

COMPUTING BTEC

Course

BTEC Computing Studies Extended Certificate

Exam Board

Pearson

Entry requirements

Grade 4 in Maths

Grade 4 in English

Grade 4 in Computer Science

It is advisable that students should have studied GCSE Computing, however you may still be accepted if you have good computing/programming skills

Why study Computer Science?

This qualification is designed to support learners who are interested in learning about the computing sector alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in the computing sector. The qualification is equivalent in size to 1 A level and is designed to occupy one-third of a typical study programme, which could include other vocational or academic qualifications, such as another BTEC National or A levels.

Course content

Students will cover

Unit 1: Principles of Computer Science

- This unit explores the ways in which the features of computer programming can be applied to solve problems.

Unit 2: Fundamentals of Computer Systems

- You will understand how data is represented in digital form and how it is used, stored, processed and transmitted by different parts of a system within vocational contexts

Unit 7: IT Systems Security and Encryption

- The aim of this unit is to you a give a clear understanding the skills to apply basic protection techniques, in order to keep a system secure.

Unit 15: Website Development

- In this unit, you will review existing websites, use scripting languages such as Hypertext Markup Language (HTML), Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) and JavaScript® and a simple text editor, or rapid application development tools.

St Peter's students say...

‘Computing Science is demanding but interesting. It has expanded my knowledge hugely, helped me to understand how technology has developed and I’m learning programming.’

Assessment

BTEC National Computing covers the same range of theory as A level Business Studies, the key difference being that this course is heavily assessed through the submission of coursework portfolios. A key difference in the new BTEC National from 2016 is the introduction of 2 externally assessed units - a Business Finance examination (unit 3) and a pre-release activity on a marketing campaign (unit 2), other units are Tutor marked with internal verification within school. Grades are subject to awarding body validation.

Progression after Sixth Form

Today's BTEC Nationals are demanding, as you would expect of the most respected applied learning qualification in the UK. You will have to be organised, take some assessments that we will set and mark and keep a portfolio of your assignments. But you can feel proud to achieve a BTEC because, whatever your plans in life - whether you decide to study further, go on to work or an apprenticeship, or set up your own business - your BTEC National will be your passport to success in the next stage of your life.

Career opportunities

BTEC Nationals have been developed in consultation with industry and appropriate sector bodies to ensure that the qualification content and approach to assessment aligns closely to the needs of employers.

The BCS, the Chartered Institute for IT, have confirmed that the qualifications support progression towards a professional career in IT, such as a Registered IT Technician, or towards further education in computing or information technology.

For more information contact Head of Department:

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