

IT Practitioners (Software Development)

BTEC National Award

Edexcel

Structure & Specification

Twelve units of equal standard taken over two years. The final qualification is equivalent to two A Levels. After the first year of the course you will have the equivalent of one A Level.

Syllabus details - BTEC/Edexcel BN018439

What does the course include?

This course covers a range of general and specialist IT units.

In Year 1 the course focuses on developing transferable skills in a variety of business and IT work related scenarios.

Year 2 will focus on developing analytical, design and evaluative skills. You will have the opportunity to choose a project that needs to be implemented to meet a specific business need.

Year 1:

Unit 1- Communication and Employability Skills for IT develop relevant skills required in the workplace.

Unit 2 – Computer Systems understand, specify, and justify the key components that make a modern personal computer system.

Unit 6 - Advanced Spreadsheet Skills - analyse a complex problem, design and implement a multi worksheet solution using advanced features of Excel.

Year 2:

Unit 3 - Information Systems - understand and evaluate the role of IT systems in providing relevant and useful data and information to key people and functions in businesses and organisations.

Unit 5 - Advanced Database Skills - analyse a business requirement, produce a database design, and implement a complex database using tables, queries, forms and reports.

Unit 10 – Client Side Customisation of Web Pages - This unit aims to develop learners understanding and skills of web side development and customisation.

How will I learn?

The course is divided between two teachers, who will each teach six units over the duration of the course. Although there it will be necessary to learn some theory, the emphasis of the course will be practical activities. Class work will take a variety of forms: learning new concepts and applying them through a range of activities, individual paired and group work focussed on different aspects of the course, directed research, reading a range of materials, creating displays. You will be developing your writing both in structured and unstructured formats, learning how to draw information from a wide range of sources and learning how to give presentations.

How will my work be assessed?

All Units will be assessed by portfolio assignments.

What skills will I need to be successful in this subject?

You will need highly developed organisational skills in order to manage the demands of this course. You need to be able to understand complex theoretical concepts and apply them in given situations. You will need to develop refined research skills and find information that is appropriate in order to investigate and analyse. Writing style is important at this level and you will be expected to structure appropriate responses to complex problems. Finally having a genuine interest in ICT and related topics is essential for success.

What are the entry requirements?

Five GCSEs at grade C or above. GCSE English and Maths are desirable but not essential.

Students with a Merit at BTEC First Diploma are also well suited to this course.

What are the opportunities after this course for further/higher education and employment?

Success in this course would enable students to progress to a all types of degrees in IT or employment in a variety of careers in the business world.