

What is the difference between Computer Science and ICT?

The following table summarises the content of each course. It is designed to give you a very brief overview of the difference between the two courses. The purpose is to help you decide if these courses interest you and if you have the required skills to study either course.

It is not advised for a student to take both of the subjects below unless they have a very strong interest in them or they require them for their on-going academic career.

Computer Science

- A solid foundation of computing theory will be taught including binary number systems, network technologies (including how the internet works).
- You will learn how to construct logic gates and truth tables.
- You will be introduced to how Operating Systems and processors work.
- More science orientated than ICT, you will need to think like a Computer Scientist to break down problems into smaller sizes to solve them practically.
- You will learn how to create algorithms using flowcharts and programming code.
- Strong mathematical and problem solving skills will be required to be successful on this course.
- Useful if you are interested in a future in a scientific based job like programming, hardware, games development etc.

ICT

- ICT focuses more on the practical uses of the Microsoft Office suite. (MS Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Access and Web Design)
- 60% practical and 40% theory.
- You will learn to become a power user of Word processors, Spreadsheets, Databases, Web Design and Presentations.
- Less in depth theory than CS, that will cover Hardware/Software, the effects of using ICT, the systems life cycle and communication.
- Good English skills required in order to create accurate/effective websites and enter data effectively into databases.
- Fairly strong maths skilled needed to produce formulas in Excel.
- Useful if you are interested in a future in an office based job.