



What to expect

The teaching staff are friendly and enthusiastic. They adopt a variety of teaching methods designed to match a variety of learning styles. This leads to maximise student participation within all lessons. Within each unit of study each student is asked to undergo a learning styles/skills assessment. The aim of this is to allow the department to provide a personalised learning programme. These programmes are designed to equip the student with a wide range of IT skills, regardless of their background and ability, encouraging them to develop their own independent learning skills.

We are extremely fortunate to be able to involve many local, national and international businesses in the delivery and assessment of the course. Students are able to become involved in a number of trips, question visiting speakers and join team building activities. All of these sessions aim to reinforce the material delivered during normal lessons. One annual event involves an educational visit to Disneyland Paris. Whilst having fun the students are given an opportunity to work on an in-depth study of how IT serves an organisation such as Disney Inc.

What sort of work will I be doing?

Your work will consist of producing a 'portfolio' of work. This consists of assignments that demonstrate your knowledge and skills and form the basis for the assessment of your grades. You will encounter a wide variety of approaches, tasks and exercises. Additional (home)work is encouraged to enhance your technology knowledge & understanding such as: watching television; listening to the radio and reading some of the many Computing/IT publications. These activities will help you become more aware of the ever-changing and exciting field of IT.

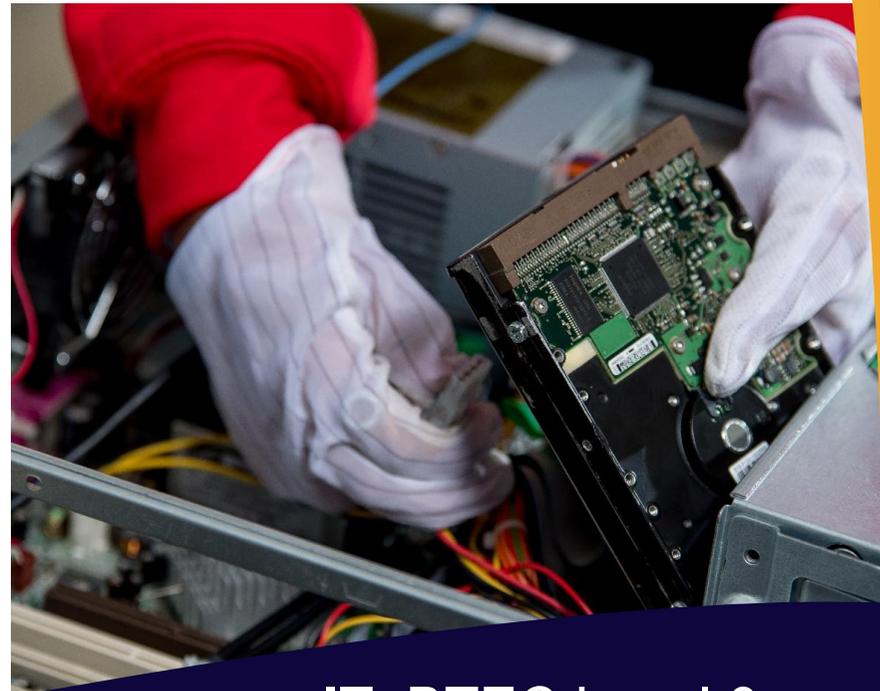
How will I be assessed?

The current mode of assessment is through 100% portfolio assignments (coursework) which are internally assessed and moderated by the Pearson Group (formerly Edexcel). Each submitted unit is assessed and awarded points, which translate into an overall unit grade (Pass, Merit or Distinction). At the end of the course (12 completed units) TWO overall grades of Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction* (equivalent to A* at A level) are available for the Diploma. This course is worth 2 A level equivalents and attracts the same UCAS tariff points for entry into university.

Resources supporting each assignment are provided electronically via Godalming Online. All students' work is electronically submitted, in line with strict deadlines. The teachers provide prompt and target-driven electronic feedback via Godalming Online – leading to a paper-free department.

What skills will I develop during this course?

The BTEC Level 3 National Diploma will provide the opportunity to develop your employability and communication skills and IT, as well as improving your study, presentation and research skills.

