winstanley college

BTEC National Level 3 in Information Technology (Extended Certificate)

BTEC National Level 3	Information Technology Course Content	Assessment
Unit 1: Information Technology Systems	Students study the role of computer systems and the implications of their use in personal and professional situations. In this unit students draw on their learning from across the programme. You will explore the relationships between the hardware and software that form an IT system, the way systems work individually and together as well as the relationship between the user and the system. You will examine issues related to the use of IT systems and the impact that these have on organisations and individuals.	Externally Assessed 2hrs written examination (Synoptic Paper)
Unit 2: Creating Systems to Manage Information	Students study the design, creation, testing and evaluation of a relational database system to manage information. You will examine the structure of data, its origins and how an efficient data design follows through to an effective and useful database. You will examine a given scenario and develop an effective design solution to produce a database system. You will then test your solution to ensure it works correctly. Finally you will evaluate each stage of the development process and the effectiveness of your database solution.	Externally Assessed 10hrs on-line project completed over 1 week
Unit 3: Using Social Media in Business	Students explore how businesses use social media to promote their products and services; as well as implement social media activities in a business to meet requirements. You will explore different social media websites, the ways in which they can be used and the potential pitfalls when using them for business purposes. You will develop a plan to use social media strategies for business purposes to achieve specific aims and objectives. You will then implement the plan, developing and posting content and interacting with others. Finally, you will collect data on the business use of social media and review the effectiveness of your efforts.	Internally Assessed Project set and marked by tutor (Externally moderated)
Unit 5: Data Modelling	Students study how data modelling can be used to solve problems, and they will design and implement a data model to meet client requirements. You will investigate the fundamentals of the decision-making process. You will find out how using data modelling provides the computational ability to compare consequences, and determine a preferred course of action. You will develop the skills and techniques necessary to create complex spreadsheets in order to produce accurate information that informs decision-making. You will examine a scenario then design, develop and test a spreadsheet; you will review your spreadsheet and make refinements based on user feedback, providing an evaluation of the effectiveness of the alternatives produced.	Internally Assessed Project set and marked by tutor (Externally moderated)

Where are they now?

<u>Nathan Griffiths</u>

Nathan studied ICT, Computing, Maths and General Studies. After college he went on to take an NVQ Level 3 IT Engineer Apprenticeship at Prestige IT. He is currently working for a company called DLS Technologies in Bolton as an IT Field Engineer which involves him travelling to customers' sites to provide IT support for their IT infrastructure. He says: *"ICT set me up well for the software side of the job, using the various MS Office products and general Windows knowledge. It also made me more organised and thorough in my work. Computing helped me to understand the inner workings of IT and computers. The hardware element came in handy when repairing computers and servers"*.

<u>Megan Brown</u>

Megan studied ICT, Psychology, Geography and General Studies. She took part in a trip to see how ICT is used at Manchester Airport and was an ICT mentor which she found to be a great experience as: *"I was able to help L6th students as well as fellow members of my class with revision."* Megan went on to study for the ITMB degree at Edge Hill University which combines IT with Business and Management for which she acknowledges that: *"the ICT coursework helped me with my university coursework as in some parts it was similar with the lay out and in terms of how much detail was needed."*

Learning outside the classroom

You will have the opportunity to be mentored by industry experts.

There are a range of on-line resources and video tutorials for independent study.

Tutorial sessions are provided to those students who need additional help and support.

You will have access to a dual purpose classroom as well as the Library and the IT Centre on A corridor, which you are encouraged to use at lunchtimes and breaks to practice your IT skills and complete assignments, carry out research etc.

Additionally, for those IT students who already have a keen interest in programming, there is a weekly Code Club for you to practice your skills alongside other like-minded students.

Study Support

When you enrol we'll make sure that you are receiving all the support you need, for example you may be entitled to extra time in your exams, you may benefit from working with a dyslexia tutor or you may simply need help with organising your time, the many topic booklets and your file!

Academic Challenge

If you are keen to continue with IT/Computing at University you will receive help with choosing which university and which course is right for you. We will help guide you through your application and Personal Statement, actively support the development of your employability skills and inspire you with relevant activities and experiences. Should you wish to pursue an alternative career path such as an Apprenticeship, we will support you through that application process as well. Ex Winstanley students already studying this wide ranging subject at university as well as those having taken up an Apprenticeship in an IT related field will visit and tell you the real story; and visiting speakers will give you a glimpse in to what further study involves, as well as outlining the opportunities available of working within the IT industry.

From school pupil to Winstanley student

To study this subject at college, all we ask is that you are enthusiastic about IT and its varied uses, are familiar with the Microsoft Office suite of packages including Excel and Word, as well as have access to a computer at home.

Taster Days in July will enable you to see what a typical IT lesson is like.