

Why study BTEC Information Technology?

The BTEC National Level 3 Extended Certificate in IT focuses on the development of your practical computing skills alongside gaining a full understanding of the role played by computing in modern organisations. It is aimed at students with an enthusiasm for learning about the role of information systems in modern businesses.

Modern commercial organisations rely on effective information systems to maintain a competitive edge and you will develop skills using the most common applications such as database and web creation software. We expect students to be literate, self-motivated and able to meet deadlines. Unlike previous BTEC courses at this level, this new course has a significant externally examined component and is not entirely portfolio-based.

What new skills will I learn?

Students completing this course will be skilled in the use of the Microsoft packages used for developing relational database systems and will develop a good working knowledge of web creation software which will be useful in business.

This course is suitable for students with a desire to extend their skills using this type of software, but also capable of producing written portfolio-work of a high standard.

There are also units that address all aspects of IT systems and their impact on the work place as well the role of social networking in modern business.

Career routes in IT

This course is ideal for any student who is considering a career in business information systems either via direct employment or continuing their studies at a higher level at university.

Career paths are extensive, with options including: web designer, systems analyst and computer games developer.

ICT graduates can look for employment in the media (broadcast engineer, multimedia broadcaster, sound technician) the military (armed forces technical officer, intelligence officer, satellite technician) or finance (credit analyst, commodity broker, financial risk analyst).

Cutting edge and relevant to today's career market, the BTEC qualification will enable you to shine in a crowded job sector.

Course Outline

Unit 1: Information Technology Systems

Information technology (IT) systems have a significant role in the world around us and play a part in almost everything we do. Learners will study digital devices in IT systems, transmitting data, operating on-line systems, protecting data and information, the impact of IT systems on organisations and moral and ethical issues relating to the use of IT. Assessment is via a 2 hour written external exam.

Unit 2: Creating Systems to Manage Information

In order to produce information to support many business processes as well as our social lives, relational databases are widely used to manage and process data. From the smallest in-house systems to stock control systems for large online retailers, databases are repositories of information that are a significant part of organisational operating requirements. You will develop high level skills creating database systems. Assessment is via a five-hour practical examination in which you will develop a sophisticated database system addressing a given business scenario.

Unit 3: Using Social Media in Business

Social media websites give businesses opportunities to interact with people, for example to promote their business, to encourage people to visit their e-commerce site and buy, to provide customer service. You will explore different social media websites, the ways in which they can be used and the potential pitfalls when using them for business purposes. You will develop a plan to use social media strategies for business purposes to achieve specific aims and objectives. You will then implement the plan, developing and posting content and interacting with others. Assessment is via internal portfolio.

Unit 6: Web Design

In this unit, you will investigate the principles of website design and develop a knowledge of web coding to build a multi-page website. You will plan, design, build and test a website for a given scenario, demonstrating an understanding of how file size and types affect data transfer speeds. Assessment is via internally portfolio.

Lead Teachers: Mr S Oliver and Mr P Gwilliam.

Exam Board: Pearson BTEC

Sixth Form Entry Requirements:

To study **Level 3** academic courses students must have a minimum of at least **five** GCSEs at 9 - 4 grades (or equivalent).

These must include a grade 4 and 5 in English Language and Mathematics (either way round, but higher grade must support subject choices).

Additional requirements:

GCSE grade 5 or above in Mathematics plus at least a Merit in OCR Diploma ICT.

Assessment:

This BTEC course is assessed via external examination (58%) and internally verified coursework portfolios (42%)

Unit 1 has a two-hour written examination.

Unit 2 has a five-hour practical examination spread across a week.

Work will be graded at Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction* level.

Find out more ... visit our website www.bbs.calderdale.sch.uk

Here to help ... speak to the course tutor or your form tutor

Call us on 01422 328928. Email admin@bbs.calderdale.sch.uk

