Information for Parents

1. Overview

The influence of digital technology in our lives continues to accelerate. Current and emerging technologies transform the way we communicate, how we work and the way we learn. As a result, employers will value the knowledge, understanding and skills that GCE Digital Technology develops.

AS Digital Technology is designed for students who are interested in current and emerging technologies, the impact they have and how to utilise them effectively. The qualification builds upon aspects of both computer science and information technology (IT). The subject explores how technology can be used to create, store, process, analyse and present information in a digital context.

The benefits to students of studying A Level Digital Technology are:

- Involves study of modern technology-based systems;
- Develops advanced skills in a range of development environments;
- Provides opportunities for professional IT career paths.

2. Syllabus

AS students undertake two units. AS unit 1 examines the stages within the system development process and the key deliverables produced by each stage. Students will learn about the range of approaches that can be utilised when developing systems. Within AS unit 2, students will study a number of the fundamentals of digital technology such as data representation, computer architecture, software and the user interface.

There is **no coursework** undertaken until students reach A2 level in Year 14. Students continuing to A2 will also explore a number of areas related to information systems, including computer networks, databases, artificial intelligence and expert systems. They also consider a number of additional applications of digital technology such as data mining and cloud computing.

The full GCE Digital Technology syllabus can be found on Fronter or CCEA's website (see ccea.org.uk/digital_technology).

3. Assessment Weighting

Unit	Teacher	Assessment	Weighting
AS Unit 1 Approaches to System Development	**Miss J Rollins**	1 hour 30 min External Written Examination	50% of AS (20% of A level)
AS Unit 2 Fundamentals of Digital Technology	**Mrs N Ward**	1 hour 30 min External Written Examination	50% of AS (20% of A level)

4. Content

AS Unit 1 – Miss J Rollins	AS Unit 2 – Mrs Ward
1 Reasons for System Development	1 Data Representation
2 Analysis	2 Data & Information
3 Design Development & Test	3(i) Hardware & Software: Architecture
4 Implementation	3(ii) Hardware & Software: User Interface
5 Alternative Development Approaches	3(iii) Hardware & Software: Data Compression
6 Software Projects	3(iv) Hardware & Software: Systems Software
7 Security Issues	3(v) Hardware & Software: Application Software
8 Programming	3(vi) Hardware & Software: Processing Systems
	4(i) Websites & Multimedia: Applications
	4(ii) Websites & Multimedia: Development

5. Key Dates

AS Digital Technology exams:

CCEA GCE Timetable 2025: https://ccea.org.uk/post-16/gce/timetables

- AS Unit 1 (SDT11) – Friday 16th May 2025 PM
- AS Unit 2 (SDT21) – Tuesday 27th May 2025 AM

6. Support

- Google Sites VLE: pupil notes, learning activities and online notes
- Specimen papers with mark schemes
- Key Fact Files– see ccea.org.uk/digital_technology
- Email – nward512@c2ken.net