

A Level Computer Science

Specification link

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/ict-and-computer-science/as-and-a-level/computer-science-7516-7517>

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

- You need to know at least the basics of Python (v3) – two free options are:
<https://www.w3schools.com/python/default.asp>
<http://www.codecademy.com/>
- You should keep a look out for articles (in newspapers or websites) that involve the ‘consequences of computing’ eg: <http://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2016/jun/03/will-we-need-to-sell-our-privacy-in-the-supermarkets-of-the-future>

READING – these are non-essential books that give a good overview of some of the concepts and history of computer science. They make interesting reading for anyone but are especially good for students who might want to consider studying computer science beyond the sixth form:

- Intercept: The Secret History of Computers and Spies (Corera)
- Alan Turing: The Enigma (Hodges)
- The Four-Dimensional Human: Ways of Being in the Digital World (Scott)
- Also see:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_important_publications_in_computer_science
and
<https://www.computersciencedegreehub.com/top-10-mustread-books-computer-science-majors/>

WEB SITES

- Youtube – check out ‘Computerphile’ for some interesting clips. Also check out <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-OxzIC6pic> as the first in a whole series of entertaining lectures from a Harvard University instructor
- Stack Exchange – a forum for asking questions and looking up answers
<http://cs.stackexchange.com/>