

Pīkau Name: Computational Thinking - the International Perspective

Video Name: What's Next?

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This Pīkau has given you an overview of the ideas around computational thinking. There will be a whole lot of Pīkau on the progress outcomes looking at this in a lot more detail, but hopefully we've got the rough idea that the key things here are that we have algorithms being applied to data, and to do that we need to write programs.

There is a lot of new ideas in there and it takes some time to get to grips with them, but the other thing I just wanted to point out is that these are skills, and if you spend time on the task then you will get good at it and your students will also get good at it with experience.

Think of it a bit like sports; sports people don't play sports all the time, they often have to do weights or exercises or preparation and talk about things, you might wonder why a netball team isn't just playing netball all the time; well it's because there are skills that you need to develop. If you think about someone who's learning a musical instrument, they might be learning simple pieces to start with, and they have to learn scales and all sorts of skills and music theory and so on, even though the end result will hopefully be a beautiful performance.

As we go through computational thinking there will be a lot of small things that don't seem to be exactly producing what the final product is. There will be things that develop skills and a lot of new concepts along the way, as with any discipline that people get into. It's really worthwhile because in the end you're able to create things that never existed before. You can imagine things and bring them to life, and so it's a new set of skills that enable us in the end to create things for that most important thing, the person who is going to end up using the product that you're creating.