

The Diploma

Bringing learning to life

Information Technology

NEW for 2009

IT
Hair and Beauty Studies
Society, Health & Development
Construction and the Built
Environment (started in 2008)

What will Diploma students learn?

Students will develop an understanding of contemporary digital media and its application to communication and entertainment.

The tasks can be as varied as managing projects, designing new business solutions or developing websites. This Diploma will look at what different people in the industry do and let students develop the range of skills and knowledge to succeed at college, university or in employment.

Students will create and design a product using Multimedia applications. The Diploma offers a curriculum which continually keeps pace with the developing needs of employers and universities in the 21st Century.

The Diploma is a combination of academic learning with hands-on experience, delivered in an applied context or through work experience. The approach is to deliver an integrated programme with an emphasis on the development of transferable skills. Students will learn how teams function and to apply their learning in business settings.

Higher level students are introduced to the work of the different professions in more detail. They will for example design, develop, test and implement a small-scale project and evaluate the key factors in the success or failure of a project including technology enabled solutions in real-world environments.

What is the Diploma in Information Technology?

Young people studying the Diploma in Information Technology will learn how organisations work and the role technology can play. They will analyse business problems and learn how to develop IT systems to meet needs and help organisations and people.

The Diploma in IT will inspire learners through an exploration of the use of technology in business, supported by innovative approaches to content, delivery and assessment helping students to prepare for adaptable careers and lives in the ever-changing landscape of the technology-enabled world.

Compulsory Topics

At **Foundation level** students will study six compulsory topics which have been designed to give them a broad understanding of the sector and the way it works. They will investigate Technology in Organisations, Network and Database Systems, Working with People.

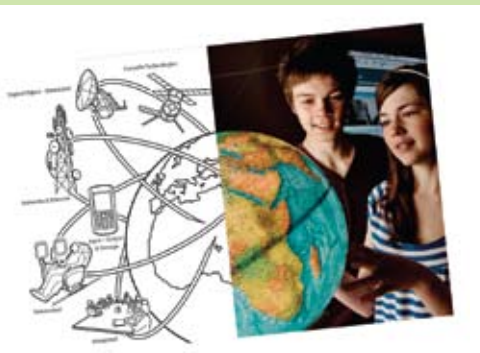
At Year 10 there are two levels of Diploma:

The Foundation Diploma is a level 1 qualification that is equivalent to 5 GCSEs (grade D to G).

The Higher Diploma is a level 2 qualification that is equivalent to 7 GCSEs (grade A* to C).

Students will study the Diploma for 1½ days per week over two years.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



Student Project

All Diploma students will complete a project to demonstrate the skills and knowledge they have acquired. Students can choose their own project. This could be a written piece of work, for example, like a

report investigating technology systems used in business. Or it could be a practical piece of work, like designing and testing a website or producing a leaflet utilising desk top publishing technology.

English, Maths and ICT

All Diploma students need to achieve functional skills in English, maths and ICT. These subjects can be studied as part of the Diploma or can be taken alongside it.

*"I'm planning to do the **advanced Diploma** after this."*

Choices

Students have the flexibility to choose from a wide range of additional or specialist learning options that are also part of the Diploma in Information Technology.

Alternatively, Diploma students can choose a subject that broadens their study programme – perhaps a language, a science or Media and Art. Foundation level students can choose from specialist topics according to their personal interests and objectives. For example they may wish to learn about web design and authoring, or photography. **There are 14 optional subjects at Higher Level.** Students may want to study a specific subject in more depth if they have a particular career path in mind or they may prefer to keep their options open by taking a mix of subjects. These may include business and commercial IT systems.

Personal, Learning and Thinking Skills

Mastering essential life and work skills is crucial in today's competitive job market. So all Diploma students are encouraged to develop skills in teamwork and self-management as part of their course. They will learn how to express themselves confidently and how to apply their knowledge and skills creatively no matter which path they take.

Work Experience

Diploma students will do a minimum of 10 days' work experience. They will also get the chance to learn and be mentored by professionals working in their chosen field. For example a student might work on an IT Help Desk or shadow a PC engineer.

Progression

However, the Diploma in Information Technology doesn't mean students have to opt for a career in this sector. As a Diploma teaches a mix of subjects, it will give students the skills that are welcomed by colleges, universities and employers, no matter what they choose to do.

Coming in 2010

Hospitality
Creative and Media



The Basingstoke and Deane 14-19 Partnership has been established to enable schools and colleges to work collaboratively on the implementation of Government 14-19 education reforms.

The Partnership consists of 11 secondary schools, one special school, two colleges, the town's education business partnership and a work-based learning provider. Other current members of the Partnership include Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Hampshire County Council, The Learning and Skills Council, Connexions and Aimhigher.



"A real alternative to traditional learning routes"

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Diploma
Bringing learning to life

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