SUBJECT & QUALIFICATION: BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Digital Information Technology

Why is the study of Digital IT important?

The digital sector is a major source of employment in the UK. Despite a turbulent economy in 2020 the Digital sector in the UK advertised 90,000 jobs per week during. Digital skills span all industries, and almost all jobs in the UK today require employees to have a good level of digital literacy.

The UK Tech industry as a whole employs over 2.93 million people and has seen 40% growth between 2017-2019. The UK has positioned itself to be the 'Digital capital of Europe' as it continues to invest billions every year in digital skills and commerce. The modern world expects digital skills to be as important as English and maths. Having both technical skills and business understanding is the key to success.

In studying Digital IT, you will learn essential working practices for the IT and Business sectors. This includes understanding client briefs, meeting time frames and deadlines, and preparing products that meet client needs. You'll learn to plan and design products according to user briefs, gaining skills in spreadsheets and prototyping user interfaces.

Digital IT also emphasises the importance of justifying your design decisions. This involves explaining why certain design choices were made and how they meet the needs of the target audience or industry. By understanding the reasons behind your designs, you can create more effective and efficient products.

Overall, Digital IT prepares you for a career in the IT and Business sectors by providing you with practical skills and knowledge. It helps you understand the digital tools and technologies used in these fields, making you a valuable asset in any modern workplace.

What skills will the study of Digital IT teach you?

As technology evolves, how we communicate and interact with it has changed significantly. Having the skills to demonstrate knowledge and communicate effectively in the digital world is crucial. This course will teach you to;

- Communication
- Coping with rapid changes in technology
- Critical thinking
- Designing, creating, testing and evaluating systems
- Learning independently
- Numeracy and data handling
- Problem solving
- Research
- Taking on responsibility
- Time management

What will you know and understand from your study of Digital IT?

The Digital IT qualification gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through realistic vocational contexts. The main focus is on four areas of equal importance, which cover the:

- development of key skills that prove your aptitude in digital information technology, such as project planning, designing and creating user interfaces and dashboards as a way to present and interpret data.
- process that underpins effective ways of working in digital information technology, such as project planning, the iterative design process, cyber security, virtual teams, legal and ethical codes of conduct.
- attitudes that are considered most important in digital information technology, including personal management and communication.
- knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, process and attitudes in the sector such as how different user interfaces meet user needs, how organisations collect and use data to make decisions, virtual workplaces, cyber security and legal and ethical issues.

This qualification complements the learning in GCSE programmes such as GCSE Computer Science. It is an introduction to the application of project planning techniques to plan, design and develop a user interface, how to collect, present and interpret data and the use of digital systems.

How can you deepen your understanding of Digital IT?

Digital IT is all around us, and taking an interest in the products and systems that are used everyday by businesses. How do businesses track customers? How do businesses communicate effectively with customers and suppliers? Why is a document structured in a certain way? These questions will further deepen your understanding within the subject. Immersing yourself in IT will certainly help deepen your knowledge and understanding of products and systems.

How are you assessed in Digital IT?

There are 6 assessment points each year that we term Praising Stars©. We assess how students at their current stage of study are on track to reach their end of stage targets which are formulated on aspirational expectation from their KS2 starting points. We make an informed prediction from our holistic assessments based on our subject mapping of expectation across the Digital IT curriculum.

Digital IT is assessed through a range of internal and external assessment. There are three components in total. Component 1 (coursework) contributes 30%, Component 2 (coursework) contributes 30% and finally Component 3 (Exam) contributes 40% towards the overall qualification. The coursework units are known as Pearson Set Assignments (PSA's) and are completed in a set window in year 10 and year 11.

OPEN ELEMENT SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Key Assessment Objectives

The 4 key learning objectives in Digital IT are;

AO1 Demonstrate knowledge of facts, terms, processes and issues in relation to digital information technology

AO2 Demonstrate an understanding of facts, terms, processes and issues in relation to digital information technology

AO3 Apply an understanding of facts, terms, processes and issues in relation to digital information technology

AO4 Make connections with the concepts, issues, terms and processes in digital information technology

How can Digital IT support your future?

There are a wide range of Digital IT & media based courses offered to post-GCSE students at colleges and sixth form providers including our own.

Due to Digital IT 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.

Study of Digital IT can lead to a wide range of careers:

- Secondary School Teacher
- Graphics design
- Data analyst
- Digital content producer
- Systems engineer
- Web marketing manager

Digital IT Course Overview

Term	Year 10	Year 11
Autumn 1	Spreadsheet Skills	Component 3 - Planning and Communication PSA 1 - Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques
Autumn 2	Component 3 - Theory Modern Technologies	PSA 1 - Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques
Spring 1	PSA 2 - Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data	Component 3 Exam
Spring 2	PSA 2 - Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data	Improvements to PSA's and revision for resits
Summer 1	PSA 2 - Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data	Improvements to PSA's and revision for resits
Summer 2	Component 3 - Cyber Security Component 3 - Implications of Digital Systems	