

Please note this qualification will only be running until August 2027 as the government made the decision to replace with AAQ's.

BTEC National Level 3 Diploma in Information Technology (Year 13 only 2026-27)

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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: Mandatory Units:	Students will:

Unit 1 - Information Technology Systems
 Unit 2 - Creating Systems to Manage Information
 Unit 3 - Using Social Media in Business
 Unit 4 - Programming
 Unit 9 - IT Project Management
 Unit 11 - Cyber Security and Incident Management

Optional Units:

Unit 6 - Website Development
 Unit 17 - Digital 2D and 3D Graphics

In Year 12, students will complete units 1, 2, 3, 11 and 17.

In Year 13, students will complete units 4, 6 and 9.

Investigation and Analysis

- Gather user requirements.
- Conduct stakeholder interviews.
- Perform research using primary and secondary sources.
- Analyse evidence critically.
- Justify decisions using evidence.

Design

- Produce design documentation.
- Create prototypes.
- Apply iterative design processes.
- Refine designs through review cycles.

Development

- Construct digital solutions.
- Configure software tools.
- Integrate multiple technologies.
- Apply industry-standard workflows.

Testing

- Design test plans.
- Conduct functional testing.
- Record test evidence.
- Diagnose faults and weaknesses.
- Implement corrective actions.

Evaluation

- Assess products against requirements.
- Evaluate strengths and weaknesses.
- Produce recommendations for improvement.
- Reflect on development processes.

Professional Practice

- Manage time and workloads.
- Work collaboratively on projects.

- Present technical information to different audiences.
- Apply legal, moral, ethical and environmental considerations.
- Produce professional technical documentation.
- Maintain version control and records of development activities.

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. Some of this will be directed by the class teacher and some will need to be planned by the student, to develop their ability to work independently.

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 Diploma 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, 2 and 11) 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 these examinations during the first year of the course.

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. 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.

	Unit size	
	60 GLH	90 GLH
U	0	0
Pass	6	9
Merit	10	15
Distinction	16	24

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.

	Unit size	
	90 GLH	120 GLH
U	0	0
Near Pass	6	8
Pass	9	12
Merit	15	20
Distinction	24	32

Calculation of qualification grade:

Diploma	
720 GLH	
Grade	Points threshold
U	0
PP	72
MP	88
MM	104
DM	124
DD	144
D*D	162
D*D*	180

Links to Personal Development:

Studying the **BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Information Technology** supports personal development by helping students build a wide range of transferable skills. The units we offer develop communication, problem-solving, analytical thinking and project management skills while encouraging learners to work independently and collaboratively. Students learn how to manage data, create digital products, develop websites, understand cybersecurity, and use social media and technology responsibly in business contexts. Through presentations, reports, practical projects and team-based tasks, learners improve their confidence, organisation, time management and professional behaviours, preparing them effectively for higher education, apprenticeships and employment in the digital sector.

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.