COMPUTING

POINT OF CONTACT
Mr S Watson
s.watson@dallamschool.co.uk

TYPE OF QUALIFICATION
A-level

EXAM BOARD
Pearson

SPECIFICATION
http://bit.ly/Pearson-computing

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Preferred: GCSE Computer
Science grade 6
Essential: GCSE Computer
Science grade 5

AIMS OF THE COURSE

BTEC's offer a practical approach, by applying learning to real-life situations. Students have to undertake a number of units for which they present evidence, based on actual work and studies. This allows them to demonstrate their skill and knowledge.

COURSE OUTLINE & ASSESSMENT

The qualification consists of four units and includes three mandatory units and one optional unit.

Mandatory Units:
- Principles of Computer Science
- Fundamentals of Computer systems
- IT systems Security and Encryption

Optional Units; students will do one from the following:
- Human Computer interaction
- Digital Graphics and animation
- Computer Games development
- Website development
- Mobile App Development
- System Analysis and design
- Managing and supporting systems

Assessment:
2 assignments - set and marked by Dallam - Students complete a series of tasks set in a work-related scenario. 2 written exams - set and marked by Edexcel - Students draw on essential information to create written answers to practical questions in exam conditions.

CAREER PROSPECTS

University courses include BSc Computing Science, BA Computer Arts, BSc Computer Games Technology, BSc Computer Graphics, Vision and Games and BA Business. Jobs in the ICT sector include: Computer games developer, Computer games tester, E-learning developer, Forensic Computer analysts, IT Project Manager, Media Researcher, Web Developer.

SUBJECT ENRICHMENT

Something to think about…
Is it possible to create a program that can look at the code of any other program and decide if that other program will ever stop running?

Something to listen to…
The 'Infinite Monkey Cage' (https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00snr0w) has lots of fascinating insights on Tech topics from AI to big data. Available on iTunes.

Something to read...
'Brown Dogs & Barbers: What's Computer Science All About?' A great introduction to lots of Computer Science concepts or try YouTube Computer Science crash course.

Find out more
Skills and qualities
Related careers
Apprenticeships