



Hazelwick School

An Academy

Computer Science Department

The Computer Science department at Hazelwick School consists of five specialist teachers. We pride ourselves of being extremely well-organised, forward-thinking, and collaborative. Our priority is to ensure that students enjoy their learning and achieve the best of their ability.

Computer Science begins in Year 7 where students follow a tailor-made curriculum that closely links to the progression pathways for one of the two KS4 courses we offer. The curriculum is innovative and sees students learn multiple programming languages as well as giving them the opportunity to interact with hardware and alternative devices such as Raspberry Pi's and BBC Micro Bits.

Throughout KS3 students learn about both Computer Science and IT with a focus on design and creation in IT and algorithmic thinking in Computer Science. This blended curriculum at KS3 led to us being awarded a Network of Excellence Award by the British Computing Society in 2020.

At KS4 we offer a choice of either OCR GCSE Computer Science or the OCR Cambridge Nationals. Our KS4 options are very popular and have a large uptake. As a department, we offer online sessions to students who need extra support and guidance; this has, in turn, led to excellent progress being made by students in both subject areas.

At KS5 we offer A Level OCR Computer Science and Cambridge Technical Level 3 in IT. Our A level Computer Science provision was commended by OCR for 'its ability to allow students to express themselves in any coding language they desire', which in turn leads to many Computer Science students going on to study related degrees at university. We deliver the Cambridge Technical Qualification working with local companies and we write our own assessments to ensure that students are best prepared for the future and life beyond Hazelwick. Our Cambridge Technical IT results place us in the top 1% nationally with most students achieving grades Distinction and Distinction*.

Having dedicated Computer Science suites provides students with excellent resources. There are 5 full size Computer Science suites. Additionally, we have a dedicated Sixth Form classroom, with 20 PCs.

The Computer Science and IT department pride themselves on creative and engaging delivery techniques. They utilise modern technologies including a departmental website, eLearning platform, YouTube, and gamification to engage students and allow them to reach their maximum potential. their participation in national competitions has led to successes for our students beyond the classroom.