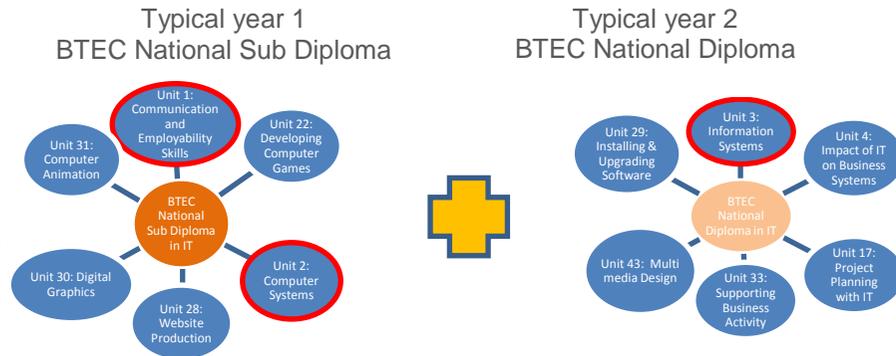


IT BTEC Level 3 National Diploma EDEXCEL

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What is the course about?

This 100% coursework subject consists of 12 units - units 1, 2 and 3 are **compulsory core units** (marked in red below) and provide a basic grounding in IT and the business use of IT. A wide variety of optional 'specialist' units are available to make up the TWELVE required units. From these options FIVE are covered in the first year and a further FOUR individually chosen for the second year.



Optional Unit Titles	
Unit 11 Systems Analysis and Design	Unit 33 Supporting Business Activity
Unit 17 Project Planning with IT	Unit 34 Business Resources
Unit 18 Database Design	Unit 35 Digital Graphics for Interactive Media
Unit 22 Developing Computer Games	Unit 37 2D Animation Production
Unit 23 Human Computer Interaction	Unit 39 Web Animation for Interactive Media
Unit 28 Website Production	Unit 40 Computer Game Design
Unit 29 Installing and Upgrading Software	Unit 42 Spreadsheet Modelling
Unit 30 Digital Graphics	Unit 41 3D Modelling
Unit 31 Computer Animation	Unit 43 Multimedia Design

What are the entry requirements?

A minimum of five GCSE subjects at Grade 4/C or above, including English and Mathematics are recommended for entry onto the course. Although some students might have achieved a GCSE in IT (or Level 2 equivalent), the BTEC course does not assume that an IT qualification has previously been achieved.

What is the department like?

The Department of Digital and Creative Technology (DCT) comprises of two dedicated, fully equipped IT/Computing rooms, a workshop and office within the College main building form the DCT department. These are spacious and extremely well resourced - interactive whiteboard, games and animation technologies, modern personal computers loaded with up-to-date business and creative design packages. The computers are all connected to the College network, which provides access to the Internet, and Virtual Learning Environment (Godalming Online). The facilities of each room are monitored and maintained by a team of College computer technicians. The department boasts its own (ex-student) DCT trainee technician who will be ready to loan/help with a wide variety of equipment such as email-scanners, colour laser printers, DVDRWs, digital cameras, graphics tablets and web cams. Students are provided with their own secure IT storage and email account. We recommend you bring along your own memory device to safeguard your work.

The DCT workshop is available throughout the course but particularly supports one of the core units – Computer Systems. During this unit students maintain and upgrade software and hardware, before finally benchmark assessing the effects of these upgrades.

The course also provides 'on-the-job' training a week of work experience in the first year.

WHAT ARE THE PROGRESSION ROUTES FOR THIS QUALIFICATION?

Demand for IT personnel is increasing; consequently job opportunities for well-qualified individuals are high. An ever-increasing number of degree related courses are now available to extend your understanding and operation of IT. In many cases IT degree course are combined with another subject to take advantage of the specialised industries that exploit the use of IT.

NB. The BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in IT is the equivalent of TWO A levels. It is important to note this course is enrolled as a 2-year course, but does have a part qualification at the end of year 1 (BTEC National Sub Diploma in IT).