

IT DIPLOMA

What is a diploma?

Diplomas combine practical learning with academic study and they have been developed in partnership with employers, schools, colleges and universities to motivate and engage young people.

Who is it for?

The course is for 14-16 students who wish to benefit from the Diploma mix of applied learning, work experience, functional skills, personal learning and thinking skills. Students who wish to follow the Higher Diploma need to be capable of performing at the level of GCSE grade C and above at the times of their assessment.

What topics / modules / units will I study?

Unit 1: The Potential of technology

This unit explores current and future practices by exploring the types of hardware, software and systems that you should be using and why these systems are used to improve efficiency, productivity and communications.

Unit 2: Exploring organisations

This unit encourages you to undertake research into different types of organisations by approaching, researching and visiting different businesses.

Unit 3: Effective communications

This unit allows you to develop the ability to communicate and operate effectively in a business-like environment and will encourage you to keep pace with future technological developments.

Unit 4: Skills for innovation

This unit deals with the need to be able to create and present IT-based solutions for business problems. You will also learn about the legal and ethical frameworks that constrain their actions and those of the organisations in which they operate.

Unit 5: Technology Systems

This unit allows for the installing of hardware and software for networked PC systems as well as installing and upgrading software applications, and developing or customising software.

Unit 6: Multimedia

This unit will enable learners to acquire and develop vital skills such as the ability to identify where multimedia elements may be used to enhance an existing multimedia presentation or to develop a wholly new product having analysed the business needs of the client and the needs of the target audience.

Unit 7: Managing projects

This unit describes what a project is and how it can be effectively planned.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 of the Principal Learning is assessed by an externally set examination. Units 2 to 7 of the Principal Learning will be assessed through a combination of internal assignments including a portfolio of evidence and coursework. The extended Project should take approximately 60 hours of learning before assessment. Functional Skills will be assessed by stand alone examinations.

What Qualification will I gain?

In order to gain the full Higher Diploma students need to complete the 7 Units of learning within the course, complete the Extended Project, carry out 10 days of work experience, and pass Functional Skills examinations in English, IT and Maths at Level 2-equivalent to GCSE grades A*-C.

The full Higher Diploma Award that we are offering is equivalent to taking 7 **full** GCSEs at grades A* - C. Students will gain the Diploma at either grade A*, A, B, C. For students who take the Diploma but who do not complete the full award the individual components of the Diploma stand as qualifications in their own right.