ICT AND COMPUTING

A highly innovative qualifications programme

At OCR, we're the UK's leading awarding body for computer science and IT and the only awarding body to offer Entry Level, GCSE and A Level qualifications in Computing. Our qualifications are designed to give your students the opportunity to develop highly sought-after knowledge and skills, whether they're for further study, the workplace or everyday life.

We talked to a number of teaching professionals involved with Computing and ICT about the realities of offering OCR qualifications.

GCSE COMPUTING - A PIONEERING QUALIFICATION

Our GCSE Computing gives students a real, in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. It offers them an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes', including computer programming, which many students find absorbing.

Richard Wells is Head of Computing & ICT at Churchdown School Academy in Gloucestershire. We asked him what he thought, taking into account feedback he'd received, were the best/most beneficial aspects of the OCR Computing courses they offer (Entry Level and GCSE Computing)?

He said: *"OCR provides current and up to date qualifications that enable pupils to be both creative and imaginative. We are able to deliver the courses in a personalised way that pupils seem to enjoy."*

Julie Craddock is a Sector Manager, Computing and ICT at Peterborough Regional College. She is responsible for full time Cambridge National and Technical in ICT and also IT Apprentices (PROCOM and ITQ). The Peterborough Regional College has moved all its level 1 and 2 provision in this field to OCR. We asked Julie how the OCR ICT courses they offer help improve students' knowledge and skills. She told us: *"Local companies have endorsed the National and Technical to recognise the skills they need to fill vacancies."*

Luke Milner is a Teaching & Learning Coordinator and ICT AST at The Brunts Academy in Mansfield. We asked him if he had examples of where learners have been particularly successful in developing skills, knowledge and understanding through our GCSE Computing.

He mentioned: *"Independent thinking, self-assessment, literacy, being able to use sound recordings and witness statements as evidence really supports and benefits students with weak literacy skills and problem solving."*

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We also talked to **Thomas Dawson**, an I/C Computing teacher at Walkden High School, Worsley in Manchester, where they offer our GCSE Computing, and we asked him how the course is helping to improve students' knowledge and skills. He commented: *"The solitary nature of programming does develop robust independent learning. It also establishes the reward of completing Challenging Tasks. Pupils are also learning to develop logical sequencing. The R&C offers the same opportunities to develop skills and knowledge as other traditional subjects like Science.*

"The programming elements have provided an unexpected bonus for some SEN pupils. In particular a pupil suffering from Dyslexia is doing really well, because the discipline of coding and the instant syntax feedback is providing him with a structure, and allows him to make progress."

Simon Smith is a teacher of I/C ICT/Computing at The Kimberley School in Nottingham. At the time of our discussion with Simon, the school hadn't yet delivered our GCSE Computing course but we asked him about the decision to offer it.

"We were looking for a course that would challenge and motivate our students. The natural choice was OCR as we have worked very closely with them on our other courses. We are looking for students to then go on to A Level Computing after taking this course. We think that they will enjoy this course. Planning the course has been challenging but rewarding as we can see lots of new opportunities to develop learners skills and different teaching methods to get the students engaged."

CAREFULLY PLANNED SUPPORT

We design all our courses with teachers in mind. When we asked our interviewees if they would recommend working with OCR to others, they all responded that they would. Here's a selection of their comments about why they enjoy working with us.

* *"The visiting moderator process is essential. The ability to iron out problems in course delivery, and to meet experts in the Subject Area."* Richard Wells

* *"The helpful nature of everybody at OCR and the promptness of dealing with enquiries. The website has many resources including the community which has moderators giving advice as well, you do feel no questions is too stupid."* Simon Smith

* *"Highly customer focussed and approachable."* Julie Craddock

To read more about ICT and Computing qualifications, please go to http://www.ocr.org.uk/computing or contact our Customer Contact Centre on 01223 553998.