

FAQs about ICT and Computer Science

Will GCSE Computer Science replace GCSE ICT?

ICT and Computer Science are two distinct subjects, with different aims and objectives. The new GCSE in Computer Science is an addition to our portfolio of Key Stage 4 qualifications, not a replacement for GCSE ICT.

We are confident that young people find our GCSE ICT, with its focus on personal digital devices and internet-based services, both interesting and relevant.

My students have started GCSE ICT. Can they swap to GCSE Computer Science?

Given that ICT and Computer Science are two discrete subjects, it would not be in the learners' best interest to swap from one to the other half way through the course.

However, from September 2013, you can offer both qualifications to students: GCSE ICT and GCSE Computer Science have different national classification codes (2650 and 2610 respectively) which means they do not discount each other, and both GCSEs can count towards headline measures.

Do I need to have a degree in computing to teach GCSE Computer Science?

Teachers of Computer Science need specialist knowledge and skills and must be able to teach programming. A number of organisations, including the Computing at School group (CAS) and Vital, already run CPD courses for teachers who need to refresh their knowledge and / or update their skills.

There are also some fantastic free teaching resources available and an active support network instigated by CAS:

<http://www.computingschool.org.uk/>

Will Edexcel be developing A levels in IT and Computer Science?

We haven't made any decisions yet but we are exploring this possibility with schools, universities and employers at present.