



# The Oldershaw School

## A-Level Computer Science – HOD: Mr A Scott

### Course Outline & Exam Ratio

This qualification helps students understand the core academic principles of computer science. Classroom learning is transferred into creating real-world systems through the creation of an independent programming project. Students will develop technical understanding and an ability to analyse and solve problems using computational thinking.

The qualification consists of 3 components:

- Computer Systems (2 hours and 30 minutes written paper = 40% of total A-Level) - the internal workings of the CPU, data exchange, software development, data types and legal and ethical issues.
- Algorithms and Programming (2 hours and 30 minutes written paper = 40% of total A-Level) - using computational thinking to solve problems.
- Programming Project (non-exam assessment = 20% of total A-Level) - analyse, design, develop, test, evaluate and document a program written in a suitable programming language, which is independently chosen by the student.

### Progression Routes

This course will enable learners to progress to higher study or to progress directly to employment. This qualification is suitable for learners intending to pursue any career in which an understanding of technology is needed, especially computer programming.

### Enrichment Opportunities

There are opportunities to speak with industry experts and computer programmers working in the sector to enhance experience of the subject and provide potential routes into employment.

## BTEC Level 3 in Information Technology – HOD: Mr A Scott

### Course Outline & Exam Ratio

This qualification is designed to give students a common core of IT knowledge. Study is focused on the relationship between hardware and software in forming IT systems, managing and processing data to support business, and using IT to communicate and share information.

In year 12, students learn about IT systems in preparation for a formal 2-hour written assessment in the summer term. Alongside this, students learn how to use database software to create systems that manage information, culminating in a 5-hour supervised online assessment at the end of the year.

In year 13, students complete internally assessed coursework which involves researching how businesses use social media to promote products/services, before planning and implementing a social media campaign. Alongside this, students study website development, which involves developing the skills needed to plan and implement their own website for a fictional business.

### Progression Routes

The qualification provides a pathway into higher education and develops knowledge and skills needed for entry-level roles related to IT, such as an IT technician, social media specialist, web/content developer, or database administrator.

### Enrichment Opportunities

Using strong links to local business through Wirral Chamber of Commerce, learners have the opportunity to gain valuable experience working with employers across a range of sectors, and develop genuine employment prospects.

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*\*this course will only run subject to government accreditation and funding.*

*\*\*It is likely that only one of these courses will run dependent on student choice.*