to complete your bronze award, see if you can complete all the badges, develop your digital literacy and enterprise skills and compete against other students in the trust. In VMG you complete Computational Thinking challenges, these are examples of the types of challenges you will have to complete individually in the Bebras challenge. Do you enjoy doing these? Do they provide mental stimulation and a challenge to you? If so, ask your teacher about how to enter the Bebras challenge.

Get involved! Become a Computer Scientist!

How does your study of Computer Science support your study in other subjects?

Digital literacy is designed to support your study of other subjects. It provides you skills in a range of areas, including analytical - giving you the ability to analyse data from any subject to form opinions. The curriculum supports your development in English, with examples such as letter writing and using technology to communicate.

How does your study of ICT Technical Award support your study in other subjects?

The design principles and the skills you learn in **ICT Technical Award** are directly transferable across all subjects in the curriculum. **ICT Technical Award** is about design concepts and applying these design concepts when creating other documents or products in other subjects still applies. The practical ICT skills that are developed throughout the course will allow you to ensure that when technology is used in other subjects for other contexts, that the end product is of high quality not just for the subject specific content but the product itself.

How can you deepen your understanding of ICT Technical Award and Digital Literacy?

Technology is all around us, and taking an interest in the products that you may see on social media such as videos, graphics etc not just for their content but also the underlying design principles around them. Why is a video constructed in the way it is? Why do magazines design and layout their front cover in the way they do? These questions will further deepen your understanding within the subject. Immersing yourself in digital media will certainly help deepen your knowledge and understanding of media products.

How are you assessed in Computer Science?

Throughout the Computer Science course you are assessed using the following assessment objectives which ensure that you can cumulatively build your subject understanding in preparation for future GCSE and A Level study. There are half termly assessment points each year that we term Praising Stars©. For younger years we base our assessment on our subject mapping of the age related expectations across the curriculum, assessing students' performance at their current stage of study against expectation. At GCSE we make informed predictions informed by our holistic assessment of their progress against the key assessment objectives and their aspirational GCSE targets. These are also the basis for any appropriate support and intervention.

Key Assessment Objectives

AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the key concepts and principles of Computer Science.

A02: Apply knowledge and understanding of key concepts and principles of Computer Science.

A03: Analyse problems in computational terms:

- to make reasoned judgements
- to design, program, evaluate and refine solutions.

How are you assessed in Digital Literacy?

Assessment takes place throughout the programme of study, with lots of smaller, skills based assessments to inform your teacher how you might be able to improve your skills. Having completed all of the units, you would be very close to being able to complete the Google Digital Skills qualification online.

How are you assessed in ICT Technical Award

Creative iMedia is assessed through a range of internal and external assessment. There is a written assessment and then three internally assessed and externally moderated coursework units.

How can Computer Science support your future?

Computer Science is offered at most sixth form colleges and prestigious universities either as a single honours or a joint honours subject studied alongside other disciplines e.g. Computer Systems Engineering, Computer Games Design, Computer Science & Artificial Intelligence, Mathematics & Computer Science and Computer Forensics. The very fact that you have been able to study Computer Science e.g. computational thinking will help your future application be it for colleges, universities, apprenticeships or employment.

Careers that the study of Computer Science supports include:

- Database administrator
- Software Developer
- Web Application Developer
- Computer Systems Analyst
- Mobile App Developers
- Information Security Analyst
- Computer Network Architect
- Software Tester
- Network Manager

How can ICT Technical Award support your future?

There are a wide range of ICT & media based courses offered post-GCSE students at colleges and sixth form providers including our own. Within Outwood we offer an ICT qualification that utilises the skills learnt in **ICT Technical Award** and this is deliberate to ensure progression between stages of study. Due to **ICT Technical Award** being a wide ranging curriculum this allows for many avenues to be explored into higher and further education. There are a vast range of courses offered at university that target digital media, either through the production, design or publicising through this media.

Careers that the student of **ICT Technical Award** supports include:

- Web designer
- Graphics design
- Video production
- Social media publicist
- Media Marketing Director
- Software Developer