15 March 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

**GCSE Computer Science Revision Support**

I would like to inform you of what the Computer Science Department has put in place to ensure that your son/daughter has the best opportunity to achieve their potential in the GCSE exam. I would be very grateful if you could discuss the listed points below with your son/daughter so that you can support and direct their revision at home.

1. Students are aware of the after School revision and booster sessions which are taking place on a Tuesday Week B 3:15-4:15 in Tk4. Encourage your son/daughter to attend where possible.

2. Students should use the GCSE text books and revision guides as a starting point as the content provides a foundation to base their revision on. **Revision books are available from the Computer Science Department at a discounted price of £5 with the (please send in cash or a cheque made payable to Rickmansworth School should you wish to purchase one).** Students should complete all exam questions, for which answers are available at the back of the book.

3. Students should plug any gaps in knowledge by using GCSE Pod https://www.gcsepod.com/ Students should use the Pods to write key notes.

4. In class students will be given past Computing exam questions to help them prepare for their exam.

5. Students should make revision flashcards, mind maps or use their yellow revision exercise book to summarise each of the topics studied. Topic titles to guide the flashcards, mind maps or revision sub titles can be found on the students’ Subject Learner Checklists (specification trackers) or by following the revision guide subheadings.

6. There are currently revision sessions scheduled during the Easter Break and Saturday 12 May to help students prepare for their examination. Both Computer Science exams are scheduled for the 14 and 17 May respectively.

7. Students are also finishing off their NEA project Programming Project during lesson time at the time of writing they have around 9 hours left of the exam board allocated allowance. Students should be using this time to develop problem solving and algorithm writing skills which will be tested in May.
We have every confidence in your son/daughter’s ability, however, some students stated they did not revise thoroughly enough for their trial exams. As we are fast approaching the exams, it will become more and more essential that students work more independently and your support in guiding your son/daughter towards this support is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Pleasants
Head of Computer Science