GCSE (WJEC) Computing Catch-Up Statement 2020-2021

Year 10 – no group:

Year 11: The students in Year 11 have completed some elements of Unit 1 – Understanding Computer Science, and Unit 2 - Computational Thinking and Programming of the 2-year course, but this has been difficult to quantify in some areas. Therefore, moving forward, all elements of both units of the course are going to be taught in lessons. In some cases, this will be a quick review of content, whereas other elements will be looked at and studied for the first time. In any case, the full course will be delivered ensuring all students have the opportunity to be successful in the May/June 2021 examinations.

The Unit 3 element of the course – Software Development, has had changes made to its production and assessment. This component requires learners to produce a programmed solution to a problem in an extended piece of work over 20 timetabled hours. The programming project does not form part of the final mark or the overall grade for the qualification, though the specification currently requires a sample of candidates' programming projects to be submitted to WJEC for checking. Following the usual approach, the task for the summer 2021 examination series will be published by WJEC on the secure website in September 2020. However, in the context of the current lock-down, the following adaptations will apply for summer 2021:

• the 20 timetabled hours can include time learners spend working on the project at home

• the requirement for the work to be undertaken under the direct supervision of teachers will be removed

• the teacher will not be required to sign a declaration that she/he is satisfied that the programming project submitted is that of the candidate concerned

• the Head of Centre will not be required to sign and submit the programming project declaration to WJEC

• WJEC will not request samples of candidates' work for checking.

As a result of these changes, The Head of Department still feels that this element of study is important, and students should still complete it as it is integral part of the course and experience. A catch-up session will therefore take place once a week, after school starting after October ½ term, specifically for this element of the course.