

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## BTEC Computing

### Q 1. What can I study in Computing and IT?

- ◆ *BTEC Extended National Diploma in Computing (Level 3) – the same as three A Levels*
- ◆ *BTEC Extended Certificate in IT (Level 3) – the same as one A Level, you get to choose two other A Levels/BTECs alongside this*
- ◆ *BTEC First Diploma in ICT (Level 2) – this is the same as four GCSEs. This is a one-year course*

### Q 2. Are BTECs the same as A Levels?

*Yes, level 3 BTECs are equivalent to A Levels. They are marked Pass, Merit and Distinction. They offer the same number of UCAS points as an A level when applying to university.*

### Q 3. Do universities accept the qualification?

*Yes, almost all universities accept level 3 BTECs. However, entry requirements vary considerably across institutions. Students should always check with their chosen university to confirm their individual entry requirements for their chosen undergraduate courses.*

### Q 4. What can I go on to do with this qualification?

*The majority of our students go on to do university degrees in the areas of IT, Computing and Business. We have had students go on to do things such as Cyber Security, Software Engineering, Computer Science, Business, Games Design and HR.*

*Students studying the Extended Certificate often take the subject to compliment business, media or accounting courses and go on to study related degrees.*

### Q 5. Do BTECs have exams?

*Yes. The Extended Diploma in Computing has four exams, two in the lower sixth and two in the upper sixth. Two of these are*



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*question based exams on Computer Science and one on Computer Systems. Two of these are timed practical sessions on planning computer projects and on software design and development.*

*The Extended Certificate in IT has two exams, one is a paper questions exam on IT Systems and one of these is a practical timed session creating a database.*

*The Level 2 First Diploma in ICT has two exams, one on the Online World and one on Computer Systems.*

## Q 6. Will I have a lot of coursework?

*Yes. The advantage of coursework is less pressure on the exams and your final mark will be decided by the work you do across the two years. All assignments count towards your final grade.*

## Q 7. What coursework topics will I do?

*Extended Diploma in Computing – in the first year we are currently teaching Web Development, Business Applications of Social Media, the Impact of Computing upon Business, IT Security, and Systems Analysis and Design. The second-year topics are to be confirmed. In the past we have taught units on programming, databases, graphics and human computer interaction.*

*Extended Certificate in IT– Spreadsheets and Business applications of Social Media.*

## Q 8. Will I have to do coding?

*Yes – if you do the Extended Diploma in Computing (3 A Level equivalent)*

*No – if you do the Extended Certificate in ICT (1 A Level equivalent)*

## Q 9. Can I do IT and Computer Science together as options?

*We do not recommend students picking both A Level Computer Science and the BTEC Extended Certificate in IT. This is because there is an overlap in content and because this narrows down your future choices compared to doing three distinct subjects.*

## Q 10. How big are the class sizes?

*The approximate class size is around 20.*



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**Q 11. How big is the department? How many lessons will I have?**

*If you choose the Extended Diploma in Computing you will have 4-5 different teachers, each teaching you a different unit and you will have 12-14 lessons a week. On the Extended Certificate in IT you will have usually one teacher, or maybe two teachers teaching your course over the four lessons per week.*

**Q 12. Do I need to have done ICT or Computer Science at GCSE?**

*No. The entry requirements for the courses are the standard college entry requirements:*

*Extended Diploma in Computing – Five GCSEs at grade 4 or above*

*Extended Certificate in IT – two GCSE's at grade six and four GCSE's at grade 4 or above.*

*OCR and BTEC level 2 qualifications at Merit or above will also be considered.*

