



GORDON'S SCHOOL

COMPUTING DEPARTMENT

Introduction

The Computing Department consists of 2 full-time teachers. Computing is taught across all Key stages and the department has two computing suites with powerful, modern Windows based PCs. Students are also encouraged to make use of their Surface tablets, and use cloud based technologies to access work.

GCSE/A Level Courses – Board/Syllabus etc

At both GCSE students are using the OCR specification, the latest of which (J277) is being introduced in September 2020. This course is assessed through two exams, and the students are required to carry out practical programming tasks throughout the course.

At A level our students are studying the AQA specification (7517). This consists of three elements, a written theory paper, an on-screen practical paper and a Non-examined Assessment based on a programming project of their choice.

Python is used as the primary programming language at both GCSE and A level, although students are also exposed to other languages such as HTML, SQL and Javascript.

Exam results 2019

Examination Results in the Computing Department have been good for a number of years.

In 2019, at GCSE, 91% of our students achieved a grade 9 to 4, with 35.6% achieving a 7, 8 or 9.

At A Level the students achieved 54.6% A* -B and 50.1% A-C at AS.

Extra-curricular activities

The department runs Coding clubs during period 7, where a variety of languages and platforms are used including Raspberry Pi's , Microbits, Lego Mindstorms to bring computing into the physical world. The department has also signed up students to the Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award (iDEA) to enhance their learning and gain industry-recognised awards.

Year 9 students have taken part in the BEBRAS challenge as part of their regular lessons, and some will go on to take part in the TCS Oxford Computing Challenge.