



September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

KS4 Computer Science September 2020

I would like to inform you of a change to the course that will now be offered to pupils in Year 11 who have opted for Computer Science. We have decided to change from GCSE Computer Science to GCSE OCR Level 2 Cambridge Technical Certificate in IT.

We believe that the IT course will be more suited to the pupils who have enrolled on the course and will allow them to access the higher grading criteria. The course offers more scope for pupils to gain grades from a range of opportunities; it will provide students with essential knowledge and skills in IT and cybersecurity. The wide range of units and opportunities for practical and project-based work will help students gain an insight into technological change, global IT infrastructure and legal and security considerations. This course will still enable pupils to progress to A levels and Level 3 BTEC opportunities if they wish to do so.

The GCSE OCR Level 2 Cambridge Technical Certificate in IT allows students to develop both their theoretical and practical knowledge of IT through vocational contexts. Students will develop key IT skills over the four units, which make up the qualification.

Students will study four units over the course:

Unit 1 - Essentials of IT (Externally assessed)

Unit 2 - Essentials of Cybersecurity (Externally assessed)

Unit 16 Using Social Media Channels for Business (Internally Assessed)

Unit 17 Using Data Analysis Software (Internally Assessed)

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We are confident that the course will offer pupils a higher attainment grade at the end of the year. Pupils will be sitting an exam in January 2021 where they will gain 50% of their final grade; the remainder will be made up from the coursework units.

If you have any concerns or wish to discuss this further then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Miss L-M Smith
Head of Faculty

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