

Please note this is a new qualification we are offering from September 2026, but due to the government's constant changes we will not be able to offer to new cohorts in September 2028 and will need to update this information again with V-Levels!

BTEC National Level 3 AAQ in Information Technology (New course from September 2026)

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Curriculum Intent:

As a department, we aim develop knowledgeable, skilled and adaptable digital professionals who can confidently apply technology to solve real-world problems, innovate responsibly and thrive in an increasingly technology-driven society. We aim to deliver a challenging, ambitious and industry-focused curriculum that equips students with the knowledge, technical skills and professional behaviours required for successful progression to higher education, apprenticeships and employment within the digital sector.

Our curriculum reflects current developments within the digital economy and promotes the responsible, safe and ethical use of technology. Our students are encouraged to understand the impact of technology on society, organisations and individuals while developing confidence in the use of industry-standard tools and methodologies.

Our curriculum will enable students to develop a strong foundation in information technology systems, databases, programming, web development, social media, networking and technical support. The curriculum is designed to mirror authentic industry practices, enabling student to apply theoretical concepts to realistic scenarios and solve genuine business problems.

Throughout the programme, students are encouraged to become independent learners who can research, analyse, evaluate and present solutions effectively. They develop transferable skills including communication, teamwork, project management, problem-solving and critical thinking, which are highly valued by universities and employers.

Core Knowledge	Procedural Knowledge
Topics: Unit 1 – Information Technology Systems Unit 2 – Cyber Security and Incident Management Unit 3 – Website Development Unit 4 – Relational Database Development Students will study Units 1 and 4 concurrently in Year 12 and Units 2 and 3 concurrently in Year 13.	Students will: • Plan and manage IT projects. • Conduct research and gather evidence from multiple sources. • Present technical findings to different audiences • Produce professional documentation and technical reports • Test, review and improve digital products • Work independently and manage assignment based projects • Apply problem-solving and analytical techniques to real-world IT scenarios • Apply problem-solving Apply problem-solving and analytical techniques to real-world IT scenarios. By completing the BTEC Level 3 National AAQ in Information Technology, students develop procedural knowledge relating to the design, development, testing, implementation, management, security and evaluation of IT systems, websites and databases, alongside the professional processes used by IT practitioners in industry.
Homework: Out of class learning is essential to remembering factual information, practising application of key concepts, practising examination technique and completion of internally assessed work. The best approach to this is little and often. Students are expected to match the 5 hours of contact time in the classroom with 5 hours of out of class independent study. Each week, at least one of these hours will be directed by the teacher, submitted by a specific deadline and the student will be provided feedback. At different points in the year, more of these hours may be explicitly directed. When not explicitly directed, students will be supported with a choice of independent study tasks, and they are expected to document these on the blue coloured sheet in their file.	

Home learning tasks may include some of the following: creating a revision resource, completing past paper questions, watching a documentary, reading an article, super curricular task, completing a section of their assignment, practising and refining skills and techniques from the lessons.

Assessment:

The BTEC National AAQ Extended Certificate in Information Technology externally assessed examinations can be taken at two possible windows, January and June in each of the two years of the course.

Students are permitted to sit each external examination (Unit 1 and Unit 2) a maximum of 3 times, with the best result contributing to their overall qualification result. To ensure sufficient opportunities are available should they be required, we have designed our delivery so that the students sit Unit 1 in June in the first year of the course, allowing for resit windows in the January and June of Year 13. Unit 2 will be sat in the January of the second year of the course, allowing for resit if required in the June of that year.

Students are required to achieve a minimum of Near Pass on all externally assessed examinations and a minimum of a Pass in the internally assessed units to be able to gain the qualification.

Internally assessed units are completed throughout the 2 years of the course, Unit 4 in Year 12 and Unit 3 in Year 13. The student's teacher will assess the completed work which must be submitted by the set deadline. It may be deemed that the student can have a resubmission, which permits 15 working days for the student to add to their work and resubmit. Work from the internally assessed units are sampled by the exam board to ensure that nationally, there is fairness and consistency in the marking.

The overall qualification result is determined by their score in each of the four units. The Uniformed Mark Score (UMS) that they achieve in each unit is combined to provide a total UMS and then converted to a grade. Below are 3 tables to show the UMS for each grade for internally and externally assessed units and when calculating the overall result.

Points available for internal units

The table below shows the number of **points** available for internal units. For each internal unit, points are allocated depending on the grade awarded.

Grade	Unit size (60 GLH)
U	0
Pass	6
Merit	10
Distinction	16

Points available for external units

Raw marks from the external units will be awarded **points** based on performance in the assessment. The table below shows the **minimum number of points** available for each grade in the external units.

Grade	Unit size (120 GLH)
U	0
Near Pass	8
Pass	12
Merit	20
Distinction	32

Calculating the final grade based on UMS for all 4 units:

Extended Certificate (360 GLH)

Grade	Points threshold
U	0
Pass	36
Merit	52
Distinction	74
Distinction *	90

Links to Personal Development:

Studying the BTEC Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification (AAQ) in Information Technology contributes significantly to personal development by helping learners build confidence, resilience and independence while developing valuable digital and professional skills. Through researching, analysing, designing and evaluating IT solutions, students strengthen their communication, problem-solving and critical thinking abilities. The course also encourages effective teamwork, time management and self-reflection, helping learners become more organised and responsible. These experiences prepare students for higher education, apprenticeships and future employment, while developing the adaptability and digital literacy needed to succeed in an increasingly technology-driven world.

How is my knowledge further developed in Post-18 provision?

By the end of the course, students will be equipped with the technical competence, academic knowledge and professional skills required to progress successfully to degree-level study in areas such as Computing, Information Technology, Cyber Security, Digital Media and Business Information Systems, or directly into apprenticeships and employment within the digital and technology sectors.