



# AS/A2 Information and Communication Technology Course Outline

## Overview

The OCR AS/A level qualification is an intensive course which allows students to develop a broad range of ICT skills together with an in-depth knowledge and understanding of ICT. This course provides the ideal foundation for students who wish to pursue ICT at degree level or as a career. Students can either achieve the AS qualification if they successfully complete the two mandatory units at AS level or achieve the Advanced qualification if they complete four units in total. This course comprises of written examinations and practical skills, which are assessed through coursework. The details that follow pertain to the OCR ICT A level course. While ICT will be offered as an A level course the final decision as to which board and which course will be followed has not been finalised. Students who have a particular interest in an area of ICT, for example data management or programming, should discuss this with the ICT staff as strong preferences will be considered in the final selection of the course followed.

## Course Structure & Content

### **AS: Unit 1 Information, Systems and Applications**

- Data, information, knowledge and processing
- Software and hardware components of an information system
- Characteristics of standard applications software and application areas
- Spreadsheet concepts
- Relational database concepts
- Applications software used for presentation and communication of data
- The role and impact of ICT – legal, moral and social issues.

### **Unit 2 Structured ICT Tasks (Coursework)**

- Design
- Software Development
- Testing
- Documentation

### **A2: Unit 3 ICT Systems, Applications and Implications**

- The systems cycle
- Designing computer-based information systems
- Networks and communications
- Applications of ICT
- Implementing computer-based information systems
- Implications of ICT

## **Unit 4 ICT Project (Coursework)**

- Definition, investigation and analysis
- Design
- Software development, testing and installation
- Documentation
- Evaluation

### **Assessment:**

The assessment of this course at both AS and A2 level is by examination and coursework. A major piece of coursework will be submitted in both years of the course and will require extensive independent study. Examinations on the remainder of the course will take place during the summer terms and will be sat within the Sixth Form Centre but assessed externally.

### **Entry qualifications**

Students wishing to take this course will not necessarily be expected to have completed a GCSE in ICT. However they will be expected to have a range of GCSEs, including Mathematics, and some will be at B grade. There is also the need for students to recognise the level of coursework submitted as part of this course and to clearly demonstrate their ability to cope with the demands, timekeeping and independent study required to achieve this.

### **Career Prospects**

ICT; software; hardware; internet and many other technologies are key to the life we live now. Any student showing a real aptitude for ICT is immediately employable. ICT A level is also a useful, though not essential prerequisite for college and university courses both in ICT and in other subject areas.