THE STONEHENGE SCHOOL
CAD/DPW/dah

ANTROBUS ROAD
AMESBURY
WILTSHIRE SP4 7ND

Maths &
Computing

Tel: 01980 623407
E-mail: admin@stonehenge.wilts.sch.uk
www.stonehenge.wilts.sch.uk

Headteacher
Mr. N. D. Roper B.Sc., NPQH
School Business Manager
Mrs. C. Busby B.A. (Hons), ADSBM

29th November 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

As you may be aware there have been reports in the press regarding the non-exam assessment in the Computer Science GCSE. Concerns have been raised about the leaking of questions and potential answers on a range of websites and forums across the country.

Year 11 students at The Stonehenge School have already completed the 20 hour task, following all of the rigorous guidelines as set out by Ofqual and the exam board.

Ofqual, the exams regulator, is now running a short consultation to ensure that the impact of malpractice is minimal. The results of this will be published in the week beginning 8th January 2018.

It is possible that they will require all Computer Science students to complete the tasks, but that the marks will no longer contribute to the GCSE, with the exams counting for 100% of the grade instead. It is possible that nothing will change.

Even if Ofqual decides on what we think is would be the worst case scenario, namely the NEA not counting in the final grade, the exam board will most likely insist on proof that the NEA has been completed in order to certificate. Therefore the time spent will not have been wasted.   The Ofqual document has lots of detail about why this frustrating decision has been taken here
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/662717/Computer_Science_consultation.pdf

We will, of course, keep you informed of their decision affecting this GCSE.

For more information about what is currently being reported on this issue, please visit:
http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-42138037

Yours faithfully

C A Dean   D P Woods
Deputy Headteacher   Head of IT and Computing

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