BTEC Extended Certificate in IT
(Equivalent to 1 A level)

Why study IT?

- The BTEC Extended Certificate allows students to take a truly practical ICT course. The Extended Certificate 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.
- This qualification is designed for learners who are interested in an introduction to 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.

Why study IT at Solihull Sixth Form College?

- The IT course at Solihull Sixth Form College will offer you a real experience of work.
- The course is led by experienced teaching staff, who are experts in their field.
- Additional support is provided by our experienced technician.
- Our course offers a range of IT and computing-based units.
- Studying for the Certificate allows you to choose **two** of a wide range of A level subjects alongside to support your interests and career ambitions.

Case Study

Among the recent successful students to have taken this course is **Mohin Shah**.

He came to the College from Lode Heath School to study IT, Business and Economics. He achieved Distinction* in IT and A and B grades in his other subjects. He has progressed to Aston University to study Computing, IT and Business.

"The support I received both from my teachers and my peers is what helped me to achieve in my studies at the College."
- student Mohin Shah

Course Outline

A BTEC Extended Certificate is a 2-year vocational course, equivalent to one A level. It is normally studied alongside two other A level courses. Students will learn about the use and management of IT facilities in a variety of different work-related contexts.

Provisional Course Outline:

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
Equivalent in size to one A Level. 4 units of which 3 are mandatory and 2 are externally assessed.
Mandatory content (83%)
External assessment (58%)
Examining Board – Edexcel

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. This is in addition to standard A level entry requirements - see www. solihullsfc.ac.uk/courses/entry-requirements.

Prohibited Options
None.

What do our students go on to do?
BTEC Extended Certificates are recognised by both universities and employers as equivalent to one A level. 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.

Cost Implications
There will be an opportunity to go on fieldtrips. One recent fieldtrip saw students go to an IT seminar at Bletchley Park. The approximate cost was £30 per student.

Complementary Subjects or Enrichment Courses
Students on this course may be interested in a variety of enrichment options to add to their College experience. These include the Team Gambia volunteer project, becoming Charity Ambassador, joining the Gaming Society or being part of Student Council.

Examination Results
This is a brand new course, started in 2017. As such, there is only one set of exam results for this course:

Year	Entry	Distinction*	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Pass Rate
2019	37	26	7	4	0	100.0%
2020	15	13	2	0	0	100.0%

Contact
Address: Solihull Sixth Form College   Tel: 0121 704 2581
         Widney Manor Road, Solihull   Email: admissions@solihullsfc.ac.uk
         West Midlands B91 3WR   Web: www.solihullsfc.ac.uk