ST. MARY MAGDALENE
C OF E SIXTH FORM
PENINSULA CAMPUS
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Computing
BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate

Exam Board: **Pearson**

What is Computing?

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Computing is equivalent in size to one A Level. It is aimed at post 16 learners who are interested in an initial introduction to study of the ICT sector at Level 3 alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, but not necessarily in computing. It allows learners to gain fundamental knowledge and skills in computing from which they can progress to broader or more specialist study at Level 3. The qualification can be taken in combination with A Levels or other vocational qualifications to meet progression requirements.

What will I study?

There are three mandatory units, one internal and two external.

Mandatory Units:

Unit 1: Principles of Computer Science
Unit 2: Fundamentals of Computer Systems
Unit 7: IT Systems Security and Encryption.

Optional Unit:

Learners must also complete one optional unit.

What entry requirements will I need?

In addition to the general entry requirements it is preferable to have a grade 5 in GCSE IT or BTEC Level 2 IT at grade merit.

How will I be taught?

Students will be taught through a variety of teaching techniques with a combination of practical and theoretical lessons.

How will I be assessed?

The external units will be assessed through written examinations set and marked by Pearson. During these supervised assessment periods, learners will be assessed on their ability to apply their computational-thinking skills to solve problems, how computer systems work and the way components of a system work together and data used. Internal assessments will be assessed through controlled assessments in class.

What career opportunities does this open up?

The BCS, the Chartered Institute for IT, have confirmed that this qualification supports progression towards a professional career in IT, such as a Registered IT Technician and much more.