carmel
college

Inspiring minds.
Shaping futures.

BTEC
INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY

COURSE GUIDE 2017

"BTEC courses give you real, hands on experience. They give you the skills today's employers are looking for."

PETER JONES CBE ENTREPRENEUR

Information Technology

Exam Board PEARSON

Why choose this course at Carmel?

The BTEC level 3 Diploma in IT is a two year course leading to a qualification the equivalent of two A Levels. This is an excellent grounding to go on to further study in an IT-related subject or to seek an apprenticeship/employment. The vocational nature of this course means that there is emphasis on developing practical skill in key areas of IT/Computing.

The assessment of the course is part coursework portfolio (60 %) and part external exams (40%).

What will I study?

The mandatory units for this qualification are:

• Information technology systems (externally assessed by written exam)
• Creating systems to manage information (externally assessed in a practical exam)
• Using social media in business
• Programming

You will study a number of other units to complement these covering topics such as web development and data handling.

Externally assessed units will take place under normal exam conditions and portfolio assessed units will require you to complete a number of assignments. Evidence for these assignments can be presented in a variety of formats such as written reports, videos, Leaflets, Website etc.

To study this course successfully it is important to have an interest in IT/Computing and be disciplined in the production of your coursework. You will also be required to study for the externally assessed exams. You must be willing to explore new ideas and concepts and you must be motivated to use your study periods efficiently for assignments.

This course is ideal for any student who is considering a future in the IT/Computing industry.

Our students say...

Studying at Carmel has been a great experience for me.

I've had the opportunity to learn to the best of my ability and make new friends. One thing I enjoy is study periods which allow me to manage my workload effectively and learn with friends. Something else I like about Carmel is the tutors. They are very keen to answer your questions and ensure that you make progress; this support encourages you to do your best.

I have enjoyed learning about various aspects of IT including E-commerce, Website Architecture and Computer Systems. I would strongly recommend BTEC IT because of how the work is presented in a coursework format (which takes the pressure off for a final exam) and how interesting the units of the course are. When I leave Carmel I hope to either work as an apprentice or study computer security at university.

Matthew North
De La Salle

Studying:
BTEC IT, History

Where does this course lead?

On successful completion of a BTEC Level 3 qualification, learners can progress into employment and/or continue their study in the same subject area at degree level. Here are some examples:

Employment apprenticeships

- IBM Computers
- ZENOS Academy
- NHS – Business administration
- NHS – Nursing/Radiology

Higher Education

BTEC IT students have been accepted onto the following courses:

- **Liverpool John Moores**
  Computer Technology
  Computer Forensics
  Computer Studies
  IT & Multimedia Computing
  Cyber Security
  Computer Games Technology
- **University of Huddersfield**
  Computer Games Programming
- **University of Liverpool**
  Computer Information Systems
- **Manchester Metropolitan University**
  Computer Forensics and Security
- **Chester University**
  Computer Science
- **University of Lincoln**
  Games Computing
- **Edge Hill University**
  Computer Security and Network
  Enrichment Opportunities

Work Experience

During your study of BTEC IT you will have the opportunity to volunteer for some work experience. Our dedicated Work Experience Co-ordinator will advertise suitable positions. These placements can take place during term time as part of your enrichment or sometimes during holiday time.
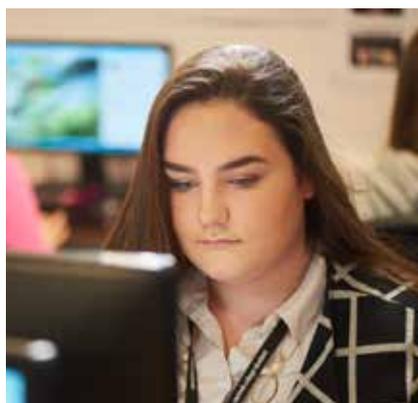
Previous BTEC learners have undertaken work experience with a local software company, provided social media support for charities and community based projects in the local area. Students have also produced newsletters and websites as part of their work experience projects too.

BTEC IT and UCAS points
BTEC Level 3 IT courses attract UCAS points just like A Levels.

