BTEC National Extended Certificate in Computing Level 3

Course Details and Assessment

Computing is concerned both with computers and computer systems – how they work and how they are designed, constructed and used. The core study of computing encompasses programming languages, data structures, algorithms and the underlying science of information and computation. The course offers students access to subject knowledge and skills in computer science and computer systems, enabling them to progress to further study.

The course will cover the following topic areas:

In Year 1 you will study:

Unit 1 - Principles of Computer Science
This unit covers the principles that underpin all areas of computer science. It will develop students computational-thinking skills and you will apply those skills to solve problems.

Unit14 - Computer Games Development
Students will investigate the computer games industry and its impact on technological and social trends. They will design and develop a computer game to meet requirements.
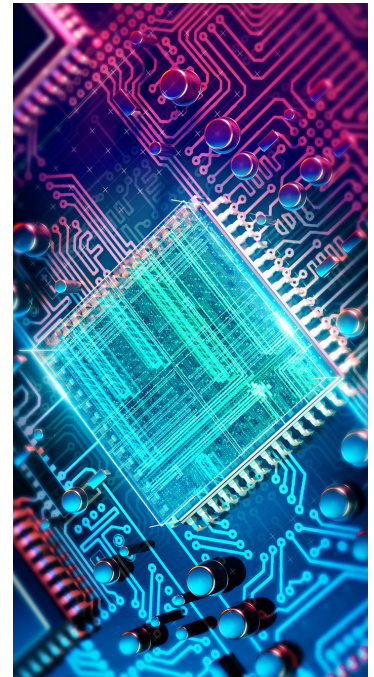
In Year 2 you will study:

Unit 2 - Fundamentals of Computer Systems
Students will study the fundamental principles of how computer systems work, including the role of hardware and software, the way components of a system work together and how data in a system is used.

Unit 7- IT Systems Security and Encryption
Students will study IT system security threats and the methods used to protect against them. Students undertake activities to protect IT systems from security threats, including data encryption.

How is the course assessed?

Year One

Unit 1
Principles of Computer Science
2 hours - Exam - 90 marks

Unit 14
Computer Games Development
Coursework
In this unit, you will design and develop a computer game that meets the exam boards requirements.

Grading - Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction*

Year Two

Unit 2
Fundamentals of Computer Systems
2 hr 45 minutes - Exam - 80 marks

Unit 7
IT Systems Security and Encryption
Coursework
Students undertake activities to protect IT systems from security threats, including data encryption.

Grading - Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction*

"Computing is a window into the soul of a computer"

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Where can Level 3 Computing lead me?

The course prepares students for employment in the Computing sector. The majority of students with this qualification will go on to higher education taking a Computer Science related degree.

Possible careers include...

Business - Game Design - Software Designer
Cyber Security - IT Technician - Computing

What key skills do I need?

The skills needed to complete this course are:

- Good organisation
- Time management
- Basic ICT skills
- An ability to work independently
- Problem solving is an essential skill for this qualification

Entry Requirements

To be able to study Level 3 Computing, you must achieve:
- GCSE grade 5 in Maths
- GCSE grade 5 in English
- GCSE grade 4 in ICT/Computer Science

Exam Board

Pearson (EDEXCEL)

Still got questions?

Speak to Mr Jones for more information
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