

WHAT DO I NEED TO STUDY THIS COURSE?

The entry requirements for this course are 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above including Maths and English Language. A prior level 2 qualification in IT or Computer Science would be an advantage.

IS THIS COURSE FOR ME?

This qualification is for learners 16 years old or over who prefer to study IT in a context that allows them to learn and be assessed in ways that are practical and relevant to the IT sector. This qualification is not just about being able to use computers. Employers have told us that they need people who are able to help them develop their systems or the systems for their customers, use IT as a tool to analyse data and develop applications.

WHERE WILL THIS COURSE TAKE ME?

This qualification is designed to give learners a range of specialist knowledge and transferable skills in the context of applied IT, providing them with the opportunity to enter an apprenticeship, move directly into employment, or progress to a related Higher Education (HE) course.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Year 1

Unit 1 – Fundamentals of IT

This unit provides the underpinning knowledge and understanding to support other units in the qualification. Learners should study the basics of computer hardware and software, and information systems used by businesses. It is important that learners understand what is required from IT specialists in the working environment, and the importance of good communication skills along with the technology available to them. The use of computer systems brings issues and it is therefore important that learners study the threats involved when using computer systems, and the ethical and operational issues that have to be considered to support their use.

Unit 8 – Project Management

The key to any project being a success is the planning that takes place. Project management skills are essential transferrable skills that can be used for all IT related projects whether it's traditional methodologies or more recently adapted agile approaches within the IT development environment. These skills can be adapted and used even on the smallest 'tasks' during the planning and implementation stages.

Unit 9 – Product Development

The key to any product development being a success is the analysis, client review, design, testing and final acceptance that takes place. The skills that you will learn can be applied to the development of any product, large or small. You will use product development skills and work through the product development life cycle to produce a spreadsheet solution for an organisation using advanced software techniques.

Year 2

This unit will provide you with a greater understanding of how organisations use information sources both internally and externally and the types of information you will encounter. The skills gained by completing this unit will give you knowledge of the functionality of information and how data is stored and processed by organisations. You will also learn about how individuals use information of various types.

Unit 6 – Application Development

The world is increasingly reliant on applications that help individuals, businesses and organisations achieve specific activities or purposes. In this unit you will explore potential ideas for a new application and develop the fundamental design for it. You will then develop the designs for an application and how users will interact with it. The application that you design can be for any sector and for any purpose. You will have the opportunity to present your ideas, prototype them, and gain feedback before refining your design. Besides the technical knowledge that you will gain about designing an application, you will also learn key transferable skills such as liaising with clients, questioning people effectively to gain the information you need to develop successful designs, and presenting your ideas to an audience and getting feedback from them.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

All learners will study the following two mandatory units; Fundamentals of IT and Global information. These units provide learners with an insight into the IT sector, as they investigate the pace of technological change, IT infrastructure, and the flow of information on a global scale, as well as the important legal and security considerations. These units will be externally assessed.

In addition, learners are required to complete three further units:

- Application design and development
- Project management
- Product development

These units will all be internally assessed and externally moderated.