COMPUTER SCIENCE GCSE   OPTION SUBJECT

Exam Board: OCR - Computing J275 (from 2012)

Course Overview
This carefully planned course gives students a real, in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. It offers an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes', including computer programming, which many students find absorbing. This course is a great way to develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills, which can be transferred to further learning and to everyday life.

Course Breakdown
Three mandatory units:

Unit A451: Computer systems and programming
(40% weighting)

Unit A452: Practical investigation
(30% weighting)

Unit A453: Programming Project
(30% weighting)

Assessment
Unit A451 is externally assessed through a 90 minute written exam. Unit A452 is assessed through an OCR set scenario where students carry out an investigative task. Unit A453 is assessed through a controlled assessment set by OCR; this will involve students carrying out a programming task where they will be required to find the solution to a problem.

Coursework Requirements
60% of this course is assessed through internal coursework which means that students need to be self-motivated, dedicated and be able to meet deadlines.

Qualities needed for success in this course:
Students wishing to take Computing should have an interest in technology and be determined to develop that interest further. Students should also have an interest in computer programming and be able to work independently.

Possible Paths in Post 16
Progression to Applied ICT (AS/A2).