



AAQ Level 3 Extended Certificate Information Technology

Location	Marple College
Course Type	College 16-18
Department	A Levels
Start Date	Monday 1st September 2025
Course Code	MFQ-ML3C-1104

Course Overview

This course allows students to study the fundamental knowledge of Information Technology covering the role and implications of using Information Technology systems and cyber-security threats and how to manage attacks. Students will also develop important skills for creating websites to meet a specific purpose and to manage data through the development of a relational database solution.

This course reflects the demands of a truly modern and evolving digital environment and is a qualification that enables students to apply themselves and gives them the skills to succeed in their chosen pathway.

The qualification is designed to be taken alongside A levels as part of a study programme and can link to learning in A level Mathematics and A level Business Studies. It is intended for students that wish to progress into higher education as a pathway to employment.

Course Requirements

Standard A Level entry requirements: 5 x GCSE grade 5's or above (must include Maths and English Language).

What You Will Learn

Students will develop the following knowledge and skills:

- Knowledge of digital technologies and how organisations plan digital projects and follow a project lifecycle
- Understanding of organisation structures and processes and how to embed digital safety to keep data and assets secure
- Technical skills to:
 - design and build a website to meet user requirements using relevant tools and techniques, including testing for usability, functionality and fitness for purpose
 - follow a design methodology to create and develop a database design to meet user requirements, including testing the solution
- Transferable skills such as creativity and innovation and written communications.

Assessment

There are two examined units and two internally assessed units where students will engage in practical tasks to develop their Information Technology skills and knowledge.

Progression

Students completing their BTEC Nationals in Information Technology will be aiming to go on to employment, often via the stepping stone of higher education degree courses or a degree apprenticeship.

Learners develop the transferable and higher order skills which are valued by higher education providers and employers. Progression into careers such as engineering, psychology, health and social care, nursing, exercise science.

The qualification can be taken as part of a diverse programme, leaving progression options fully open. It can also give context to subjects which would benefit from some scientific background. This will depend on the combination of qualifications chosen. For example, taken alongside:

A Level in Psychology, Chemistry and Sociology

Learners should always check the entry requirements for degree programmes with specific higher education providers

Career Options

This qualification can lead to progression to the following degrees:

- BSc Information Systems
- BA Business Studies
- BSc Computer Science

Mandatory Units

The qualification has four mandatory units covering the following topics:

- Information Technology Systems - Information technology systems, including the relationship between software and hardware, and the issues related to IT systems
- Cyber Security and Incident Management - Types of cyber security attacks, the vulnerabilities in networked systems and how to plan and respond to attacks
- Website Development - The development tools, techniques and processes used in website development and how to test usability, functionality and fitness for purpose
- Relational Database Development - Structure of data, data design and database management systems (DBMS).

Contact Details

For further information please contact T: 0161 886 7070 or E: info@trafford.ac.uk

Disclaimer

Although every care has been taken to ensure that the information contained within this document is accurate, there may be changes to this programme and provision. We will endeavour to keep prospective and current students updated where appropriate and when the information becomes available.