COMPUTER SCIENCE GCSE

Mr Kent

Curriculum Area Leader, ICT & Computing

COURSE OVERVIEW

The course consists of 3 Sections:

Paper 1: Computational thinking and problem solving.
In this section, you will learn the art of computational thinking, problem solving, code tracing and applied computing as well as theoretical knowledge of computer science.

Paper 2: Written Assessment
This paper will cover aspects of how data is represented in computer systems, computer systems, networks, cyber security and the ethical, legal and environmental impacts of digital technology on our society.

Programming Project
The programming project develops a student's ability to use the knowledge and skills gained through the course to solve a problem. Students will follow a systematic approach to problem solving, consistent with the skills learnt in the theory of software development.

EXAMINATIONS

Paper 1 is worth 50% of the GCSE and the exam is for 1½ hours. The exam paper will consist of a mix of multiple choice, short answer and longer answer questions assessing a student's practical problem solving and computational thinking skills.

Paper 2 is worth 50% of the GCSE and the exam is for 1½ hours. The exam paper will consist of a mix of multiple choice, short answer, longer answer and extended response questions assessing a student's theoretical knowledge.

The Programming Project is where the student is expected to develop a computer program. They will need to design the code, implement it and test it to ensure it solves the given problem. Students will produce an original report outlining this development.

All exams will be sat in Summer 2021

REVISION
We aim to finish teaching by February Half Term 2021. This will allow teachers to start revision after the break. We offer revision sessions and evening schools to support revision. We also have a vast number of resources both electronic and physical. These include animations, practice papers, revision guides and exemplar answers.
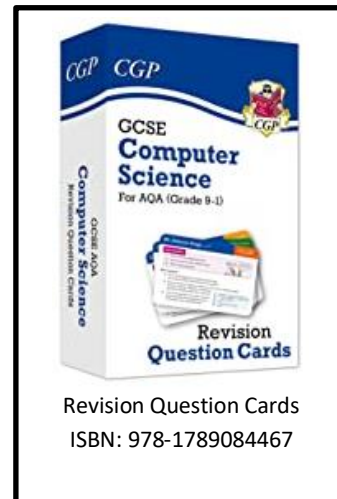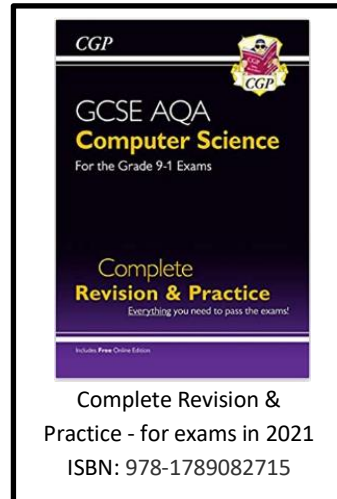
HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD IN COMPUTER SCIENCE
Ask your child to show you the unit assessment tests that we provide to every student and the analysis of their mock examinations. These contain the key revision topics that they must know if they wish to achieve a good grade. We test students regularly to make sure that their understanding is good. Testing them on these topics will really help them improve their grade.
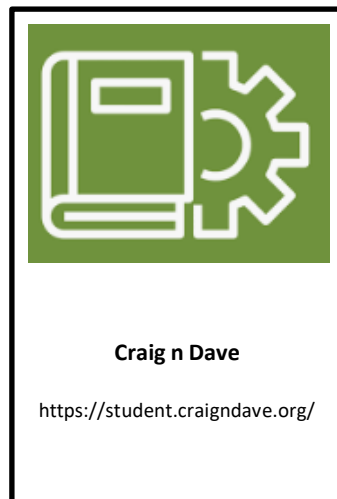
Also encourage your child to access the revision resources. These include practice question booklets which will help students with exam technique and resources such as revision cards which you could help to test student's knowledge at home.

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USEFUL RESOURCES

The department are recommending the following revision books for the AQA 9-1 course:

Complete Revision & Practice - for exams in 2021
ISBN: 978-1789082715

Revision Question Cards
ISBN: 978-1789084467

There are also the following online resources

Craig n Dave

https://student.craigndave.org/

Doddle Learn

https://www.doddlelearn.co.uk/

Please do not hesitate to contact the Curriculum Area Leader of this subject
should you wish to discuss the course further.