

What your child will learn each half term

This overview shows the key topics, skills, and knowledge your child will be learning in **Computing** in **Y9**. It helps families understand what's being taught, how it builds on previous learning, and how you can support your child at home.

- **What we are learning:** The topic or focus for the half term.
- **Key knowledge & skills:** What students should understand and be able to do.
- **How we assess learning:** knowledge checks, practical tasks, written responses and formal assessments.
- **Key words to know:** Vocabulary students will learn and use.

Half term	What we are learning	Key knowledge/skills	How we will assess learning in this unit	Homework
HT1	Y9 – GCSE Computing taster L1 – Digital Literacy lesson – logging onto Synergy and Microsoft 365. Sorting out folder structures and checking Teams A GCSE computer science unit building on Y7 Visual programming unit in Scratch and Y8 programming unit using Edublocks. This unit has been designed to help with option selection – learners need to be fully aware of the content of GCSE Computing, so this unit helps learners to understand the difference between the GCSE subjects we offer.	Logging onto the network, Synergy, Microsoft 365 Teams' skills – to access lesson resources during lessons and from home if needed. Computing theory/ subject knowledge – Computer Systems, Hardware and Networks Programming skills - Data types Escape sequences String functions Inputs and variables If Statements Iteration Concatenation	Knowledge check - Retrieval activities in class and Teams Quizzes No formal EOU assessment due to the nature of the GCSE unit	L2 – Teams quiz – hardware L4 – Code Academy tutorials Due to the nature of the subject we don't formally set homework. As these units are tasters for possible GCSE options there are some voluntary homework for those who require them.
Key vocab	Binary, Denary, Hexadecimal, Computer, Fetch, Decode, Execute, Clock Speed, Optical Storage, Magnetic Storage, Solid State Storage, Computer Network, Peripherals, LAN, WAN, Router, Topology, Bus Topology, Star Topology, Mesh Topology			
HT2	Y9 – GCSE Business taster A GCSE business studies unit – this unit does not build on knowledge from Y7/8. This unit has been designed to help with option selection – learners need to be fully aware of the content of GCSE Business, so this unit helps learners to	Logging onto the network, Synergy, Microsoft 365 Teams' skills – to access lesson resources during lessons and from home if needed. Business Studies subject knowledge/theory – • Needs and Wants	Knowledge check - Retrieval activities in class and Teams quizzes Short written tasks - explain questions in lessons 3/4 Longer written task – assessed homework in lesson 5	L2 – Teams quiz L4 – Teams quiz Due to the nature of the subject we don't formally set homework. As these units are tasters for possible GCSE options there are some voluntary homework for those who require them.

	understand the difference between the GCSE subjects we offer.	• Products and services • How new ideas come about • Why new ideas come about Business Studies skills – • Exam technique – Explain BLT which is the basis for all GCSE business exam answers • Business maths	No formal EOU assessment due to the nature of the GCSE unit	
Key vocab	Product, Service, Needs, Wants, Consumer, Obsolete, Dynamic, Revenue, Total Costs, Profit, Percentage Change, Fixed Costs, Variable Costs			
HT3	Y9 – BTEC Media taster A BTEC creative media unit building on IT/media skills from other creative units in Y7/8 e.g. Adobe units This unit has been designed to help with option selection – learners need to be fully aware of the content of BTEC Media, so this unit helps learners to understand the difference between the GCSE subjects we offer. In this unit, learners will complete a mini media project where they will re-imagine and create a magazine front cover for a teenage target audience. This gives learners the opportunity to experience the kind of work expected in BTEC Creative Media Production.	Media subject knowledge/ theory - Media terminology Pre-production techniques Production techniques Post-Production techniques Media/digital skills • Writing/editing copy • Sourcing images • Image editing/ manipulation • Creating page layouts • Creating visual impact Designing and creating a magazine front cover using Adobe Illustrator and developing skills from Y7/8 creative units	Knowledge check - Retrieval activities in class and Teams quizzes Short written tasks – creating copy for magazine front cover Longer written task – completing an evaluation/ analysis based on the media product produced. No formal EOU assessment due to the nature of the GCSE unit	L2 – Teams quiz L4 – Teams quiz Due to the nature of the subject we don't formally set homework. As these units are tasters for possible GCSE options there are some voluntary homework for those who require them.
Key vocab	Audio/Moving Image Media, Print Media, Interactive Media, House Style, Typography, Colour Palette, Masthead, Main Image, Headline, Coverlines, Target Audience, Moodboard, Thumbnail sketches, Composition, Lighting, Cropping/Scaling/Resizing images, Layers, Filters, Effects, Image adjustments/ transformations, Columns, Text wrap, Frame, Using white space, Paragraph styles, Readability, Captions			
HT4	Y9 – Cybersecurity This is a digital literacy unit building on other online safety units from Y7/8. Rather than being focused on personal online safety this unit looks how to keep personal data/information safe.			

Key vocab	Cyber security, Hacking, Data, Encryption, Firewall, Antivirus software, Malware, Virus, Worm, Trojan horse, Spyware, Phishing, Ransomware, Social engineering, Strong password, Two-factor authentication, Privacy settings, Personal data, Acceptable Use Policy (AUP), Data Protection Act, Computer Misuse Act, Ethical hacking			
HT5	Y9 – Digital Literacy Designed to remind learners of the essential Digital Literacy and MS Office apps skills they need to support their learning. This unit will support learners to revisit skills learnt in Y7/8 to cement digital literacy skills further and facilitate this understanding to be used in other subjects across the curriculum in preparation for GCSE studies. In this unit, learners are creating a set of digital documents to support Lytham Festival.	Logging onto Microsoft 365 Teams’ skills – to access lesson resources during lessons and from home if needed. Email skills Keyboard skills and keyboard commands Excel - Spreadsheets PowerPoint – Presentations Word – Letter Publisher – Itinerary Graphics software – logo/tickets/merchandise Audience/Purpose	Knowledge check - Retrieval activities in class and Teams quizzes Short written tasks - Creating a digital poster and trip itinerary to fit purpose and target audience. Longer written task – Composing and creating a letter to parents to inform them about the music festival. EOU assessment – Learners will create digital documents using their skills in PPoint, Word, Excel, Publisher and graphics software then complete a self-assessment on Teams	L1 – Practise M365 skills and open Outlook to send an email L3 – Teams quiz – key terms L5 – Teams quiz – key terms Due to the nature of the subject we don’t formally set homework. In this unit we set some voluntary homework to help develop skills. Additionally many pupils enjoy these tasks.
Key vocab	Folder, Audience, Purpose, Font style and size, Print Preview, Alignment, Email, Attachment, Row, Column, Cell, Formula, Graph, Template, Transition, Copy and Paste. Keyboard Commands – Ctrl+X, Ctrl+C, Ctrl+V, Ctrl+B, Ctrl+I, Ctrl+U, Ctrl+Z, Ctrl+A, Windows key+Left/Right Arrow, Windows key + Lock, Formatting, Animation, Transition, Letterhead			
HT6	Y9 – Summer Lessons – GPTs, Cryptocurrency Used as stand-alone lessons during summer term after options process			