

# Stepney Green Sixth Form. BTEC IT L3 Curriculum Statement

## **Intent**

At Stepney we offer 'Pearson BTEC IT' at Level 3. This course has been offered as it prepares learners for a range of higher education courses and job roles related to the IT sector. It also allows post-16 learners to continue their education through applied learning as the focus is on the holistic development of the practical, interpersonal, and thinking skills required to be able to succeed in employment and higher education.

The course is taught by five staff members, contributing a wealth of experience in both subject teaching and within the field of IT. This reinforces the teaching with relevant examples that can be used to develop students practical and understanding of theoretical concepts.

We provide students the skills and knowledge to become a successful IT practitioner who have the understanding of legislations, security and new technology, and how they may have an impact on the world they live in.

## **Implementation**

The units in both levels of BTEC IT are taught simultaneously. Level 3 students have 12 lessons and are taught by five teachers with specific skills and knowledge in relation to the specialised unit. This breakdown allows pupils to have a clear structure between the variety of units/concepts.

Our aim is to ensure students, regardless of what situation they are in, leave with a qualification. This is the reason why exam units are taught in the first year as these are the compulsory units. If students wish to leave at the end of the year, they will at least achieve a qualification that is less in size/weighting (BTEC Diploma/Certificate).

As this course is IT related, naturally we would use digital technology to support students learning. Microsoft Teams provided students with resources to aid their learning online as well as communicating with their teachers if they require further clarification on a concept.

This platform has also been great to give feedback to students to improve their learning and even allows students to peer assess each other. This develops their critical thinking and optimising their work.

Before starting an assignment, we encourage collaborative learning where pupils attempt a similar task to the assignment and try to solve the problem together. This approach helps lower ability students to feel more confident in the assignment as well as helping the other abilities to refine or deal with any misconception.

## **Impact**

Students have three Assessment Points (AP) throughout the academic year. Not only do these APs prepare students for the exam units, but it also allows us to measure the impact of the course.

BTEC Level 3 in IT is a very popular course at our Sixth Form and has consistently retained our numbers yearly. Students go on to study a range of subjects including Computer Science, Cyber Security, and Creative Computing at a variety of universities (Westminster, Queen Mary, Goldsmith). Providing the vocational experience of IT, students build the necessary skills to study the subject or even go into an IT related Apprenticeship.

We are proud to see BTEC IT L3 students achieve 100% Distinction in the last 4 years, and following their career path in IT. This is a testimony to the valuable and engaging course delivery of the content, providing the students the experience and application to the real world.