VOCATIONAL ICT

Why is the Study of Level 1/2 Vocational Award ICT (Technical Award) important?

WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Awards (Technical Awards) provide learners with opportunities to study vocational subjects alongside GCSEs and other general and vocational qualifications as part of a broad programme of study.   Students will learn a wide range of key ICT skills. Vocational ICT is a skills and knowledge based course which aims to give students the ICT foundation they will need in future life. During this course, students can expect to develop practical skills in office software and develop their understanding of information communication technology.

Practical skills development: The vocational award in ICT provides students with practical skills that are directly applicable in the field of information and communication technology. It focuses on developing technical competence and proficiency in areas such as software applications, hardware systems, network management, and data analysis. These skills are highly valued in the digital age and can enhance employability prospects.

Industry relevance: The ICT sector is a rapidly evolving and crucial part of the global economy. By studying this vocational award, students gain an understanding of the latest technologies, industry trends, and best practices. This knowledge ensures that graduates are well-prepared to enter the workforce and contribute effectively to the ICT industry.

Practical problem-solving: The study of ICT at the vocational level emphasises practical problem-solving skills. Students learn to apply their knowledge to real-world scenarios, troubleshoot technical issues, and develop innovative solutions. This ability to analyse and solve problems is valuable not only in the ICT sector but also in various other industries where technology plays a significant role.

Digital literacy: In today's digital era, digital literacy is essential for individuals to fully participate in society. The vocational award in ICT equips students with the necessary digital skills and knowledge to navigate the digital landscape effectively. They learn about online safety, data privacy, digital communication, and ethical considerations related to technology usage. These skills are increasingly important in personal and professional contexts.

Personal and academic development: Studying the Level 1/2 Vocational Award ICT helps students develop transferable skills such as communication, teamwork, time management, and problem-solving. These skills are valuable not only within the ICT field but also in various other domains. Additionally, the vocational award provides a foundation for further academic study in ICT-related disciplines, enabling students to pursue higher qualifications if they choose to do so.

What skills with the study of Level 1/2 Vocational Award ICT (Technical Award) teach you?

The skills you will learn and develop through Level 1/2 Vocational Award ICT (Technical Award) include:

- The wide use of Hardware in society.

- The use of application and specialist software.
- How information is used in a wide range of contexts including businesses, education and homes.
- Legal, moral and ethical implications of using ICT.
- Environmental impacts of using ICT.
- How data and information are transferred.
- Extensive spreadsheet knowledge and skills, including Formulas, Functions, Formatting, Conditional Formatting, Macros and More.
- Extensive knowledge of databases, including Queries, Table designs, Data Types and More.
- Knowledge of editing digital images.
- Understanding how to solve problems in a vocational setting.

How does your study of Level 1/2 Vocational Award ICT (Technical Award) support your study in other subjects?

The design principles and the skills you learn in Level 1/2 Vocational Award ICT (Technical Award) are directly transferable across all subjects in the curriculum. The design principles learnt when developing digital graphics may be used in a wide range of subjects and industries later in life. The extensive spreadsheet knowledge you will develop will provide key skills that can be utilised in many other subjects such as maths and science whilst also being of great benefit in future careers.

How are you assessed in Level 1/2 Vocational Award ICT (Technical Award)?

Level 1/2 Vocational Award ICT (Technical Award) is assessed through 2 compulsory units.

- Unit1: ICT in society is a 1 hour 20 minute on screen examination. This is worth 40% of your overall grade.
- Unit 2: ICT in context is a controlled assessment coursework that is worth 60% of your grade.

How can WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award ICT (Technical Award) support your future?

There are a wide range of ICT & media based courses offered post-GCSE students at colleges and sixth form providers including our own. Within Outwood we offer an ICT qualification that utilises the skills learnt in Level 1/2 Vocational Award ICT (Technical Award) and this is deliberate to ensure progression between stages of study. Due to Level 1/2 Vocational Award ICT (Technical Award) being a wide ranging curriculum this allows for many avenues to be explored into higher and further education. There are a vast range of courses offered at university that target digital media, either through the production, design or publicising through this media.

Career opportunities: The demand for skilled ICT professionals is consistently high across various industries. By acquiring a Level 1/2 Vocational Award ICT, students can open doors to a wide range of career opportunities. They can pursue roles such as IT support technicians, network administrators, software developers, database analysts, and cybersecurity specialists. This vocational award serves as a stepping stone towards higher-level qualifications and more specialised roles in the field.

CURRICULUM PROGRESSION PATHWAY FOR COMPUTER SCIENCE AT OUTWOOD ACADEMY ADWICK

	YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10 - Vocational ICT	YEAR 11 - Vocational ICT	YEAR 10 - Computer Science	YEAR 11 - Computer Science
Autumn 1	e-Safety Basic Computer Skills	e-Safety Computer Theory - Binary conversion, Hexadecimal coding	e-Safety Computing Theory	Spreadsheets - Introduction, Functions and Formulas	Assignment - Photoshop	Programming - Basic Programming Constructs	Theory - Data, Data Transfer, Data Capture
Autumn 2	Computational Thinking	Computing Theory	Business and Enterprise	Spreadsheets - Practice assignment based on a scenario	Unit 1 Delivery	Theory - Foundations of Computer Programming	Theory - Impact of Data loss, Risks of storing data., GDPR,
Spring 1	ICT Project - Word processing, spreadsheets, presentations	ICT Project - Word processing, spreadsheets, presentations	Computer Programing - Python	Photoshop - Editing and creating digital images & Practice Assignment	Unit 1 Exam Assignment - Databases	Programming - Advanced Programming Constructs	Theory - Moral and Ethical issues. Legal Issues.

Spring 2	ICT Project - Word processing, spreadsheets, presentations	Computer Programing - Python	Computer Programing - Python	Databases - Introduction, Queries, Data Types, Planning Database	Assignment - Automated Documents	Theory - Units of Data	Theory - Environmental impact of using ICT. Cultural impact and net neutrality.
Summer 1	Micro:bit - block based programming	Photoshop Design	Programing – Python Golf AI – What is AI and how to use it	Practice assignment based on a scenario	Unit 1 Delivery / Revision Unit 1 Exam	Theory - Computational Logic	Exam preparation and reconsolidation time.
Summer 2	Small Basic - Text Based Programming	Data Processing in databases and spreadsheets	AI – What is AI and how to use it	Assignment Start - Spreadsheets		Theory - Algorithms	