

A new dawn? Computation; Curriculum; and Teacher Confidence

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In 2014, the government in England took the bold step of introducing computer science as part of the National Curriculum for England for all pupils (aged 4-16) for all schools. ICT (Information Communication Technology) was relabelled to Computing and the emphasis moved from “how to use” to “how to create”. The premise of the change was encapsulated in the subject purpose as: “A high-quality computing education equips pupils to use computational thinking and creativity to understand and change the world ... The core of computing is computer science, in which pupils are taught the principles of information and computation, how digital systems work, and how to put this knowledge to use through programming”. Four years on we will review the change, consider how the new curriculum is shaping up for the pupils and teachers and share the work of Computing At School in supporting schools deliver the new curriculum and the generic lessons we are learning from the curriculum change.