

Sandwell Academy

BTEC ICT – EXTENDED CERTIFICATE

WHY ICT?

This qualification is designed for learners who are interested in an introduction into the study of creating IT systems to manage and share information alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in IT.

A course in ICT will open doors in both an academic or career based pathway. All areas of employment demand ever-increasing ICT skills to be held by its members and a qualification that is both skill and theory based can offer the foundation for further study at University or careers in public and private sector organisations in areas such as:

E-Commerce	Business Administration	Network Management
Finance	Software Engineering	Systems Analysis
Marketing	Web Development	Web Administration
Programming	Knowledge Management	Telecommunications

The BTEC ICT course is designed to provide both academic and vocational experiences. These will prepare students for their choice of career in either the world of work or Higher Education.

SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Grade 4 in Mathematics and English

COURSE OUTLINE

4 units, 3 are mandatory, 2 are externally assessed (58%)

Unit 1: Information Technology Systems (*Mandatory*)

You will explore the relationships between the hardware and software that form an IT

Unit 2: Creating systems to manage information (*Mandatory*)

You will examine the structure of data, its origins and how an efficient data design follows through to an effective and useful database. You will examine a given scenario and develop an effective design solution to produce a database system. You will then test your solution to ensure it works correctly. Finally, you will evaluate each stage of the development process and the effectiveness of your database solution. These skills support progression to IT-related higher education courses or employment in a role which requires computing-related expertise.

Unit 3: Using Social Media in Business (*Mandatory*)

In this unit, you will explore different social media websites, the ways in which they can be used and the potential pitfalls when using them for business purposes. You will develop a plan to use social media strategies for business purposes to achieve specific aims and objectives. You will then implement the plan, developing and posting content and interacting with others. Finally, you will collect data on the business use of social media and review the effectiveness of your efforts. Understanding how to use social media for business purposes is useful for employment in information technology and a variety of business sectors. Social media skills are also closely linked with web and mobile applications development. This unit provides a starting point for progression to roles such as a social media specialist, content developer or web developer.

Unit 5: Data Modelling-

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