

# Level 3 Extended Diploma Software Development and Technology Systems

## Why study this course at Cronton Sixth Form?

IT and Computing is an exciting and constantly evolving subject, with a job market that is expected to grow exponentially over the next 10 years, and with Liverpool City Region having the second fastest growing Digital and Creative sector in the UK, it is an exciting time to get involved in the subject. This course will prepare you to access these job roles and develop the skills that will allow you to access employment opportunities and new apprenticeships that haven't even been invented yet.

You will study a wide range of subjects enabling you to develop highly sought after skills in the IT and Computing industry. The course is a mixture of practical and theory activities which allow you as a student to develop an understanding of the topics covered. You will study 13 units which include: Programming, Cyber Security, Database Systems, Computer Games Development, 2D & 3D Graphics, Digital Animation, IT Technical Support and Using Social Media in Business.

In your second year you will have the opportunity to take part in the implementation of a substantial project which could take on a focus from areas including; Cyber Security & Digital Forensics, Virtual Reality, Games Design & Development, Software Development, or Computer Network solutions.

You will also have the opportunity to see IT in actions by taking part in different trips such as seeing how technology is used at Alton Towers and Disneyland Paris. You will also be invited to the largest game convention in UK, where you will have the opportunity to meet software developers and universities.

## What will I study?

You will explore a number of different facets of IT to give you an overall view of where you would like to specialise in the future. You will discover and develop the skills required to become a valued employee in the sector. You will learn key practical skills to successfully plan and

implement systems, including; websites, 3D interactive games and database systems.

You will also learn the fundamentals of programming and apply these to create a complex solution to a problem and will be able to incorporate them when learning about exciting developments in technology such as Virtual Reality and Industry 4.0, while considering how they impact on society. Alongside developing your specialist IT knowledge you will also develop your employability and academic skills to prepare you for your next steps including; research skills, presentation skills, and working as part of a team.

## How will I be assessed?

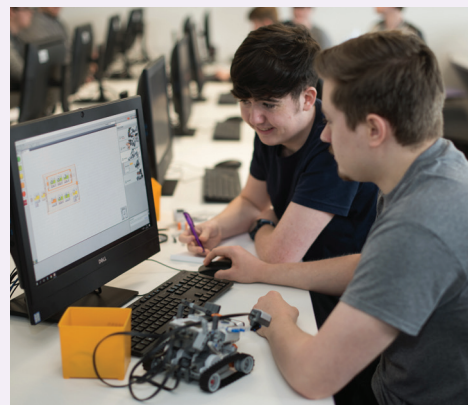
The course combines internally assessed project work using themed assignment briefs to cover the assessment criteria for a range of units; these may include designing and creating products, written reports and presentations.

You will also have four external assessments including one exam on Information Technology Systems and three controlled assessments, which include: Creating a System to Manage Information; Cyber Security and Incident Management; and completing a design for a solution for a business in IT Service Delivery.

## Opportunities

Students studying on the IT and computing courses at Cronton Sixth Form will have the opportunity to access new facilities as part of our £6 Million investment which is home to our brand new computing suites including state of the art Gaming PCs. The College is an Adobe Accredited Centre and CISCO Academy.

During your course you will have the chance to experience industry workshops and trips including a visit to the National Videogame Arcade for a workshop with an industry professional, crack codes and ciphers at Bletchley Park and go to the EGX video games event.



## Entry Requirements

You will need a minimum of 5 GCSEs at Grade 9 – 4 including English Language and Maths at Grade 4.

## Can I study this course if I have not taken it at GCSE?

You do not need to have previously studied this subject at GCSE, however, you should have an interest in at least one area of IT or Computing.

## Enrichment Opportunities

There are a variety of Enrichment activities that you can get involved in ran by the team including; competing in local and national competitions such as the Bebras Computing Challenge, Cyber Discovery and Cyber Centurion and also other academic enrichment activities including access to Cisco IT Essentials, Cisco CCNA and Adobe Certified Associate exams. We also run enrichment activities including Virtual Reality Club and Missing Map Mapathons.

Our students also enhance their studies by taking part in different trips including: EGX – UK’s largest computer game convention, National Media Museum and Bletchley Park – the home of the codebreakers. We also organise international trips with our most recent one being to Disneyland Paris for Computing Live!

## What can this course lead on to?

This qualification is highly valued by employers and universities, allowing you to pursue careers in many IT and Computing related disciplines such as systems development, social media developer, technical support and self-employment opportunities through the development of systems such as mobile apps and websites. Many of our students have progressed into higher education and study a degree in subjects

such as: Computer Science, Multimedia Computing, Software Engineering, Games Design & Development Website Development, Computer Forensics and Cyber Security.

The course also prepares you for progression to our new higher apprenticeship routes or our full-time Higher Education course.

## Any additional costs?

Standard course materials such as, pen, pencil, and paper will be needed. All students will have their own OneDrive cloud storage that will allow them to access work outside of the classroom. We use the most current software in industry, but ensure students will have access to this for free when working from home. You will be required to pay for trips and visits.

## What have previous students said about this course?

“The 3 words I’d use to describe my time on this course are exciting, informative and extremely interesting. I am so passionate about IT that I chose to study just this subject at College and I am due to start my degree at Edge Hill University studying Computing Forensics.”

## Outstanding Facilities

Students studying on one of the computing and digital technology courses at Cronton Sixth Form will have the opportunity to access new facilities as part of our £6 Million investment which is home to our brand new computing suites including state of the art gaming pc’s to support learning and software development as well as participating in the British ESports Championships.

## Meet the Students

Name:  
**Jessica Pickering**

Previously from:  
**Saints Peter and Paul Catholic High School**

Destination:  
**Edge Hill University, Degree in Computing (Networking, Security and Forensics)**

Vocational Results:  
**Level 3 Extended Diploma IT Distinction\* Distinction\* Distinction\***

“Cronton is an amazing college with brilliant facilities and amazing tutors. The course was very informative and interesting, and I made some amazing friends along the way.”

