

BTEC Information Technology at Samuel Whitbread Academy

Intent

This course helps learners explore relationships between IT systems hardware and software, the way systems work individually and together, the relationship between the user and the system and the impact technology has on organisations and individuals. You will develop practical database skills which teaches you how to create systems to manage and share Information, a comprehensive understanding of using and implementing social media in Business. You also study how organisations collect and use data to make decisions, data manipulation and modelling such that business may draw conclusions and make recommendations on data intelligence.

This course is also designed to develop learner's employability skills across the three main areas of Problem-solving skills: such as the use of critical thinking, applying expert and creative solutions to non-routine problems; Intrapersonal skills: such as communicating, working collaboratively, negotiating and influencing skills; and Interpersonal skills: including self-management, adaptability and resilience, self-monitoring and development.

This will allow progression to a variety of degrees when combined with other suitable Level 3 qualifications but also enables learners to develop knowledge and skills needed for entry-level roles related to IT, including vocational apprenticeship roles and trainee/entry-level roles such as a social media specialist, web/content developer, or business analyst.

Implementation

Information Technology at Samuel Whitbread Academy is taught through the completion of four units. One unit, which is assessed through an externally marked exam, focusses on understanding a wide range of **Information Technology Systems**. The other three units are assessed through the completion of coursework projects and focus on **Using Social Media in Business**, **Data Modelling** and **Creating Systems to Manage Information**. Throughout the course students are encouraged to explore the links between the different units that they study.

As a department, we measure the impact of our curriculum by the outcomes at the end of the course and the number of our student pursuing careers and further study in related fields.

It is our aim that by the end of the BTEC Information Technology (IT) course, students:

- Enjoy applying their IT knowledge and skills in developing the solutions to real-world problems.
- Can confidently use industry-standard software and methods to develop IT systems, such as web sites and databases.
- Have a strong understanding of theoretical topics that will support them in their use of technology beyond school and further education.
- Understand how technology can be developed to solve problems, entertain and innovate.
- Are able to debate and evaluate important ethical, social and environmental issues related to technology.