

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



## Computer Science and ICT

**Q What is the difference between computer science and ICT?**

**A** Computer Science and ICT both use computers as part of their programmes of study. That is where the similarities stop. Computer Science is the study of how computers work at a fundamental level, and how the software, games and apps that we use are made. In ICT we look at how we can best use those software, games and apps to create digital products. To use an analogy, computer science is learning how to build a car and take it apart. ICT is learning how to drive.

**Q Which one is better?**

**A** There is no definitive answer to this question and it very much depends on what interests someone the most. To go back to the car analogy, there are some talented mechanics who do not want to learn how to race. There are also some talented racing drivers who don't care too much about how it works.

**Q When will I do ICT?**

**A** ICT is not offered as a standalone subject until year 10 where it is selectable as an option. However, ICT and the use of computers is interwoven within the key stage 3 curriculum and students will engage with ICT across a variety of subjects through their personal netbook.

**Q What areas of computer science do I study at key stage 3?**

**A** In year 7 through 9 you will look at a wide range of topics in computing lessons to ensure that you get a full taste for what this subject can offer. You will study: block based programming; text based programming; online safety; computer logic and data representation; technology proficiency; human computer interaction (HCI); website design and many other fields that fall under the umbrella of computer science.

**Q How many lessons of computing will I have?**

**A** In key stage 3 (year 7 through 9) you will have one lesson of computing a week. If you choose the subject for GCSE, this increases to 5 lessons across a fortnight.

**Q What courses do you offer at GCSE?**

**A** We currently offer the following:

OCR GCSE Computer Science (J276)

Cambridge Nationals Level 2 Creative iMedia (J817)

**Q What courses do you offer at A Level?**

**A** We currently offer the following:

OCR A Level Computer Science (H446)

BTEC Nationals Information Technology

**Q Who is the best person to contact for more information about computing?**

**A** Mr Ravenscroft is the Whole School Director of Computer Science and ICT. As part of this role he is the head of department and can therefore answer any questions you may have regarding this subject.