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| **Bullers Wood School**  **Sixth Form**  ***Be part of our success story*** |  |

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**Computer Science A Level**

**Why study this subject?**

This linear course provides an excellent extension to either the single GCSE Information Technology or GCSE Computer Science.

**Entry Requirements**

Students need to gain five A\*-C grade GCSEs including English Language at grade 4. Grade 5 in Mathematics plus B grade in Computing or a Science subject.

**Content**

1. Fundamentals of programming 8. Consequences of uses of computing

2. Fundamentals of data structures 9. Fundamentals of communication and networking

3. Fundamentals of algorithms 10. Fundamentals of databases

4. Theory of computation 11. Big Data

5. Fundamentals of data representation 12. Fundamentals of functional programming

6. Fundamentals of computer systems 13. Systematic approach to problem solving

7. Fundamentals of computer organisation and 14. Non-exam assessment – the computing practical

architecture

The course will include practical hands-on experience, projects and assignments, presentations, individual research, industrial and commercial visits and problem solving activities.

**Assessment**

A Level examinations taken at the end of Year 13:

**Paper 1** – This paper tests a student's ability to program, as well as their theoretical knowledge of Computer Science from subject content 1-4. It is an on-screen exam for 2 hours 30 minutes.

**Paper 2** – This paper tests a student's ability to answer questions from subject content 5-12. It is a written exam for 2 hours 30 minutes.

**Non Exam assessment** – This project assesses student's ability to use the knowledge and skills gained through the course to solve a practical problem. Students will be expected to follow a systematic approach to problem solving, as shown in section 13.

**Future courses and possible careers**

Computer Science is an expanding industry where changes in computing are forever altering the way we work and computing specialists are in much demand. This course prepares you for the more specialist Computer Science based higher education courses and for the world of work, in which women in particular, are under-represented and much valued!