The table below shows the number of UCAS points available for Diploma qualifications:

Diploma Final Grade (2 x A Level)	UCAS Points
D*D*	112
D*D	104
DD	96
DM	80
MM	64
MP	48
PP	32

Our students say...

Since joining Carmel, I have enjoyed the freedom of college compared to secondary school, such as the free periods when you can get your work done.

I enjoy BTEC IT because it's really interesting and each unit is different. I'd recommend this subject to other students as it develops your IT knowledge and depending on the unit, improves business knowledge too. What has impressed me the most about Carmel is how helpful and friendly the tutors are and how there is always help and resources available when you need it. After I leave Carmel, I hope to go to university to study Digital Forensics.

Abbie Francis
Broughton Hall

Studying:
BTEC IT, Sociology, Maths

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between ICT and the BTEC IT?
The main difference is that the BTEC is equivalent to 2 'A' Levels whereas ICT is just 1 'A' Level. The BTEC involves more practical work and a portfolio of evidence.

Can I study BTEC if I have not taken it at GCSE?
Yes.

What support will I receive?
All students receive extra support via individual and group tutorials throughout the academic year as required.
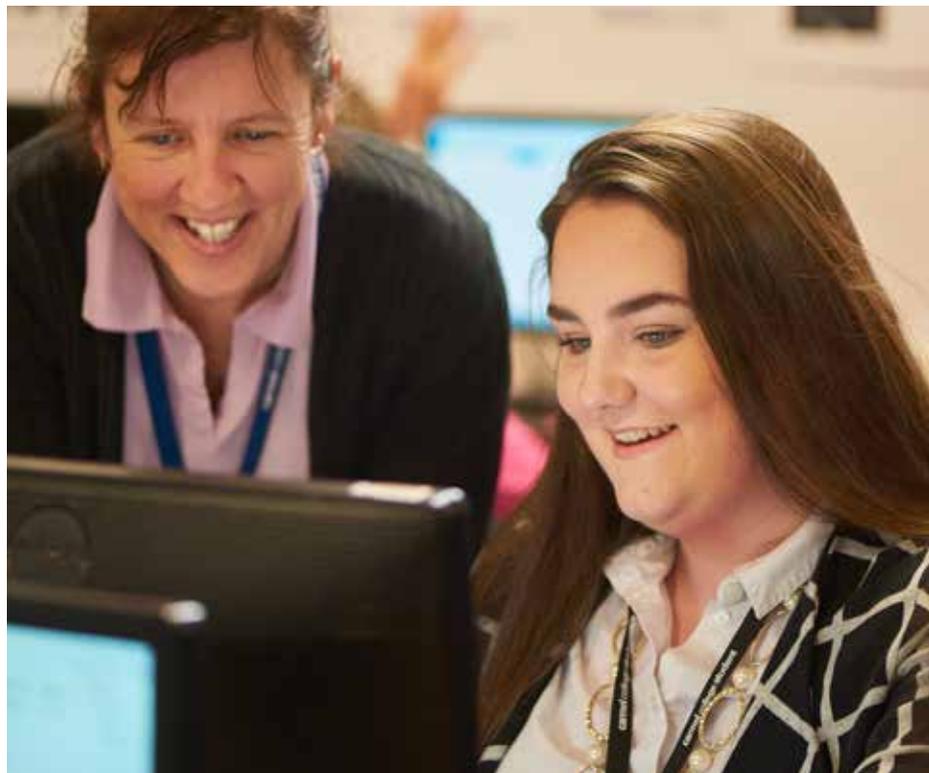
What is the department like?
We have 2 dedicated computer suites with wireless internet connection, printing facilities, interactive whiteboards and multi-media projectors. In addition to these we also have a theory classroom.

How successful are Carmel's BTEC students?

Summer 2016 Examination Results:

- 100% Pass Rate
- 92% of BTEC IT students achieved Distinction* or Distinction
- 100% Distinction* to Merit

What are the entry requirements for BTEC IT?

GCSE grade C in ICT or pass in equivalent ICT qualification plus **GCSE grade 4** in both **English Language** and **Mathematics**.

Meet the Tutors

Lesley Heyes
Head of BTEC IT

Phil Gorman
Emma Roberts

More Information

You can get a detailed course specification from the exam board website:
www.qualifications.pearson.com