



## ADVANCED LEVEL COMPUTING AND ICT COURSES

If you are interested in studying Computing or ICT at advanced level, we have a variety of routes open to you  
**Firstly, you could choose AS computing or AS ICT as part of a package of 3 or 4 AS levels.**

### AS Level Computing

Is about how computers work – how hardware & software works.

Computing is highly technical and there is an emphasis on the actual design and programming of IT systems. Computing involves a lot of Maths, and 50% of the assessment will test your programming skills in an exam. If you enjoy logic and solving complex problems then you should take A level Computing. You must also choose AS Maths as one of your other subjects. We recommend that you should study Computing alongside subjects such as Electronics and Physics and Further maths. This is an excellent pathway into Engineering and Computer Science degrees.

### AS ICT (Level 3 BTEC Certificate)

Level 3 BTEC Certificate is equivalent to one AS level leading to a further year of study on the Level 3 BTEC Subsidiary Diploma – equivalent to one full A Level. ICT is about using and applying computers, software packages and information systems in business and other contexts. It is not about how they work!

If you want to know about how computers are used and how to use certain computer applications such as spreadsheets, databases or web development software then ICT is the subject you should take. ICT deals more with the organisational and business side of IT systems, and the theory behind good data, types of information and information flows. You study topics like the Nature of Information, Role of IT in Organisations, and Management Information Systems as well as various application packages. You must have GCSE English at Grade C and GCSE Maths at least Grade D for this AS level (you will need to retake GCSE Maths if you do not have it). This AS level is suitable for those students taking Business and Humanities subjects at AS level.

### Or, you could choose a different route at advanced level: Level 3 BTEC Extended Diploma IT Practitioners

BTEC Extended Diploma IT Practitioners is a full time two year course and is equivalent to three A levels. There are 18 units which include some ICT, some programming and some Maths. You will take a wide range of units in the IT area. Assessment is by coursework. You will have a two week work placement in the second year. Students from this course go on to study a wide range of Computing and IT courses at University. You need 4 GCSEs at Grade C, including either English or Maths, with the other at grade D – as you will need to retake it.