A Level Computer Science

A transition guide for Year 11 students

OCR

Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Computer Science Year 11- 12 Transition Work

There has never been a more interesting time to study Computer Science. As you have most likely experienced, the lockdown has rapidly changed the way we use technology. It also presents you with a wealth of opportunities to prepare for September! What you can do to get a head start:

- At the following site you will find a 5 minute video covering every topic in the A-level (we are doing OCR A-level): https://student.craigndave.org/. Watch some, get a feel for what is in the course.

- Keep your programming skills going. Challenge yourself to make some programs this summer. Some ideas are here: https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/260930-coding-challenges-booklet.pdf

- If you did not use Python as your main language at GCSE, it is important you spend some time getting familiar with the language by working through the tutorials at: http://pythonschool.net/category/basics.html. All the tutorials 1-26 need to be covered to be confident and prepared for September. Please note Python can be downloaded from: https://www.python.org/getit/.

- If Python was your main language at GCSE why not branch out now and learn a new language? The basic principles are the same, it's just about getting used to different syntax. I am always impressed by students who do this. Lots of helpful tutorials are available here: https://www.homeandlearn.co.uk/. VisualBasic.Net is one language tutorials are available for on the site. This is the main second language (alongside Python) we will look at in class.

Ultimately, it is always the student who is independent, enjoys experimenting and persevering when programming who does well on a computer science course.

Enjoy the rest of your summer break. I look forward to meeting you in September.