What do I need to get on the course?

A good pass in GCSE Maths (Grade B) is preferred otherwise you may find elements of this course difficult. A pass at GCSE ICT is also useful but not essential.

What facilities are available ?

We have a well-equipped set of classrooms plus a large computer drop in area, which you can use in your non-contact sessions. Altogether Aquinas College has over 300 Computers. You would expect not to have to share a computer in a practical lesson. All computers have the latest versions of Microsoft Office software, full internet and email access and Microsoft Visual Studio.

The computing department provides you with notes and textbooks.

Regular drop-in sessions are available should you need them.

Where can I find out more ?

For further information please contact:
Mr S.W. Lucas
Aquinas College
Nangreave Road
Stockport
SK2 6TH

tel: 0161 483 3237 (ext 153)
email: slustaff@aquinas.ac.uk
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Computing

aquinas COLLEGE

Computing

Information

Computing at Aquinas

The Computing courses available in this department are:

Computing AS level (AQA)

Computing A2 level (AQA)

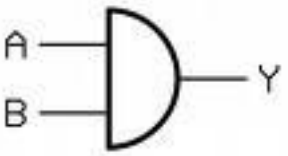
What's it all about ?

Computing aims to teach you the skills to develop effective computer systems correctly, including development of a system in a high-level programming language. The emphasis of this course is on 'computational thinking' and problem solving. These are skills that have a wider application than the field of computing alone.

Why should I do it ?

Yes, if you like to know more about how computers work, how proper systems are developed, how to write computer programs and use applications to an advanced standard. You should like dealing with problems. This course would complement Maths and Physics courses. but would fit well along most other A-levels

In terms of careers the prospects are also good. Rewards and opportunities are always going to be available to you in the IT and Computing industry. While you do not need this qualification in order to do Computing related courses at University it would help make the transition to Computer and Engineering based courses easier.



What's the difference between Computing and ICT ?

The two courses have a different focus. In Computing, you will have to write and understand computer programs and the syllabus is more technical including topics such as machine architecture, network operation and logic theory. In ICT you will be required to use applications packages and the syllabus takes a more business orientated approach. This includes looking at how ICT gives companies a competitive advantage and management issues, such as security and strategy.

What would I have to do?

In the AS course, which would be taken in the first year you, would have to complete two theory units, plus a board set piece of coursework which is also assessed by examination. The units are weighted as follows:

COMP 1 - 60% (30% of A2)
(2.5 hour computer based exam)

COMP 2 - 40% (20% of A2)
(1 hour written exam)

In the A2 course you will study one more theory unit and complete a major project, which involves you analysing a problem then designing and building a computer based software solution. This will give you an opportunity to apply many of the ideas you have learned.

The units are weighted as follows:

COMP 3 - 60% (30% of A2)
(2.5 hour written exam)

COMP 4 - 40% (20% of A2)
(coursework)