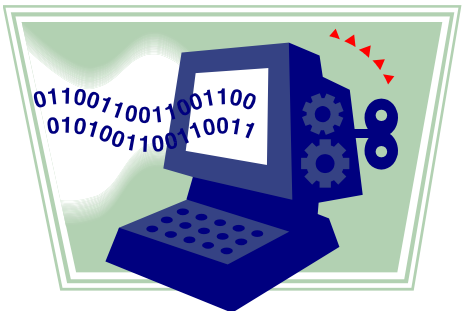
Computer Science

Exam Board	AQA
Qualification	GCSE



Aims and Objectives	What is the difference between Computer Science and ICT? Whereas ICT teaches students to be skilled *users* of computer programs, Computer Science gives students the opportunity to be *creators* of such technology. The course allows students to develop experience in a wide range of areas including web-based applications, mobile technologies, gaming and more traditional applications of computer science.
Content (Outline of Course)	Students studying GCSE Computer Science will: • learn how to create computer programs using traditional programming languages; • learn how to create mobile apps to run on tablets or smartphones; • gain an understanding of the fundamental concepts around creating software applications; • have opportunities to work collaboratively.
Assessment	The course is assessed through two components. **Component 1: Practical Programming** Approximately 50 hours of controlled assessment (two tasks of 25 hours each) which are worth 60% of the marks. Students may choose two tasks from a possible four options. **Component 2: Computing Fundamentals** An examination of 1 hour 30 minutes which is worth 40% of the marks.
Careers Guidance	A qualification in Computer Science allows students to develop practical skills that are very much in demand in the modern workplace. The UK, and in particular the North East, has a large IT industry and there are many opportunities available. Students may go on to Sixth Form to study ICT at a higher level. This will then allow them to choose to study from a variety of university courses such as Computer Science or Information Technology. Alternatively, students may also decide to apply for apprenticeships, with many available from large local employers such as Sage and Hewlett Packard.