

National First Award in ICT (core)

Outline of course

This qualification is typically aimed at students who are seeking a career with ICT as a focus or for those who are wishing to study ICT in further education. It is designed to recognise the skills, knowledge and understanding of when and where to use ICT to solve a problem. The course is designed to give students a flavour of work-related ICT tasks that students are likely to face when they venture into employment.

As well as developing ICT skills for business, students will develop their knowledge and techniques in many other areas, depending on which unit they decide to do in year eleven. For those who would like to venture into graphic design, they may decide to complete the computer graphics unit. Students may also choose from a sound editing, video editing or animation unit, depending on which area they feel is appropriate.

Once they have successfully completed this qualification, students may decide to continue with this type of course in the sixth form.

Special equipment required

No specific requirements, but it is very useful to have a memory stick available to regularly back-up coursework and take a copy home.

Assessment requirements

The evidence for this course is purely based on the coursework projects students complete. For each unit they complete (two units in year ten and a one in year eleven), students are required to produce a portfolio. This generally takes the form of printouts/screen shots, but for those who are feeling more creative, students may decide to use video evidence to show the moderator the work they have produced.

Each unit is assessed using a Pass, Merit, Distinction grading. A pass is broadly equivalent to a grade 'C' at GCSE level (level 2).

How can parents help at home?

You could familiarise yourself with the coursework assignment and task deadlines (available late September through the school' VLE) to encourage your child to ensure all tasks are complete well presented.