

Computer Science FAQs

1. What is the difference between this course and the Cambridge Nationals Imedia IT course?

GCSE Computer Science gives you an in-depth insight in how computer technology works and how computers operate, by understanding key fundamentals such as computer software, networks and security. It allows you to develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills through the study of computing principles. The Cambridge Nationals Imedia IT course is a much more hands on IT based course that looks at the project management cycle of research, planning and reviewing. It focuses on greater emphasis of working with others and communicating creative concepts

2. I like programming, is this the right course for me?

If you are a keen programmer and enjoy programming in your own time and as a hobby, then GCSE Computer Science is the best option for you.

3. I am wanting to go to university and study Computer Science, is this the right course for me?

If you are wanting to study Computer Science at University, then the GCSE Computer Science course is the best option for you. This will give you the baseline knowledge in the core fundamentals of computing before exploring this at A-Level and then Degree Level.

4. Which course is best for me?

This really depends on your own skills that are personal to you. If you enjoy problem solving, programming in your own time and are good at Maths then the GCSE Computer Science option is the best choice for you. However, if you are creative and enjoy using a computer and computer software to be creative around things like graphic editing then the Imedia option is most suited to you.

5. How is the GCSE Computer Science course assessed?

The course is assessed through two external examinations that you will sit in Year 11. The two assessments are Paper 1 – Computer Systems and Paper 2 – Algorithms & Programming. Both assessments have equal weighting and are worth 50% of your overall grade.

6. Who will be teaching GCSE Computer Science?

Mrs Atif, Mr Robison, Mr Flerin and Mrs Khan are the teachers teaching this course.

7. If I am stuck for a last option for my GCSE's, is this a suitable course for me to choose as an option.

If you are thinking of choosing one of these courses as a final option alongside your other GCSE's as a backup/reserve option, then GCSE Computer Science is probably not the right choice. This is because this is a highly academic course that is suited to those individuals who really enjoy computing and programming. You must have a real interest in programming to be successful on this course.

8. What skills are needed for GCSE Computer Science course?

- Love for programming.
- Critical thinking.

- Analysis.
- Problem-solving skills.

9. What are the career options available for me after studying GCSE Computer Science?

The GCSE in Computer Science allows you to progress on to A-Level Computer Science and then either a Computer Science related degree or apprenticeship.