Transition to A Level Computer Science

At St Benedict’s Sixth Form

**The Course**

You will study the OCR A Level Computer Science H446.

We use the same exam board as we did for GCSE so there should be a smooth transition between courses. The A Level course covers many of the same topics but at a greater depth as well introducing new concepts to each topic.

The course specification and other OCR documents can be found here. <https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/computer-science-h046-h446-from-2015/>

**Set Transition Task (for those that have not studied the GCSE)**

The practical programming element will come up in all three parts of the course (Paper 1, Paper 2, NEA) and requires consistent practice to develop your skills.

Your teacher will expect you to have completed the task in this section and this will be reviewed when you start the course. Your suitability for the course may then be discussed with Mr Richmond and Mr Tatum.

* Go to this website - <https://www.learnpython.org/>
* Find the **Learn the Basics** heading
* Complete the first **nine** sections (Hello World to Functions)

*you must complete* ***all*** *tasks within each section*

* Create a programming diary to record evidence of completing each section

*the format is your choice, but your teacher must clearly see the work you have done*

**General Resources (for everyone)**

<https://isaaccomputerscience.org/> has excellent content focussed at A Level.

You should set up an account as you will continue to use this site throughout the A Level course.

Use the **Learn** and then **GCSE Topics** tab to recap what you have covered in the GCSE course.

**Other Useful Resources (for everyone)**

* **The A Level Taster PPT**

This contains lots of information about the course, especially if you weren’t able to attend this on the day of the session

* **PyGame**

A chance to extend your python programming skills

<https://www.101computing.net/getting-started-with-pygame/?started?with?pygame/>

* **Teach ICT**

Another useful website containing a large amount of A Level content

*School username and password will be given out in September*

<https://www.teach-ict.com/2016/A_Level_Computing/OCR_H446/OCR_H446_home.html>

* **Craig ‘n’ Dave**

Series of online YouTube videos covering every bullet point from the A Level specification

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0HzEBLlJxlrwBAHJ5S9JQg/playlists?view=50&sort=dd&shelf_id=17>

* **Sololearn**

A chance to try a new programming language, such as C# or Java

<https://www.sololearn.com/>

* Independently develop your programming skills in a high level language - Python or JavaScript. You could use W3Schools for this and the 'Code Challenges' provided by OCR online
* You should also be aiming to keep abreast of Technology in the News - progress with the adoption of AI and Social/Moral and Ethical Issues.