

Little Heath School Sixth Form

Year 12 Induction Evening for Parents 2016

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| Computing |

Welcome to the department

We are following the AQA Course AS Level Computer Science. There are 8 teaching periods a fortnight which will be devoted to Unit1 Problem Solving, Programming, Data Representation and Practical Exercise, taught by Ms Matthews and Unit 2 Computer Components, The Stored Program Concept and the Internet taught by Mr Scott. We can be contacted by email on [gmatthews@littleheath.org.uk](mailto:gmatthews@littleheath.org.uk) and [iscott@littleheath.org.uk](mailto:iscott@littleheath.org.uk)

Key to success at A Level

Computing is a course which requires the development of skills as well as factual learning. Therefore, the following points will need to be addressed.

* Students will need to practise programming skills regularly and in their own time.
* Students will need to support their studies by keeping abreast of latest computer technologies reported in the media
* Students will need to be organised both in the structuring of their notes and ensuring that the relevant material is available to use in class. They should be using their individual wiki pages to do this and these should be kept up to date for checking by their teachers.
* Students must meet deadlines that are set for the completion of their work

It is vital that students are able to devote enough time to their studies and they should be planning to spend at least four hours a week completing homework and practicing their programming skills. Background reading and suitable websites are recommended on the heathen site as well as the school VLE.

What parents can do to help

Computing is quite a technical subject but students are also required to know how developments in computing impact on everyday life. It would therefore be helpful if you could assist in the following ways.

* Discuss new developments in technology and their effects on everyday life.
* Be test subjects as students try to develop effective human computer interfaces
* Help them to find a worthwhile computing project for their computing project module in year 13

Essential equipment

Students will need access to a reliable computer at home which is able to run the appropriate programming software environments. If computers are due for replacement, you should note that Android and Apple systems have less support for this type of software than Windows or Linux and that since code is entered from a keyboard, it should be possible to set it up for comfortable typing