



AAQ Computing (Application Development) Pre-Enrolment Activity 2026

Welcome to the Computer Science department at Durham Sixth Form Centre. Please complete this activity before you begin your studies in September and bring the completed task with you during the first week of lessons.

Aim of the activity:

The activity will require you to complete some self-study on a topic that matches the AAQ Computing Application Development specification. Throughout the duration of the course, you will be expected to research many topics in the area of computing. Carry out the tasks below; your research will be used in lessons.

Instructions for completing the activity:

Carry out some research about the following elements of programs and applications, and answer the question given at the end.

- **What is a program?**
- **What is an application?**
- **What are the differences between the two?**

Question: Explain what programs and applications are, and the differences between applications and programs, ensuring that you cover the following areas:

- **Their purpose or function**
- **The target audiences for each**
- **How they are installed on a device**
- **Different devices that they run on**
- **The various types of User Interface (UI) that they have**

Important notes about research

- (1) You will find many pages on the Internet telling you about the differences between applications and programs. Ensure you read a wide range of them, as the first one you find may not be detailed enough or may even contain errors!
- (2) You may be tempted to use ChatGPT or another large language model (LLM) to assist with this question. Such things may be useful in helping you with your research, but you should never rely on, or copy, their answers as they are very dependent on the exact question being asked and may not provide you with a full or relevant answer. Again, use a wide range of sources.

Evidence/Work to be brought to your lessons for the first week in September:

Summarise the above onto no more than 4 sides of A4 paper or 4 pages of a Google document. This can include screenshots and diagrams, specific examples and any other information that you feel is relevant. Please bring this to your first Computing lesson.