

Information Technology

Do you enjoy using computers?

Are you a keen web designer?

Are you interested in finding new ways in which we can use and develop technology?

Does computer games design appeal to you?

If the answer is yes to any of the above, have you ever thought about studying for a Diploma in Information Technology?

What is a Diploma?

A Diploma combines knowledge and skills through theory and practical work that employers and universities value, it is offered at two levels:

Foundation - equivalent to 5 GCSE grades at D to G
Higher - equivalent to 7 GCSE grades A to C.*

You will work on projects, practical activities in and out of the classroom setting and take part in work experience placements. This programme of study is versatile, exciting and flexible.

A Diploma is made up of four areas:

- Principal learning will teach you all you need to know about your chosen Diploma subject. This will take up a fairly large proportion of your timetable
- Functional skills in English, Maths and ICT
- Additional and specialist learning which can include other qualifications such as GCSEs or BTEC
- You will also develop skills in self management, team working and leadership

Why study a Diploma in Information Technology

The UK IT industry is a fast-growing and dynamic sector. This Diploma will help equip those of you who have an interest in IT with the technical, business and communication skills required to enter this thriving sector. It will develop your understanding of IT by focusing on three main areas; how organisations work and the role technology can play, how to work well with other people and how to create technology solutions. If you would like to work in areas such as software development, computer games design, business management, graphic design or music technology, a Diploma offers a broad based learning experience for everyone.

Careers it can lead to in the sector

IT: computer engineer/analyst
programmer/radio systems design
engineer/helpdesk support worker/
information architect/project manager/
computer games developers/IT trainer/
software engineer/graphic designer/
computer networking/multimedia
specialist/web master/business analyst/
online sales managers

Once I have completed a Diploma, What next?

The good thing about the Diploma is that although it focuses on a particular subject area, it teaches a mix of subjects, giving a well-rounded education, so you don't have to opt for a career in IT at the end of studying it.

Universities and employers have been involved in designing the Diplomas so it will enable you to study further at college and/or university.

What might your route look like?

Yr 10 and 11

IT Diploma with Additional Specialist Learning in subjects such as:
Graphic Design GCSE,
German GCSE
or Music GCSE
plus the Core subjects

Yr 12 and 13 – College or Sixth form

Course ideas:
BTEC National Diploma for IT Practitioners
IT Advanced Diploma with A level Maths
An AS/A level course in Maths, ICT and Business

Higher Education degree courses you might progress onto:

Internet Computing	Computer Games Programming
Computer Forensics	Computer Networking and Administration
Software Engineering	Music Technology with Software Development

Or

Employment or Apprenticeships

What do the professionals say?

"In order to compete in the global economy, UK companies urgently need more young people to understand technology in business. The content of the Diploma will help develop students, both for university courses and rewarding, flexible careers."

Andy Hill – Head of Resourcing, Vodafone

? ? Questions to ask ? ?

As with any qualifications, always check college/sixth form entry requirements. Some advanced courses will require specific GCSE subjects and grades. As part of any Diploma you can take additional qualifications like GCSEs or BTEC, but you must check what your timetable will allow you to study alongside your Diploma in Yr 10.

For example, most IT related careers will require additional science qualifications at GCSE.

If there is a specific career area you wish to pursue, again, always check entry requirements. If in doubt, ask your school Connexions Personal Adviser.

Useful websites

Careers related

www.workabout.org.uk
www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u
www.calderdaleprospectus.co.uk
www.kirkleesoptions.org.uk

IT related

www.bcs.org
www.theiet.org
www.iap.org.uk
www.gamesindustry.biz

Time for success!

Telecommunications is currently the fastest growing IT employment sector.

(Source: Outlook on.....IT)

The number of applicants to IT degree level courses is falling.

(Source: Outlook on.....IT)



Less than 20% of the IT workforce is female with only 2% computer engineers being women.

(Source: Outlook on.....IT)

Earnings in the IT employment sector are much higher than national average - £611 per week compared with £335 per week.

(LMI Briefing....IAG Workforce)

For further information and advice:

- contact the  (0800 5 979 979 free to UK landlines)
Text: 07786 202 804
(start message with learn)
E: learningline@ckcareers.org.uk
- look at  www.workabout.org.uk
- or visit one of our Centres - details from the Learningline and on Workabout

Equal Opportunities

We are committed to promoting equality of opportunity for all. If you feel you have been discriminated against because of race, gender, disability, religion, age, ethnic origin or sexual orientation please speak to your Connexions Personal Adviser.

The Diploma – Bringing learning to life