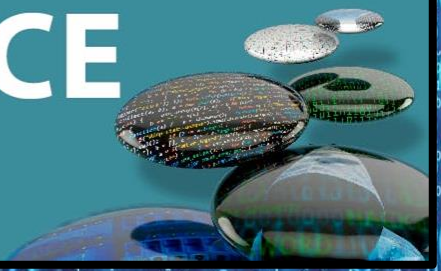
Alcester Academy

ICT & Computing

iMedia

COMPUTER SCIENCE



At the start of year 9 pupils can choose to take IT as an option. We offer two pathways: Cambridge National in Creative iMedia, and GCSE Computer Science.

Key Stage 4 (Years 9-11)

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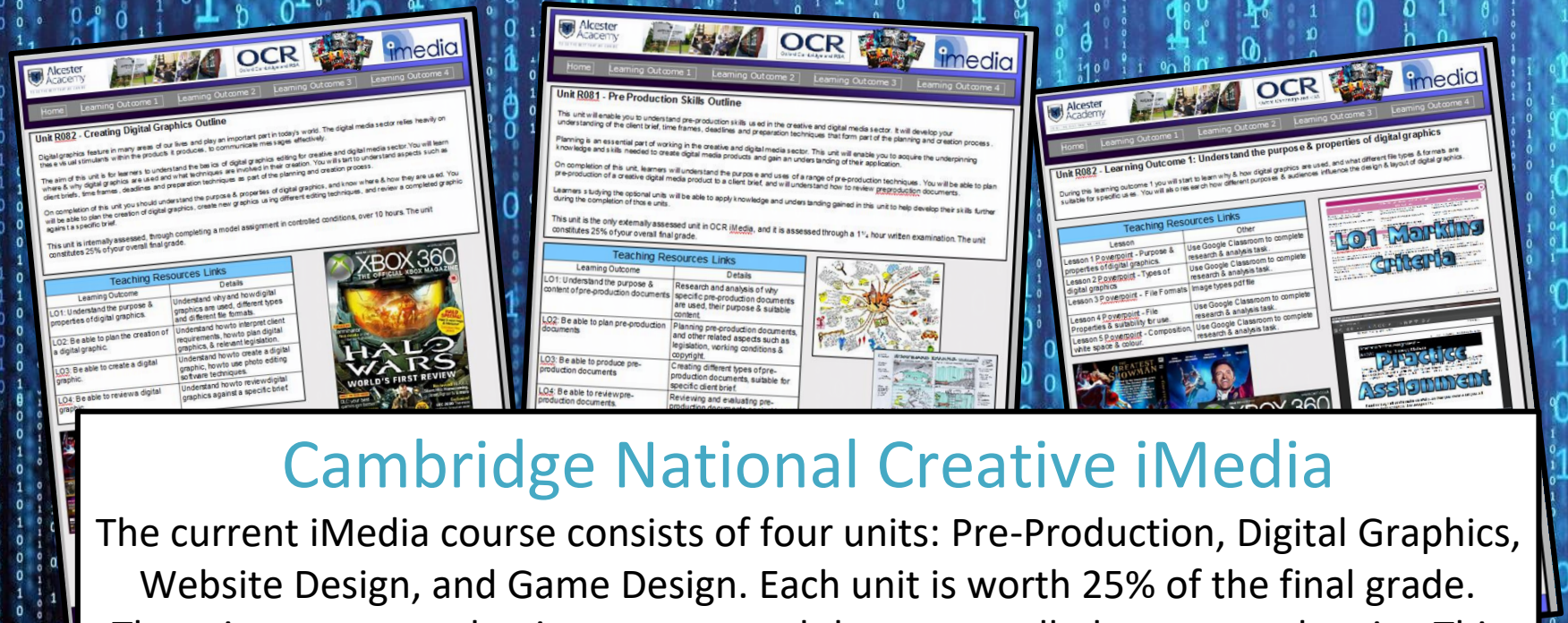

Cambridge National Creative iMedia

The current iMedia course consists of four units: Pre-Production, Digital Graphics, Website Design, and Game Design. Each unit is worth 25% of the final grade. There is one external written exam, and three controlled coursework units. This course is more suited to pupils who prefer to use ICT in a creative manner, combining it with graphical/website/game design.

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OCR iMedia - Key Points

- The current iMedia course is a ‘Cambridge National’ - a ‘Technical Award’ - an alternative to the traditional GCSE (similar in some ways to BTEC, but different requirements).
- The current specification for this course is due to finish in 2023, which means if you are considering this as an option now you will be starting the new version of this course.
- The government & exam boards haven’t yet released the final details of these courses, however it is likely the exam content will increase to at least 40% and be assessed at the end of the course in year 11.
- It is likely there will still be a large coursework element to the new course, possibly two units of work, contributing 30% each towards your final grade.
- Although not a traditional academic GCSE, there is still a large amount of written evidence to complete in each coursework unit.

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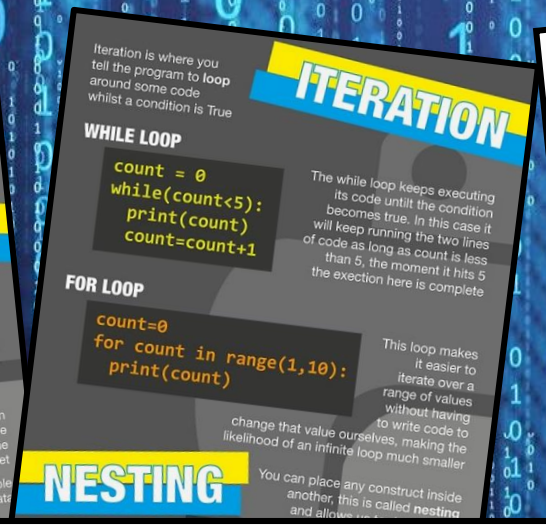

GCSE (9-1) Computer Science

The GCSE Computer Science course is suitable for pupils who want to explore how computers work and how they are used. It is a more technical course, consisting of a two exams, and a programming project. This course is 100% exam based.

Key Stage 4 (Years 9-11)

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OCR Computer Science GCSE - Key Points

- Academic & technical content, suitable for pupils in top Maths set. You will need to have demonstrated an interest in developing your coding skills during projects in year 8 IT lessons.
- Due to the challenging & academic nature of this course, it is not an 'open choice' for all pupils.
- Two main units of work in the course: Unit 1 - Computing Systems, and Unit 2 - Computational thinking, algorithms & programming.
- Each unit is assessed through an exam (2 exams worth 50% each at the end of year 11).
- You will also complete programming projects during the course, but these do not count towards the final grade. Your programming skills & knowledge is assessed during the Unit 2 Computational thinking exam.