A LEVEL

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Student Achievement 2016

Pass rate: 100% • A-C Grades: 62%*

The A Level Computer Science course is a technical program that focuses on the fundamental concepts of how a computer operates. The theory component of the course investigates topics such as hardware, networking, algorithms, data structures and computational mathematics. In year two for the coursework component students are required to undertake an in depth programming project to solve a realistic problem which is worth 20% of the marks for the qualification. If you want to learn about computer programming and enjoy solving problems, you will find this subject interesting.

Level: Level 3

Specific Course Entry Requirements
College entry to include a minimum GCSE Mathematics grade 6. You do not need to have studied Computer Science at GCSE (please refer to the Entry Requirements section page 24 for further details).

Exam Board: WJEC, EDUCAS

What will I study?
You will acquire knowledge and understanding of software, system development, data and applications.

The course will focus on:
- Analysis of user requirements, design and implementation of solutions
- Gaining an in-depth knowledge of computing and related topics
- Developing knowledge of programming theory
- Building practical skills in developing software programs
- Using the visual basic programming environment.

The coursework will:
Develop your skills in analysis, design, software development, documentation, testing and evaluation of a system leading to a solution to the given problem.

This will include:
- Design, create and test computer programs
- Research and understand computing concepts
- Enhance your ability to work with numbers
- Develop your problem solving skills.

How will I be assessed?
80% Examination.
20% Coursework.

Where will this course lead me?
This subject is ideal if you intend to go on to study Computer Science or Software Engineering at Degree level. There are many related courses where knowledge of programming is an advantage. It is viewed as a challeging and rewarding subject, in the same way as Mathematics and Science A Levels.

Please note that it is not necessary to take A Level Computer Science in order to study Computer Science at university but it can be an advantage.

What support will I receive?
The staff are friendly and approachable and are always willing to give support and advice. There are weekly sessions to support those with questions related to homework or coursework issues.

What is the department like?
The department is staffed by five tutors who have a range of experience in both education and industry and are very approachable. They are ambitious and work hard to enable all students to achieve their potential. Tutors will arrange additional catch up sessions or offer one to one advice during lunch or after college if required. If you need to speak to them outside of lessons they can be contacted by visiting the staff base or by e-mail.

Enrichment opportunities
Students have been able to visit the National Museum of Computing and have entered a national competition creating a solution to an environmental problem using Raspberry Pi.

Head of Department
John Sanders

Tutors
Mark Harrison
Sarah Schofield

St John Rigby College

01942 214797 enquiries@sjr.ac.uk www.sjr.ac.uk

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