Subject	Computer Science
Unit	Y10

Key Vocabulary	Definition
Hardware	The physical parts of the computer system that you can see and touch.
Software	The programs that run on a computer.
Main Memory (RAM)	The storage used by the computer for programs and data that are currently being used.
CPU	Central Processing Unit the part of the computer that executes programs.
Registers	Super-fast data storage areas within the CPU.
Bus	A communication channel used by the computer. Examples: Address; Data; and control.
Fetch Decode Execute	The way that a CPU runs programs. Each machine code instruction must be **fetched** from memory, **decoded** to work out what the CPU needs to do and then it can be carried out (**executed**)
Embedded System	A single purpose computer system built into another device such as a car or heating system.
Operating System	The program that manages the computer, providing a platform for applications software to run.
Utility Software	Software that helps to maintain the computer and keep it running efficiently.
Interpreter	A translator that converts high level program code (like python) into machine code to be run one line at a time.
Compiler	A translator that converts the whole of the program code (like Java) into machine code to be run.
Machine Code	The only type of code that a processor can run. Each type of processor has it's own machine code language, which is why we need translators.
Assembly Language	A more human-readable way of writing machine code. It uses short codes of letters to represent instructions.