



## Looe Community Academy

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Headteacher: Mrs H R Jenkins BSc

Reference: SPG/MLA

17 October 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

### GCSE Computer Science

We would like to inform you of the recent change to the GCSE Computer Science Curriculum. This year is the first year where students will be assessed using the new 1-9 Grading and are examined using the new specification.

Part of the new specification requires students to sit a non-exam assessment (NEA). The NEA is a 20 hour programming assessment which will be sat during lesson times; it counts for 20% of the final GCSE grade. The NEA must be carried out under prescribed conditions which are set by the exam board. This includes:

- Restricting the level of support given to learners by the teacher;
- No internet access;
- Access to a limited supply of resources for support which have been locked down since September;
- Learners will not be able to take any NEA tasks home with them, nor bring any notes or tasks into the classroom with them during the NEA;
- Learners will not have access to their NEA files outside of the NEA times.

In addition, to allow every learner to succeed, they will be expected to work in silence during the NEA. Learners will be invited to leave the classroom if they are unable to work under these conditions.

The Year 11 students sitting the 2 Year GCSE will commence the NEA after October half term, which will run for a minimum of 10 weeks, with 2 lessons a week.

The Year 10 and 11 students sitting the 1 year GCSE will commence the NEA after Christmas, which will run for a minimum of 4 weeks, with 5 lessons a week.

We are providing the opportunity, and strongly recommend for those GCSE students to attend additional programming support sessions afterschool on a Tuesday and Thursday until 4:15pm.

This will give students the opportunity to become more confident in their programming ability, learn how to present their work to a high standard and develop the independent skills needed to search for support if necessary, all of which are required to meet the high standards set by the exam board.



These support sessions will run until the NEAs have been completed in the New Year.

After the NEAs have been completed, lessons will resume as normal with a focus on the knowledge and understanding needed to succeed in the two 1hr 30min written exam papers in May 2018.

I am sure you will support the Academy and our learners in encouraging your child to attend the after school sessions.

Yours faithfully

**Mike Langdon**  
**Leader of Learning for Technology**

