

CourseInfo

IT & Communication Technology

BTEC Skills for Working Life Entry Level

What's it all about?

Students will study IT and communication technology alongside literacy and numeracy.

What do I need?

There are no formal entry requirements, but students will need to attend an interview.

How long will it take?

One year.

What successful students may go on to do:

IT @ Work Level 1.

IT @ Work

BTEC Introductory Diploma

What's it all about?

The course is very 'hands-on' with each module taught in a real work situation. You will gain a good understanding of different job opportunities in the IT sector and gain the skills to help you confidently apply for jobs.

What do I need?

There are no formal entry requirements.

How long will it take?

One year.

What successful students may go on to do:

- Further education courses such as IT Users and Software Developers
- Vocational training
- Employment in the administration or IT industry.

IT Users & Software Developers

City & Guilds Level 2 Diploma

What's it all about?

This course provides an introduction to a wide range of computing and IT topics, ranging from website design to computer programming.

What do I need?

Four GCSEs at grades D or above or a Level 1 qualification in a related subject area.

How long will it take?

One year.

What successful students may go on to do:

- Further education courses such as IT Practitioners BTEC National Diploma
- Vocational training
- Employment in the IT industry.

IT Practitioners BTEC National Diploma

Level 3

What's it all about?

This course provides the knowledge, understanding and skills for learners wishing to enter a career as an IT practitioner or technician in the area of business systems, user support, networking and software development, or to progress to higher education.

What do I need?

Four GCSEs at grade C or above or a relevant Level 2 qualification.

How long will it take?

Two years.

What successful students may go on to do:

- Higher education courses in subjects such as: Computer Studies, Web Development, Computer Science, Computer Games Programming, Web Design, Visualisation and Computer-Aided Design (Engineering)

Media (Games Development) BTEC National Diploma

Level 3

What's it all about?

This course provides the knowledge, understanding and skills for learners wishing to enter a career in the media professions and/or provides progression to higher education. Modules studied include digital graphics, web animation, research techniques and 3D modelling.

What do I need?

Four GCSEs at grade C or above or a relevant Level 2 qualification.

How long will it take?

Two years.

What successful students may go on to do:

- Higher education courses in subjects such as: E-Media, Web Development, Computer Graphics, Computer Games Design, Web Design or Visualisation.



Want to know more?

Join one of the Taster sessions running throughout the year where you can experience what it's really like to be a computing and IT student at Redcar & Cleveland College. Parents welcome to come along too.

For further details contact Student Services on **01642 473132**.



Computing & IT

01642 473132

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REDCAR & CLEVELAND COLLEGE

RAISING ASPIRATIONS
EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS



The key to a hi-tech career

The world of information technology is ever-growing – and so, too, are the endless career and educational opportunities.

Whether your interest lies in website design, programming, networking or games, Redcar & Cleveland College has the courses and experienced staff to ensure you succeed.

Trevor Watson, Head of Division for Computing, Maths and Science, said the college was an excellent place to start for young people who wanted to go to university to study computers.

However, the variety of courses available also equip students for life in the industry, if that is where they want to head.

"We have a course for everyone at this college, whether they have no computer knowledge, a basic grounding, or more extensive experience," he said.

"All of our resources are new and they are among the best available.

"Every student has their own computer workstation to work from in class and we have high specification machines, including laser printers, projectors and smart boards.

"If it is used in the industry, then we probably use it here, too."

However, Trevor said the experienced staff were also vital to ensuring that students reached their full potential.

The department's seven tutors have a wealth of industrial and teaching experience to pass on in the classrooms.

"As the world of computing is ever evolving, so are we at the college," he added.

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“Our lecturers are very enthusiastic about their subjects and are always moving with the times and ensuring that courses are updated and adapted to include the newest technologies and advancements.

“We are all pro-active in trying to improve our knowledge, so when students come here they are up-to-date and at the cutting edge.”

For those without the basic qualifications to get on the BTEC level one course, there is the 12-month Entry Level Skills for Working Life course, which gives them the grounding to go on to further courses.

The level one Introductory Diploma in IT@Work then takes a look at

information technology and is designed for those people who do meet the criteria, but have little computer know-how.

The one-year level two City and Guilds IT-Users course covers computer applications, presentation packages, spreadsheets, website design and computer programming.

The BTEC level three National Diploma lasts two years and is equivalent to three A levels. It is most commonly used as a stepping stone to university and comes in two courses – IT Practitioners and Media Games Development.

IT Practitioners is hardcore computing and includes programming, website design, computer maintenance and networking.

The Media Games Development course is based on 3D modelling, animation, computer games design, video and sound production.

For those beyond the level three stage, the college is also offering some level four courses, in conjunction with Teesside University, including PC maintenance, IT applications, Games Level Design and 3D Animation.



Digging deep for new website



Pictured (from left) Stuart McFarlane, Michael Kinder, William Bennison and Lecturer Roderick Murray

Computer student William Bennison is celebrating after winning a website design competition in conjunction with a local museum.

Students on the BTEC IT Practitioners course have been working with staff from the Cleveland Ironstone Mining Museum in Skinningrove with the aim of creating a brand new, eye-catching website for the museum.

