WJEC Computer Science Newsletter

April 2025

Welcome to the April edition of the Computer Science Newsletter. Hopefully 2025 has been productive and enjoyable, with a restful Easter Holiday! This edition contains several important updates and resources to share with you. Please read on for key information and opportunities.

Key Dates

Below are some key dates for your diaries:

- **NEA Data Input Screens available:**
  - **GCSE**: 10th March 2025
  - **GCE**: 1st April 2025
- **NEA Submission of samples deadline:**
  - **GCSE**: 5th May 2025
  - **GCE**: 15th May 2025
  - **Note:** the NEA submission deadline is the final date in which all work must be uploaded. Marks for candidates should be entered at least 3 weeks prior to this date.
- **Examination Dates:**

Brand & Subject	Unit/Component	Date	AM/PM
GCSE			
WJEC Computer Science	Unit 1	12/05/2025	PM
WJEC Computer Science	Unit 2 (on-screen)	20/05/2025	PM
GCE			
WJEC Computer Science (AS)	Unit 1	13/05/2025	PM
WJEC Computer Science (AS)	Unit 2 (on-screen)	19/05/2025	PM
WJEC Computer Science (A2)	Unit 3	11/06/2025	AM
WJEC Computer Science (A2)	Unit 4	18/06/2025	AM

Professional Learning

If you missed our online "Feedback on Summer Assessments" or our Face-to-Face "Assessment and Classroom Practice" CPD events, the presentations and content are available via Portal LINK.

For centres in Wales, following the online "Specification briefing" in December 2024, we have also completed the CPD events to assist with your transition from the current specification to the new exciting specification. We hope that these have been informative and allowed you to understand the key requirement for the new specification.

Changes to be aware of for the coming year:

It is important to note that the submission of NEA work will now be through IAMIS and not Surpass – please follow the guide HERE to ensure that you are confident with the process, procedures and documentation required.

Computer Science

As we continue to move forward with the year, the focus will be on learners' revision for the upcoming examinations, please ensure that you share the resources that have been created on the resources webpage to allow learners to perform to their best:

- WJEC GCSE Resources
- WJEC GCE Resources
- EDUQAS GCSE Resources
- EDUQAS GCE Resources

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Curriculum for Wales Updates

Computer Science:

The new Computer Science GCSE specification has been published LINK, this contains many familiar topics and content, with some new additions, and some topic areas removed, an overview of the GCSE Computer Science Qualification can be found HERE, with a complementary and interactive overview also found HERE.

For comprehensive information, please visit the Computer Science 2025 Subject Page HERE.

The new specification has been designed for Wales and will be taught from 2025 and presents exciting opportunities for all educators to engage students with the dynamic world of computer science. The specification emphasises a variety of learning experiences that move beyond merely memorisation and encourages a deep understanding of computational concepts.

The specification's emphasis on real-world application, diverse learning experiences and inclusive teaching practices provides a dynamic and engaging learning environment for students. This approach equips them with not only the technical skills, but also the critical thinking and problem-solving abilities necessary to thrive in a world increasingly shaped by technology.

The focus on practical uses of computer science and promoting the application of theoretical knowledge to real-life scenarios, students will be challenged to think about and solve problems using algorithms, write and test code, and analyse the impact of technology on individuals and society.

Using unplugged learning activities to bring computational concepts to life activities – which can include hands-on exercises, discussions, and problem-solving tasks, that don't rely on computers – can help students grasp abstract concepts and develop their computational thinking skills.

The specification encourages teachers to integrate various learning experiences into their teaching, such as project-based learning, collaborative activities, and the exploration of real-world data sets. This approach should help students make connections between different areas of computing and develop a deeper understanding of the subject.

With the freedom to use the pre-released briefs and undertaking a variety of practical programming tasks leading up to the on-screen examination, teachers can gain a holistic view of student progress and provide tailored feedback, throughout the course.

The new specification also encourages teachers to use diverse teaching approaches to cater to different learning styles and foster greater independence in students. These approaches could include:

- Semantic Waves: This pedagogical approach helps explain complex, abstract computing concepts by connecting them to concrete examples and gradually introducing technical language.
- PRIMM Approach: This framework, which stands for "Predict, Run, Investigate, Modify, and Make", can structure programming lessons in a way that encourages discussion, reading code before writing, and the use of starter programs.
- Culturally Relevant Pedagogy: This approach emphasises the importance of incorporating and valuing learners' diverse knowledge, ways of learning, and cultural heritage. It encourages the use of personally meaningful projects, and the exploration of ethical issues related to technology.
- Universal Design for Learning: This framework helps teachers anticipate barriers to learning and plan activities that cater to a wide range of learner needs and preferences.

Made for Wales Resources:

A textbook has been produced by CompSci_Cymru, and they have kindly shared this for free via TES HERE. This resource is an addition to the educational materials available for computer science students and educators.

All blended learning and knowledge organisers will be available from the 25th of June 2025. These resources are fully adaptable and can be accessed using a Hwb login. This ensures that educators can tailor the materials to suit their specific teaching needs and student requirements.

The Computer Science - Educational Resources - WJEC section will provide comprehensive support for students preparing for their examinations. The examination walk-throughs will be available during the Summer Term, offering detailed guidance on how to approach and succeed in their assessments.

Additionally, the "Prepare to Assess" live online events will be held during the Autumn Term. These events are designed to help students and educators get ready for the upcoming assessments, providing valuable insights and strategies for effective preparation.

Examining Opportunities

We are looking for experienced teachers to join our examining team. If you are interested, please review the information regarding the benefits, training and support you will receive and the application process found HERE. To apply follow the direct link HERE.

Contact Us

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at cs@wjec.co.uk.

Regards,

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