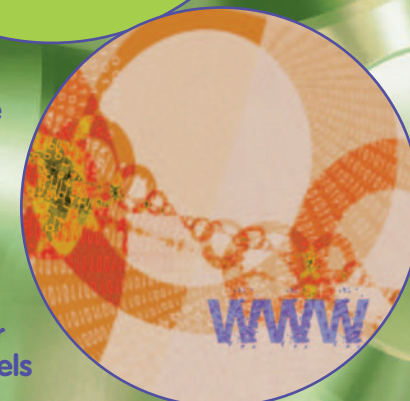


New for
2008

IT DIPLOMA

Preparing for
success in the
business world
of tomorrow

- Flexible innovative qualifications in IT
- Available for learners both at 14-16 and Post-16
- Offered at foundation, higher and advanced levels
- Valuable insight into IT sectors
- Clear focus on employability skills
- Progression to further study, university and employment with training



Improving
choices
Improving
chances

Scenarios on how the Diploma in IT may be used



Yasmin studying 14-16

Yasmin had always enjoyed working on the computer and following her Year 9 Options Evening it was agreed with her school that she should follow the core national curriculum GCSEs and a Level 1 Foundation Diploma in IT.

She enjoyed the practical approach taken to learning and found the talks and activities based on local business and organisations very interesting. Yasmin even managed to encourage her father to install an IT-based stock control system in the family shoe shop. The case for this featured as part of her project. Her work experience was in the local authority housing department. The supervisor was so impressed with her common sense, maturity, enthusiasm and ability to communicate that he offered her a job with the chance to take a Business Administration apprenticeship at the college.



Ryan studying 16+

Ryan achieved eight GCSEs all at grade C or above, including A* in Art, ICT and Business. He decided to study for a Level 3 Diploma in IT, together with an AS in Art.

Throughout his Post-16 studies, Ryan had a part-time job with a fashion retail outlet, which was developing on-line sales. For his project and work experience he was able to assist the Web Designer in setting up the web-based sales system. This experience and his Diploma in IT led to a place on an E-Marketing Degree course at University.

Great Job Opportunities

There are 17,400 people employed in computer-related jobs in Hertfordshire.

Employers are particularly interested in people with good team working and problem solving skills, who can communicate well. Employment opportunities, where computers are the main part of the job include; selling computers; computer support; computer development; software and hardware design and web development.

Support with Applications to Study 14-16 at Key Stage 4

- The opportunity to undertake a Diploma will be discussed at Year 9 Options Events.
- If the Diploma route has been agreed, Tutors, Careers Coordinators and Connexions Advisers will support learners in making an application through their school at an appropriate level.

Support with Application to Study Post-16 at Key Stage 5

- The Post-16 learner route will be discussed at Year 11 Choices Events.
- Tutors, Careers Coordinators and Connexions Advisers will support learners in making an application for a Diploma operating at school and/or College.

The entry requirements for starting a Post-16 full-time diploma at levels 1-3 will be based on the following guidelines:

- A learner who wishes to undertake a level 3 programme requires at least 5 GCSE grades A*-C, normally including English and Maths.
OR
A suitable alternative Level 2 qualifications
- A learner who wishes to undertake a Level 2 programme requires at least 4 GCSE passes at grade D and above, normally including English and Maths.
OR
A suitable alternative Level 1 qualifications
- A learner who wishes to undertake a Level 1 programme must have completed a GCSE or Entry Level programme and be able to demonstrate the commitment to benefit from the course.

www.hertschoices.org.uk

Improving chances

The Need for the Diploma in IT

Employers of IT professionals want talented individuals with the right blend of business and technology skills that will enable them to work effectively at the heart of the organisation. The Diploma represents a very important step in the right direction.

Andy Hill,
Head of Resourcing,
Vodafone UK



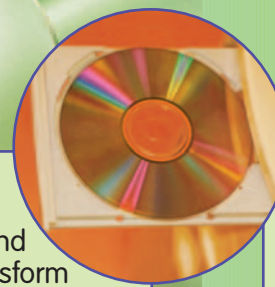
Achieving excellence

What the Diploma Provides

- An understanding of the IT sector and the potential technology has to transform and contribute to business organisations, individuals and society.
- An appreciation of the relevance and excitement of technology today, including:
 - The internet and its impact on business and society;
 - The technology behind the music industry;
 - Technology-enabled solutions for sport;
 - The integration of design, art and computing in multimedia projects.
- An opportunity to develop valuable employability skills in English and Communications, Maths, a project, and personal skills such as critical analysis, problem solving and creative thinking.
- A work experience element which takes learning by doing into the IT workplace.
- The opportunity to select from a wide range of additional or specialist learning, including additional GCSEs or 'A' levels in Maths, languages, arts and science. This flexibility helps to keep options open in terms of further FE, HE or training choices.
- A chance to build in industry designed units from Cisco, Microsoft and Oracle.

What Employers have Contributed to the Diploma in IT

The Diploma in IT is an employer designed and supported qualification. Employers will contribute to its delivery by giving talks, providing work experience and real life examples of business IT issues.



A New Way of Learning

The Diploma in IT is a new qualification which will be taught in an exciting and revolutionary way. Part of the course will take place at school and/or North Hertfordshire College and the rest will involve work with employers and local IT

"The diploma contains the knowledge and skills needed for a head start in business life".

Sir Alan Jones
Chairman of
Toyota Manufacturing
UK Ltd.

"We are looking forward to receiving applications from learners with the new advanced diplomas".

Professor Tim Wilson
Vice Chancellor, University
of Hertfordshire

businesses, taking part in a number of investigative days at the University of Hertfordshire and the completion of an exciting extended real world project.

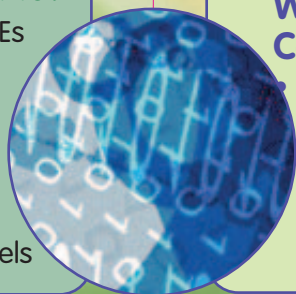
Improving choices

Who should do a Diploma in IT?

- **Learners who are aged 14-16** who have a real interest in IT and want to put alongside their GCSE studies a practical and applied, employment focussed, Level 1 or 2, introduction to the business context of IT.
- **Post-16 learners** who want to complete an employer-designed and recognised full-time programme in IT at Levels 1, 2 or 3 with a view to further study, university where appropriate, or employment with training.

What is a Diploma in IT equivalent to?

- Level 1 Foundation Diploma = 4-5 GCSEs at Grade D-G
- Level 2 Higher Diploma = 5-6 GCSEs at Grade A*- C
- Level 3 Advanced Diploma = 3 'A' levels
- Level 3 Progression Diploma = 2 'A' levels



PROGRESSION ROUTES

14-16	→	16-19	→	19+
Level 1 or 2 Diploma in IT plus GCSEs at Key Stage 4	L E A D I N G T O	Level 3 Diploma in IT (Levels 1 & 2 also available)	L E A D I N G T O	Employment
		Work-based Learning (NVQ)		Higher Education
		Advanced Apprenticeships		Further Education
		'A' levels		
International Baccalaureate				