The finished websites were assessed, with William being crowned the winner, and David Smith being named as runner-up.

Judge Stuart McFarlane, who is chairman of the museum, said it was a tough decision, but William's design just had the edge.



However, he said David's entry was impressive, so some aspects of his website would be incorporated into the finished product.

William said: “I was really pleased to win – I didn't expect it.

“Designing the website was really interesting and was a challenge that we could really get our teeth into.”

Mr McFarlane said: “All of the students did really well. William and David seemed to capture the atmosphere of the museum and they did a tremendous job.”

Thanks to Big Lottery Funding, the Community Animators Project at the college has worked with the museum, schools and community groups for the last 18 months to provide free

family learning events in the area, which led to the college being involved in the new website.

Project co-ordinator, Michael Kinder, who is a college tutor, said: “Our first class IT teaching facilities have been showcased in the excellent standard of the websites produced for the museum. I hope this will be the first of many such collaborations.”

Meet the Staff

Trevor Watson
Head of Division

- BSc Hons
- MSc
- PGCE
- 13 years' industry experience, 15 years' teaching experience



Roderick Murray
Computer Lecturer

- BA Hons
- PGCE Technology
- MSc
- Four years' industry experience, 10 years' teaching experience



Chris Hart
Computer Lecturer

- BSc Hons
- MSc
- PGCE Technology
- BTEC Diploma Engineering
- 21 years' industry and seven years' teaching experience



Geoff Myers
Computer Lecturer

- BSc Hons
- Phd Physics
- PGSC
- 32 years' experience



New course proves a success

A new computer course designed to get students without direction on to a career path has been hailed as a major success.

In September 2006, the college launched an Entry Level Skills for Working Life course in information technology to enable young people with no computer know-how or sufficient qualifications the tools to get on.

In the first year, six students who were not quite at BTEC level one standard began the course.

A year later, all of the students had completed and passed the course – and five of them have since gone on to take further qualifications and are still at the college.

The following year's course saw similar success rates, and one student is now actually progressing to a BTEC level three course.

Tutor Lynne Cassidy said: “It has been remarkable to see the change in these young people who came into the college with no idea of where they wanted to go or what they could achieve.

“In just a few months, they have grown in knowledge and confidence and have the ambition to succeed. Students who may have been shy when they came to us are transformed. They have self-esteem and belief, become sociable and really enjoy the course. It's wonderful.”

Lynne Cassidy
Computer Lecturer

- Cert Ed
- 15 years' teaching experience



Sam Beel
Computer Lecturer

- Cert Ed
- BA Hons
- MIFL
- 11 years' teaching experience

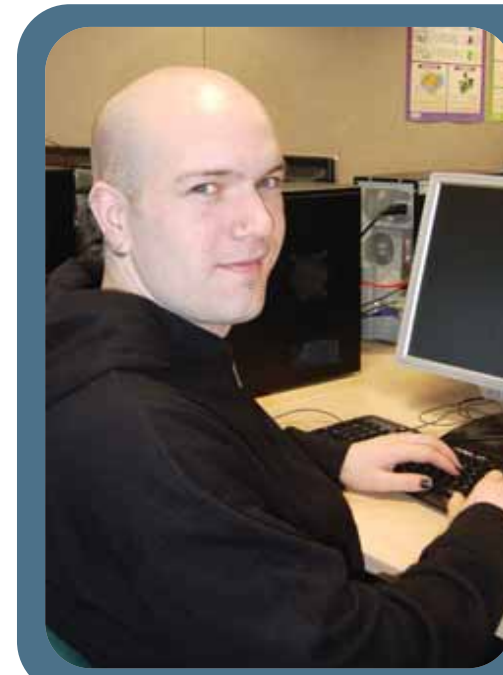


Charlotte Cummins
Computer Lecturer

- MSc
- PGSC
- BA Hons
- MIFL
- 18 years' teaching experience



From left, back row, Adele Cowling, Freddie Knauft, Jess Cutter, Becky Weller and Vicky Fletcher.



Student Profile: Matthew Spencer

Computer whizz Matthew Spencer is on course for a successful career after his tutors predicted top marks in all of his assignments.

The 26-year-old, from Redcar, is weighing up his options after completing his BTEC level three IT Practitioners National Diploma at the college.

The former West Redcar Secondary School pupil has been at the college for two years and has impressed all of his lecturers.

Ex West Redcar Secondary School Full-Time Student IT Practitioners

Head of Division Trevor Watson said: “Matthew is an excellent student and will definitely go far. We are predicting that he will get distinctions in every one of his 17 modules. He has proved exceptional.”

Matthew has studied software and web development, digital graphics, programming, computer maintenance, networking and professional business skills.

One day, he said, he would like to run his own business.

He said: “The course has improved my ability a great deal, as well as my self-belief. Redcar & Cleveland College has excellent modern facilities and students on my course were given first class technical guidance throughout.

“When we first moved to the new campus I was genuinely surprised at how good the new facilities were. We have everything we need at our disposal here.”