

Computer science FAQs

1. What is the content of Computer Science GCSE?

Computer Science covers 3 main areas.

- Problem solving using coding
- Algorithms and data representation
- Computer architecture, software and networking

Students will get an overview of how many real-life computer systems work, from website retrieval to CPU processing. They will gain an understanding of how problems from the real world can be represented digitally and solved. Students will also be taught how to solve problems using core programming concepts.

2. What is the difference between choosing Computer science in the 3 hour or 2 hour accelerated group (practical option)?

Both classes will complete the same curriculum and come out with the same qualification. The difference comes in the speed in which content will be delivered and the style of learning. We have very strong results from students in each group.

The 2 hour accelerated group will only have one double lesson a week rather than 3 separate lessons, this means that the delivery of content will be faster and the importance of being diligent with independent study is increased.

To help identify students who will be able to progress well in this environment we only offer this option to students in higher maths groups.

3. Does this mean there is a lot of mathematical content in the Computer Science GCSE?

In short, no. There is relatively little direct mathematical content, however students with an aptitude for mathematics and a strong work ethic tend to be able to progress well under the conditions of the accelerated group.

4. How would I be assessed in Computer science?

There will be two 90 minute exams. One will focus more on computational theory the other will focus more on solving problems and writing code.

5. How is coding assessed and taught?

There is no NEA or coursework for the Computer Science GCSE, this means that students coding will be assessed by writing code to solve problems in the written exam. However, in class students will get practical experience of coding and problem solving and will have the opportunity to become able programmers by the courses end.

6. What coding language will be taught?

Students will learn how to program in Python 3 and will use the Pycharm IDE.

For any questions not answered here, please feel free to email Mr Cope (ecope@stbarts.co.uk).