

6th IT (BTEC Certificate)

Course Level

BTEC Level 3

Awarding Body

Edexcel

Entry Requirements

APS 40

Assessment

Assessment is criterion referenced, based on the achievement of specified learning outcomes. Each unit has specified criteria which are to be used for grading. A summative unit grade can be awarded at pass, merit, distinction or distinction star. The Diploma is equivalent to 2 A Levels.

Course Description

The course is designed to give students the technical knowledge, skills and understanding they need to use computer systems competently and to equip students with some of the skills they will need in the workplace or in further education or training. It will promote teaching and learning through work-related contexts, provide a range of teaching, learning and assessment styles to motivate students to achieve their full potential. The course consists of six mandatory units, plus a selection of four additional optional units to be completed over two years.

The mandatory units are

- Unit 1: Principles of Computer Science
- Unit 3: Planning and Management of Computer Projects
- Unit 5: Building Computer Systems
- Unit 6: IT Systems Security
- Unit 10: Human Computer Interaction
- Unit 24: Software Development

There are a range of optional units. These are related to all aspects of IT e.g. Digital Graphics and Animation, Digital Video, Computer Games Development. Actual optional units to be studied will be chosen according to the needs and abilities of students who choose this course.

| Assignment | Task | Written Exam |
|--|--|---|
| <p>Selected mandatory and all optional units.</p> <p>Programme team creates assignment brief and students carry out set tasks, creating evidence to support a work-related scenario.</p> | <p>Unit 3: Planning and Management of Computing Projects</p> <p>How long: Four 2 hour sessions</p> <p>Creating the task: Four 2 hour sessions. To enable window access to support centre timetabling and computer access.</p> | <p>Unit 1: Principles of Computer Science</p> <p>How long: 3 hours</p> <p>Taking the test: Work to be submitted via an exam booklet</p> |
| | <p>Unit 4: Software Design and Development Project</p> <p>How long: one 4 hour and one 2 hour session.</p> <p>Creating the task: Four 2 hour sessions for programming. To enable window for computer access.</p> | <p>Unit 2: Fundamentals of Computer Science</p> <p>How long: 3 hours</p> <p>Taking the test: Unseen - supervised and taken in exam conditions.</p> |

Special Requirements

Appropriate work experience while not a requirement of the course, would be useful as it enables the learning to be as active, practical and work-related as possible.

Career and Progression Opportunities

The BTEC has been developed in the Information Technology industry and is appropriate for career qualifications in this very wide employment area. It gives students the opportunity to gain a nationally recognised vocational specific qualification to enter employment in the Information Technology industry or to progress to higher education vocational qualifications such as the Edexcel Levels 4 - 7 BTEC Higher National in Information Technology or Computing.