Carleton Community High School

A Specialist Science with Mathematics School

AQA Computer Science
(An English Baccalaureate Subject)

Computing is of enormous importance to the economy, and the role of Computer Science as a discipline itself and as an 'underpinning' subject across science and engineering is growing rapidly.

Course Structure and Timetable

Currently finishing off Component 1a - Practical programming Gaming Unit. The students will be submitting this completed assessment by end of Christmas term
25 hours controlled assessment – (30%) of the total marks
Working independently students demonstrate their ability to code a solution to a gaming problem. The tasks is being completed in Scratch 2.

Component 1b - Practical programming Web Unit. This is the new live assessment which will be submitted end of Christmas term.
25 hours controlled assessment – (30%)
Working independently students demonstrate their ability to code server side application in PHP, SQL and HTML.

There will be no mock exam in this subject.

From January 2016 we will be working on Component 2 - Computing fundamentals 1 hour 30 minutes; examination June 2016.
40% of the total marks. All questions will be compulsory and will be taken from across the subject content. This component will include a range of types of questions from very short to extended answer.

Controlled Assessments
The controls for taking the task have been designed to ensure that the task is done by the candidate and is all their own work research and preparation may be done outside the centre and materials brought in to refer to during the controlled sessions (both electronic and hard copy). However, teachers must inspect them and be satisfied that the work is the candidates' own. All research materials must be placed in the candidates' submission folders. Once the work is completed it is then marked by the student's teacher and the marks submitted to the exam board. The marks for each of the units are only available when the GCSE examination results are published in August. Essentially the students need to treat the Controlled Assessment times as exams.

Homework
Individual study and the ability to develop new skills are essential requirements of modern employers.
The Computing course includes projects and work that will require work to be completed outside of lessons.

What can parents do to help in this subject?
Encourage your child to practice their programming skills so that they are able to apply them to their controlled assessment tasks. Encourage the production of a high standard of work through the consideration of layout, formatting and audience.

Encourage your child to proof read their work, checking the content and layout before printing and submitting. Encourage your child to submit all work on time and catch up on all work missed as a result of absence at lunchtime and after school sessions.

Ensure that a backup of their computing work is made by saving it to a home computer, the school computer and a memory device, such as a Google Classroom.