

REF: SBR/CS

Monday 19th October 2026

Re: Computer Science Qualification Change



Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to inform you of an important change to the Key Stage 4 curriculum for students who opted to study GCSE Computer Science.

Following a recent staffing change, we have carefully reviewed our curriculum offer and, regrettably, we are **no longer able to facilitate teaching GCSE Computer Science**. As many of you may be aware, there is currently a national shortage of qualified Computer Science teachers, making recruitment in this subject area particularly challenging. After careful consideration, we have decided to move to the **Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Digital Information Technology**, allowing us to make the very best use of the expertise and strengths of our existing staff whilst continuing to provide students with a high-quality computing and digital technology education.

We appreciate that some parents and carers may have concerns about this change. I would like to reassure you that Digital Information Technology is a well-respected and rigorous qualification that develops many of the same valuable skills sought by further education providers and employers, including problem-solving, project planning, data management, cyber security awareness, and the effective use of digital technologies. This qualification will still provide a pathway to study Computer Science at A' Level and as a Degree level qualification.

The qualification also offers a number of advantages for students. Unlike a purely terminal GCSE qualification that relies heavily on performance in final examinations, the BTEC qualification includes assessed coursework components completed throughout the course. This allows students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills over time and can reduce some of the pressure associated with a single set of end-of-course examinations. The qualification still includes an externally assessed element, ensuring students are challenged and prepared for future study.

We are confident that this qualification will provide students with an engaging and relevant curriculum while offering strong opportunities for success. Most importantly, we believe this change places students in the best possible position to achieve excellent outcomes and to develop the digital skills that are increasingly important in further education and the workplace.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss the change further, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Bloor or Mrs Somel. We will be happy to provide additional information and support.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Bloor'.

Miss S. Bloor
Curriculum Director for Technology

s.bloor@LAN.merciantrust.org.uk

Life to the full in pursuit of what is good, right and true.



Q3 Academy Langley
Moat Road
Oldbury B68 8ED

T 0121 516 7070
E reception@LAN.merciantrust.org.uk
q3langley.org.uk



Chief Executive: Mr Daniel Parkes BA (Hons), MA | Headteacher: Mr Peter Lee BA (Hons), M.Ed, PGCE, NPQH, NPQEL