



## Pre-entry Preparation, Requirements and Recommendations

Welcome to A-Level Computing at Comberton Sixth Form.

### Preparation

Much of Computing is based around problem solving. You can sharpen your problem-solving skills by practising logic problems. There are many available online.

Continue to practise your programming skills. We will be using Python throughout the course. There are many free coding courses online such as:

- [www.codecademy.com](http://www.codecademy.com)
- [www.learnpython.org](http://www.learnpython.org)
- [snakify.org](http://snakify.org)

It is especially important that you go through some Python tutorials if you did not do GCSE computer science.

Also you should sign up for <https://isaacomputerscience.org/>

Here there are a complete set of resources for A level computer science that you can look at.

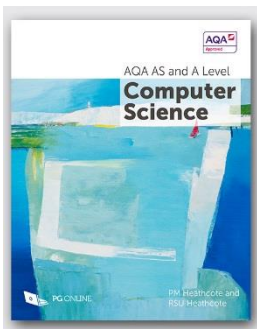
### Requirements

It would be helpful if you have your own laptop/home computer but this is not essential. All programming software that we use is free. If you do have your own computer it would be good to install some or all of the Python IDEs below:

- IDLE (<https://www.python.org/downloads/>)
- Pycharm (<https://www.jetbrains.com/pycharm/>)
- Pyscripter (<https://www.softpedia.com/get/Programming/Coding-languages-Compilers/PyScripter.shtml>)

It is a good idea to experiment with these and decide which your favourite is and go with that one.

### Recommendations



The recommended text books to accompany this course is:

AQA AS and A Level Computer Science by P M Heathcote and R SU Heathcote

It is recommended that students purchase a copy of this book at the beginning of the course.

If you have any queries about the course preparation please contact Dr W. Grey: [wgrey@combertonvc.org](mailto:wgrey@combertonvc.org).