The world of IT is ever changing and expanding.

This course develops skills in problem solving, project management and communication, which are vital in any career





Are you interested in:

- Using computers
- Problem solving
- Creating solutions
- Gaining vital employability skills
- Managing projects

Leading to a career in:

- Network engineering
- Augmented reality
- App design
- Systems analysis
- Product development
- Mobile technology
- Games design and prototyping
- Web design
- Software engineering

Teacher to contact:

Miss S Pascoe

Exam Board: OCR

Extended Certificate = 1 A-Level

CTEC Level 3

Year 1: Fundamentals of IT and Global Information

By studying both these units in year 1, you will gain a solid foundation in the fundamentals of hardware, networks, software and the ethical use of computers. You will also look at the uses of information in the public domain, globally, in the cloud and across the Internet, by individuals and organisations. You will discover that good management of equipment, data and information is essential for a business and that having this background knowledge, can give you and any organisation a competitive edge.

After your exams in May you will begin working on your two project units. You will be introduced to different methodologies which are used within businesses, to manage projects and product development.

Year 2: Cyber Security and coursework project

Businesses and individuals rely heavily on computerised systems and networks to collect, process, store and transfer vast amounts of data. They are used to control critical systems such as water, power supplies and banking. Businesses and ecommerce can be operating twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week; that is a lot of potential online time for a hacker to access data! Do you have the skills to keep up???

The cyber security unit has been designed to enable you to gain knowledge and understanding of the range of threats, vulnerabilities and risks that impact on both individuals and organisations. This knowledge is vital for any business to survive in the modern world.

At the same time as learning about security, you will be continuing to work on your projects for your client. You might decide you want to extend your programming skills and create an app that can be run on an android device or you may choose that a website is the best option for your client. Either way you will be gaining skills in project management and product development, as well as many other qualities that employers look for in their employees.

Are Cambridge Technicals the same as a BTEC or an A-level?

The Cambridge Technicals are equivalent to A-levels and are accepted at all Universities by UCAS and are pretty similar to BTECs. They are more practical than an A-level and allow you the chance to develop 'real-world' solutions for real people. Do not underestimate the power of the word "Cambridge" in this qualification.

Do I have to have done Computer Science or IT at GCSE?

Students are not expected to have completed a GCSE in Computer Science or IT to access this course. Students who have, are expected to have achieved a GCSE Grade 4 or equivalent. You will learn all the skills you need (and more) during this course.

Is IT all about spreadsheets and Databases?

In a word NO! We do not teach you how to use a spreadsheet or a database, we look at the much broader topic of IT, focussing more on the industry related skills from the simple "my computer does not work, what do I do?" to the more in-depth "Your games company has had its source code stolen, what is your next move?" or "What responsibility does Instagram have for protecting your data?". We also look at the tools and general computer skills that employers are looking for when they are hiring.

Why should I study IT?

Ask yourself these questions

- Do I want the choice of being able to go to University or go straight into the industry?
- Do I see myself working in a career which will involve IT?
- Can you name many industries that do not use IT?
- Am I a practical learner that thrives on a challenge?
- Do I want to learn a broad range of skills that an employer will want in the IT industry?
- Do I want a product which I can say "I created that!"?
- Do I enjoy coursework?
- Do I want to do a more practical subject?
- Do I want skills which I can apply in many different jobs and careers?

If the answer is yes to a number of these then this is the course for you. The course works really well with a range of subjects, especially Product Design, Media Studies and Business Studies.

How is the course Assessed?

There are two examined units at the end of year. These units combined make up 50% of your final grade. In year 2 there is one exam in January and your two coursework units, which make up the other 50% of your final grade.

Two of the exams have case studies which are given and used to prepare in advance of the exams.

Become part of IT changing the world

Technology has come a long way since the 1940s, who knows what may lie ahead in the future. These are essential skills for the workplace.

