Topic 1 - What is an algorithm?
Lesson Plan

Activator Slide - Common algorithms (5mins)

- What things do the algorithms have in common?
- What things are different?

Introduction video - What is an algorithm? (7mins)

Watch the video with the class and then ask questions, such as:
- What is an algorithm?
- What algorithms do we use?
- What algorithms do computers use?
- What are the pros/cons of algorithms?

Starter - Draw the picture

Get one pupil to come up to the front of the class and look at a picture (needs to be simple) then then have to give instructions to the rest of the class to copy the image without seeing it. Give them 5 minutes and then compare the images

- How close were the images to each other?
- What problems were there with the instructions?
- What could the pupil have done better?

Activity 1 - Make a cup of tea algorithm (20 mins)

Split into pairs / groups. Get them to write instructions for making a cup of tea.

Show pupils the angry mum slide - what went wrong? Discuss.

Activity 2 - act out making the cup of tea using each group's instructions. Try to find as many funny ways in which to misinterpret vague/ambiguous instructions.

Get the groups to improve their algorithms based on feedback.

Activity 2 - Learning log (15mins)

Pupils should fill in topic one of their learning logs.