

OCR Cambridge Technicals Level 3 Extended Certificate in IT

Why study IT at The Sixth Form at Ridgewood?

- IT is a popular choice for our students because they enjoy it and know they can be successful
- We are also extremely well resourced and have dedicated Computer Science suites in our Sixth Form building with dual screen monitors designed for programming
- Topics are carefully matched to faculty staff with expertise in the subject area
- IT assists in the development of transferrable skills such as communication and problem solving
- The optional units we study encourage the development of time management, and research and analytical skills, as well as emphasising the need for good written and verbal communication

What topics will I study in this subject?

Topic	What this means
Unit 1: Fundamentals of IT	In this unit you will learn a sound understanding of IT technologies and practices essential for IT professionals. Information learnt in this unit will provide a solid foundation in the fundamentals of hardware, networks, software, the ethical use of computers and how business uses IT. Knowledge gained in this unit will also help prepare you for relevant industry qualifications such as CompTIA A+, CompTIA Mobility+ and Cisco IT Essentials.
Unit 2: Global Information	The skills gained by completing this unit will give you knowledge of the functionality of information and how data is stored and processed by organisations. You will also learn about how individuals use information of various types. Knowledge gained in the study of this unit will also help prepare you for relevant industry qualifications such as VM Ware.
Unit 3: Cyber Security	This unit has been designed to enable you to gain knowledge and understanding of the range of threats, vulnerabilities and risks that impact on both individuals and organisations. Learning within this unit will also support the delivery of the Cisco Cyber Security and CompTIA A+, CompTIA Security+, CompTIA Mobility+ qualifications as well as UK government cyber security initiatives.
Unit 17: Internet of Everything	This unit is about the use of the internet and how it is impacting people and society. You will learn about the Internet of Everything (IoE) and how it is used. Using your knowledge you will carry out a feasibility study for a potential idea. You will pitch your idea to potential stakeholders and use their feedback to revise your proposal. Knowledge gained in the study of this unit will also help prepare you for relevant industry qualifications such as Cisco IoE.
Unit 9: Product Development	The purpose of this unit is to prepare you to undertake product development activities. You will learn about different product design methodologies and the role of the product development life cycle. The skills that you will learn can be applied to the development of any product, large or small.

What skills will I need in this subject?

Skill	What this skill involves in this subject
Research	Throughout the two year course you will be expected to conduct your own independent research into topics and real world uses of IT.
Timekeeping	During Year 13 there are two coursework units so you need to be able to use your time well and meet deadlines.
Problem solving	You need to display an ability to take a logical and analytical approach to solving problems and resolving issues. It's also good to show that you can approach problems from different angles.
Analysis	To understand and solve problems using the information we have available, you will need to be able to analyse information and use this within your work.

What will my lessons involve?

- During Year 12, lessons will be focused on the two exam units
- You will be tested in mock exams throughout the year to prepare you for these
- Most lessons involve explanation and discussion of a new concept, followed by further research of the topic and real world uses and applications and then practice questions on that concept
- During Year 13 a number of your lessons will be for you to work independently on your coursework units with guidance from your teachers
- Frequently you will look at case studies related to the content

What will my independent study involve?

- You will be given regular work to do; this could involve research of an area or a new topic, or practice questions or mini projects
- You will need to spend considerable time checking over your notes to ensure you understand the content
- During Year 13 you will need to spend most of your time working on your coursework
- Finally you will need to spend time doing exam practice and getting familiar with the mark schemes and questions

How will I be assessed?

Percentage exam assessment: 66%

Percentage coursework assessment: 33%

Assessment	Details of assessment
Unit 1: Fundamentals of IT	Exam – 1 hour 30 minutes (80 marks) – 25% of overall mark Section A: Multiple choice on any aspect of the unit (20 marks) Section B: Evaluative writing questions on a case study for a given scenario (60 marks)
Unit 2: Global Information	Exam – 1 hour 30 minutes (80 marks) – 25% of overall mark Evaluative writing questions on a case study for a given scenario
Unit 3: Cyber Security	Exam – 1 hour (60 marks) – 16% of overall mark Evaluative writing questions on a case study for a given scenario
Unit 17: Internet of Everything	Coursework – 16% of overall mark 5 Pass tasks, 3 Merit tasks, 2 Distinction tasks
Unit 9: Product Development	Coursework – 16% of overall mark 8 Pass tasks, 3 Merit tasks, 2 Distinction tasks

How do I know this is the right course for me?

- Students considering the course will need to be able to write extended, evaluative pieces of writing
- In addition to this, you will also need to be able to learn a vast amount of technical terminology for each of the exams
- This subject also requires a detailed understanding of computing and IT at a level that allows you to access professional qualifications from nationally recognised providers
- If you are interested in computer hardware, networking, the internet or cyber security then this course will be for you

