

Thinking of studying IT or Computer Science?

Why choose to study IT or Computer Science at College?

If you're passionate about computer hardware and software this is a great option for you. Here are some reasons why IT and Computer Science are so popular:

1. Computer scientists make the world better - As we live in a digital age, most industries rely on data and software programmes. Computer Science & IT impacts everything, from scientific research to health development, transport, banking, communications, and more! Even objects like microwave ovens, fridges, or door locks are now connected to our Wi-Fi networks and personal assistants.
2. Computer Science jobs are lucrative and rewarding - The constant development of new technologies also means that there is a constant demand for brilliant tech minds who can create, maintain, and fix both gadgets and code.
3. Develop transferable IT skills for a successful career - To become an expert and occupy one of the best Computer Science jobs, you will need to develop certain skills. Critical thinking and problem-solving go hand in hand and will help you whether you work on debugging a programme or are trying to figure out how to prevent hackers from breaching a firewall. Analytical skills are especially useful for professionals who work with big data or algorithms and are looking for patterns or creating instructions. You can take these skills and apply them to IT occupations anywhere in the world. Programming languages are the same everywhere, and if you want to travel throughout your career, IT careers will allow you to do that.

**“Everybody in this country should learn to program a computer,
because it teaches you how to think” - Steve Jobs**

There are a range of ICT and Computing courses on offer. You could choose an A Level or a vocational BTEC course. Two of the most popular courses on offer are explained below. You might also choose to specialise and study Digital Media or Computer Programming.

Course Title	What will I study?	Assessment	More Information
<p>A Level Computer Science</p> 	<p>This is a great course for you if you want to learn computer programming skills, understand how to design and test computer programs, and gain the mathematical insight into how a computer works on the inside.</p> <p>Programming skills and theory are taught side by side throughout the course. Topics include cryptography, wireless networking, systems architecture, and the application of computer science in the real world.</p> <p>Programming languages could include Java and a wider range of concepts including PHP, SQL, and Haskell. A programming project makes up 20% of the final grade.</p>	<p>Examination (80%) and through a small coursework element (20%).</p>	<p>See individual college websites for information on the specific courses they offer.</p> <p>AQA A Level Computer Science</p> <p>OCR A Level Computer Science</p>
<p>BTEC Level 3 Nationals in IT</p> 	<p>BTEC IT is all about becoming a confident user and designer of IT systems. Social media, data management systems and computer models are all explored and utilised.</p> <p>BTEC IT is great if you want to learn to use a wide variety of software packages including graphics, sound & video editing, developing websites and multimedia and to build and upgrade a computer system.</p> <p>There are different sized courses available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BTEC Extended Certificate (1 A Level) • BTEC Diploma (2 A Levels) • BTEC Extended Diploma (3 A Levels) 	<p>This course is assessed through a mix of coursework, external exams, and controlled assessment.</p>	<p>See individual college websites for information on the specific courses they offer.</p> <p>Pearson BTEC Nationals</p>