

BTEC Extended Diploma IT

(3 A level equivalent course)

Why study BTEC IT?

- The BTEC Extended Diploma specification uses a combination of assessment styles to give students confidence they can apply their knowledge to succeed in the workplace – and have the study skills to continue learning on higher education courses and throughout their career.
- This range of vocational assessments – both practical and written – mean students can showcase their learning and achievements to best effect when they take their next step, whether that's supporting applications to higher education courses or potential employers.
- This course is designed to continue the approach to learning that students have had at school, if they have studied ICT on a vocational programme. Students will experience a very 'hands on', practical course, with the ability to be creative using ICT skills, and to apply them in a range of contexts.



Why study BTEC IT at Solihull Sixth Form College?

- The IT course at Solihull Sixth Form College will offer you a real experience of work.
- We support you in finding work experience in your first and second year of study.
- The course is led by experienced teaching staff, who are experts in their field.
- Additional support will be provided by our technician
- Our course offers a range of IT and computing-based units.

Case Study

Among the recent successful students to have taken this course is **Sam Elliot**.

He came to the College from Light Hall School and was one of the highest achievers on the BTEC IT course. He earned triple distinction* (the highest grade possible) and is taking up a place at Aston University to study Computer Science at undergraduate level.



"I enjoyed becoming more independent during my time at the College. Throughout the pandemic, online resources helped me continue to work from home without much hassle. I was able to contact teachers when I needed help, upload work and download anything I needed."
- student Sam Elliot



Course Outline

A BTEC National Extended Diploma is a 2-year vocational course which is equivalent to a 3 A level programme. Students will learn about the use and management of IT facilities in a variety of different work-related contexts.

The Provisional Course Outline is:

Unit 1: Information Technology Systems (Externally Assessed)

You will study the role of computer systems and the implications of their use in personal and professional situations.

Unit 2: Creating Systems to Manage Information (Externally Assessed)

You will study the design, creation, testing and evaluation of a relational database system to manage information.

Unit 3: Using Social Media in Business

You will explore how businesses use social media to promote their products and services. You will also be given the opportunity to implement social media activities in a business to meet requirements.

Unit 6: Web Development

You will investigate website development principles. You will be given the opportunity to design and develop a website using scripting languages.

Assessment

The BTEC National Extended Diploma is assessed using a combination of internal assessments (which are set and marked by teachers) and external assessments (which are set and marked by the Exam board).

Internal assessment (58%)

External assessment (42%)

Examining Board – Pearson

Special Entry Requirements

If you have taken an IT course at GCSE you must have achieved at least grade 4, or at least merit in OCR Nationals or BTEC First Diplomas. Students will also require grade 4 in Maths. This is in addition to standard BTEC entry requirements - see www.solihullsf.ac.uk/courses/entry-requirements. All students are expected to undertake two periods of vocational work experience (one in Year 12 and the second in Year 13). A clear DBS 'Disclosure and Barring Service' may be needed depending on the nature of the placement. The cost of the DBS is approximately £60.00 and if it is needed then you are responsible for this payment (details of how to pay will be provided).

Hardware/Software Requirements

If you are studying on the BTEC IT course, you will require Microsoft Visual Studio for the programming elements and Microsoft Access for the external units. Although both these software packages would be free to download and use (via your College accounts), they are only available on Windows PC/laptops. It would therefore be of your benefit to have access to a Windows based PC/laptop. For the second year, we will be using Adobe apps such as Dreamweaver and Animate. Although not essential, it would be useful for you to be able to purchase these.

Prohibited Options

None.

What do our students go on to do?

The BTEC National Extended Diploma is recognised by both universities and employers as equivalent to three A levels. It fully meets the requirements for progression to a degree course in IT and related areas such as: digital technology solutions, IT management for business, computer networks security or business computing and entrepreneurship.

Work Placement

On this course you will be expected to undertake a work experience placement in both the first and the second year, the purpose of which is to gather information and insights about the workplace, which can be included in your College assignments. Work placements also help develop your employability skills. By the end of the course, you will have gained relevant skills and have a CV with cover letter along with a LinkedIn account. Joining LinkedIn will offer you career opportunities now and will assist your long-term career aspirations, as your profile will be accessible by thousands of prospective employers. Throughout your time at college, you will use the LinkedIn account to record all of your activities including work experience and any part-time paid employment.

Examination Results

Here are the results for the last three years of this course, with outstanding achievement rates:

Year	Entry	Distinction*	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Fail	Pass %
2019	40	23	14	3	0	0	100.0%
2020	35	27	7	1	0	0	100.0%
2021	28	20	7	1	0	0	100.0%

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