

10 January 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

GCSE Computer Science Qualification

I am writing to provide you with an update regarding changes to the GCSE Computer Science qualification which has recently been in the national press. The GCSE qualification consists of an 80% examined unit and a 20% non-examined assessment (NEA), this is a practical task which is to be completed in controlled conditions in school. Our students have been completing the NEA component of the course over the last term.

In November 2017, Ofqual, (the body tasked with maintaining standards in all qualifications), announced an investigation into the implementation of the NEA across all schools nationally. This was because of concerns they had about components of the course being leaked online into the public domain.

The results of their investigation were published on **8 January 2018**. Ofqual have announced that the NEA component of the qualification will no longer count towards a student's final GCSE grade. Please follow the link below for more information:

<http://edu11.sprintsend.co.uk/b1/display.php?M=1025934&C=6697051bf02f3d41f47a3faba9460be9&S=124&L=63&N=49>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/revised-arrangements-for-gcse-computer-science>

However, we, and Ofqual, still believe that the NEA is a valuable tool for equipping students with the necessary skills and knowledge for the final exam; we therefore will be requiring all students to complete any outstanding work for this particular module.

The GCSE qualification nationally, will now be assessed via two external examinations at the end of Year 11. We would therefore value your support in encouraging students to attend all scheduled after-school revision sessions which will specifically focus on developing student's examination techniques.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Mrs M Watson
CTL for Computing and Business