



BTEC Extended Diploma in Information Technology

Who is this course for?

The BTEC Extended Diploma in Information Technology is a great choice for people who have a real interest in and enthusiasm for IT and computing science, together with a keen desire to develop high-level technical skills and progress to university or a career in IT.

It is a 2-year, level 3 course combining technical academic content with advanced work-related computing skills. The course is equivalent to 3x A-Levels and is a proven progression route to university.

What are the entry criteria?

Most students aiming to start the BTEC Extended Diploma in Information Technology will achieve 5 GCSEs at grade C or above including Maths and English.

The IT department at Wyke Sixth Form College

The department uses a number of hi-tech IT suites equipped with the latest hardware and software, a practical lab for the assembly and configuration of computers and networks and also makes wide ranging use of interactive on-line resources to facilitate independent learning.

Practical skills are an essential part of the course and our newly built, well equipped IT suites supported by our experienced teachers and skilled technicians, ensure opportunities are available to enhance learning, develop skills and confidence in this area.

The IT staff team is:

- ✱ Johanna Clemas
- ✱ Kevin Penny (Head of IT)
- ✱ Danny Precious (Course leader)
- ✱ Lisa Vincent

Exam Board

At Wyke we use the Edexcel BTEC specification. This consists of 18 units.

Course Details

Students will discover how computers work, write computer programs, design and create web sites, create computer animations, develop advanced-level application skills, install and configure computer hardware and networks, perform systems analysis and design, and develop project management skills. In addition to high-level practical IT skills, students will also develop independent research skills, time management and personal organisation - skills valued by universities and business.

Year 1

Principles of Software Design & Development
Information Systems
Website Production & Management
Computer Systems
Installing & Upgrading Software
IT Systems Analysis & Design
Communication & Employability Skills for IT
Maintaining Computer Systems
Computer Networks

Year 2

Client Side Customisation of Web Pages
Event Driven Programming
IT Technical Support
Computer Animation
Impact of the Use of IT on Business Systems
Spreadsheet Modelling
Object Oriented Programming
Database Design
Computer Game Design

The complete specification can be viewed on the Edexcel website.

www.edexcel.org.uk

Departmental Enrichment

The department offers lots of additional help out of lessons and by email. Students have the opportunity to develop high-level skills using industry standard software from Microsoft and Adobe. In addition to the IT suite this course is based in, the department also has a practical lab giving students the opportunity to gain hands-on experience of installing and configuring hardware and software.

Apply online at www.wyke.ac.uk

When opportunities arise the department organises visits and activities to enhance learning. Previous activities have included a trip to the National Media Museum and ICT activities organised by the Royal Corps of Signals.

Student success

With a 100% pass-rate for the past six years the department has helped many students achieve excellent grades and move on to higher education. Below are details of two such students:



Emma Challis

Former School
Sydney Smith

Result
Triple Distinction
(equivalent to 3 A grade A-levels)

Background
In recognition of her achievements in reaching higher education Emma Challis was presented with a highly sought after Helena Kennedy Foundation award by Baroness Kennedy in a ceremony at the House of Lords. Emma also received a scholarship from Hull University.

Where is she now?
Hull University studying Computer Science with Industrial Experience



Ming Kit Wong

Former School
Cottingham High

Result
Triple Distinction
(equivalent to 3 A grade A-levels)

Background
Ming Kit joined Wyke on the Level 2 BTEC First Diploma IT course and then, after achieving the maximum Distinction grade, progressed onto the level 3 course the following year.

Where is he now?
Lancaster University studying Computer Science with Software Engineering

“I thoroughly enjoyed the course. With the help of excellent tutors and a fun, comfortable learning environment, I had no doubt that I was on the right course for what I wanted to do. I have learnt many skills relating to IT such as web design, programming and project planning, all of which contributed to my successful application to study Computer Science at university. For those who want a career in IT, I would recommend the BTEC Diploma. The friendly and supportive IT tutors at Wyke not only help you achieve your best but they want you to achieve your best and will push you to the limit.”

Emma Challis

What does this course lead to?

Having a BTEC Extended Diploma in Information Technology can open up a world of opportunities in both university choices and career options. If you are considering applying to university to study computer science, software engineering, computer systems engineering, games programming, computer animation or any other subject related to computing and IT, then this course is ideal.

Possible career choices include: trainee computer programmer, IT technician, network support technician, website development, computer animation amongst a huge range of others. In fact, having a BTEC Extended Diploma in Information Technology will put you in great stead for a huge range of careers, as it is a great qualification to have.

What can I do now that would help prepare me for this course?

The start of the BTEC Extended Diploma in Information Technology course is challenging, but you will find these tasks aid the transition from GCSE.

- Research the software development life cycle
- Learn the main differences between high-level and low-level computer languages
- Learn the three major programming structures
- Visit www.w3schools.com and learn about web technologies

For further information contact: it@wyke.ac.uk