



## Computing

# GCSE Computing: What's it all about?

## Why study GCSE Computing?

This exciting GCSE gives you an excellent opportunity to investigate how computers work and how they're used, and to develop computer programming and problem-solving skills. You'll also do some fascinating in-depth research and practical work. For example, some of the current investigations look at JavaScript, encryption and assembly language programming.



## WHAT ARE SOME OF THE THINGS I'LL LEARN?

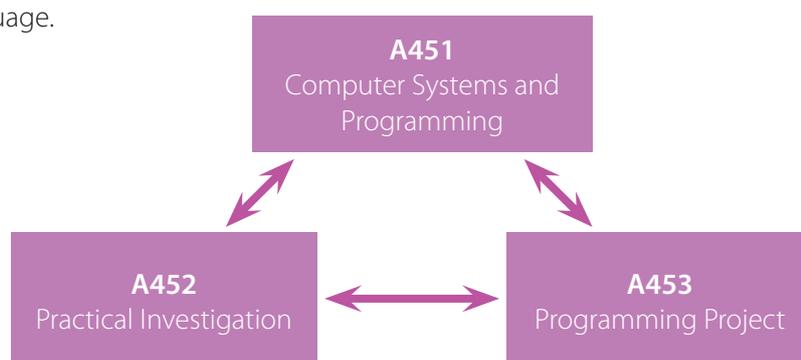
This three unit course is designed to give you an in-depth understanding of how computer technology works and a look at what goes on 'behind the scenes'.

You don't need to have studied this subject before, and assessment is quite simply based on a written exam, a practical investigation and programming tasks.

## WHAT SKILLS CAN I GET FROM IT?

The course will help you learn about critical thinking, analysis and problem solving. We hope you'll find it a fun and interesting way to develop these skills, which can also be transferred to other subjects and even applied in day-to-day life.

- The computer systems and programming unit will teach you the theory about a wide range of issues such as hardware and software, the representation of data in computer systems, databases, computer communications and networking, programming and more.
- The practical investigation is all about engaging with computing in the real world. You'll look at a computing topic in more depth and carry out a practical investigation into a computing issue.
- The programming project will call on you to design, code and test a solution to three tasks using a suitable programming language.



## HOW COULD IT HELP WITH MY FUTURE?

If you take a GCSE in Computing and then go on to study the subject at A Level or university, you'll have an advantage over fellow students who are picking up the subject at these higher levels. The increasing importance of information technologies means there'll be a growing demand for professionals who are qualified in this field.

The course is also an excellent preparation if you want to study or work in areas that rely on the skills you'll develop, especially where they're applied to technical problems. These areas include engineering, financial and resource management, science and medicine.

## GOT ANY MORE QUESTIONS?

If you want to find out more about this qualification, to help you decide whether it's right for you, talk to your ICT teacher.