Computer Science enrichment for all students

The key focus for KS4 students to enhance their knowledge and skills in IT, Digital Literacy and Computer Science is to complete the Bronze Award for IDEA (Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award). This is extremely popular as a requirement at colleges, universities and some large businesses, so having it already will save you work in the future. Follow the instructions in our introduction video if you are not already signed up: Introduction to IDEA

Computer Science enrichment for students of GCSE Computer Science

Before Year 11, focus on analysis of your strengths and weaknesses, using Seneca Learning, GCSE Pod and CSUK:Revise. From Year 11, using the Quiz elements of Smart Revise, then from Term 3 focusing on strengthening your literacy in exam-answers through Terms/Advanced questions is vital.

Beyond enhancing your GCSE performance, widening your view of Computer Science can be done through a huge number of real and online activities:

- National Museum of Computing: this is physically sited at Bletchley Park, just south of Milton Keynes in Buckinghamshire – approximately the same distance from London as Ashford, but NW. Their website, however, provides galleries and information to allow you to "virtual tour" the museum. Fascinating history of technology.
- Codecademy: a very wide range of language-learning tools. You can learn to program in lots of different languages and on different systems.
- STEM Learning: offer a large number of Computing courses and activities, and access to face-to-face events around the UK

Further exploring and reading:

Podcasts: Recommend keeping up with technology. Lots of great podcasts available. From a UK perspective, recommend *The Wired Podcast, Science Weekly* from the Guardian*.* For a North American perspective, *The WAN Show* and *VergeCast* are informative and entertaining.

Books and magazines: regular publication magazines like *PC Pro* and *ComputerActive* are good for up to date news stories and analysis. The tech articles in the *Independent, Telegraph, Guardian*, *Times* are good. History of technology books are plentiful, such as *The Soul of a new Machine* and there are books that focus on different ways of looking at technology and algorithms, such as *Computational Fairy Tales*.