

COWLEY LANGUAGE COLLEGE

Course / subject title: 'The Diploma' in ICT (Level 3)

Contact: Mr R Jones

Comments

This is a **new and exciting qualification for year 12** called 'The Diploma' and is worth and is the **equivalent of 3 GCE's grade A - E**. It is a **high level qualification** which is **only available through Cowley** but may involve pupils from other St Helens schools.

Places will be **very limited** and pupils will be selected to see if they are suitable for the course through **interview plus minimum course requirements**.

Minimum course requirements - 8GCSE' grade C equivalents including English and Mathematics over at least 5 different subjects.

"Studying the Diploma will give you skills that are valuable for university and the future." Professor Michael Arthur, Vice Chancellor, University of Leeds

"Diplomas contain the knowledge and skills needed for a head start in business life." Sir Alan Jones, Chairman Emeritus, Toyota Manufacturing UK Ltd

Course description

You will study ICT for the equivalent of 3 days per week. Some of this time will study out of school either in the workplace or at another organisation such as one of the City Learning Centres at Rainhill or Haydock. You will work on **real** projects with **real** employers.

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Examples could include*:-

- Sankey Valley Park to help develop the ICT systems in their visitor centre, introducing new technologies such as wireless cameras, GPRS devices, digital signage etc.
- Wilmott and Dixon builders as they continue to construct the £24 million ICT rich new school build for Cowley
- Mouchel who manage the support for all St Helens schools in the Town Hall. They manage Anti virus, Internet Filtering, Windows updates across St Helens. They also provide technical support to all St Helens schools.
- Big Art Project - A Channel 4 televised project to construct a 15 metre high statue with laser lighting in Sutton

This qualification may be combined with another Level 3 qualification e.g. BTec National Award or GCE.

Assessment

There are 7 units of work plus an ICT Project. Two of the units have exams and the others are coursework based and marked by your teacher. There will be a minimum of 10 days work experience.

The units are: - The potential of technology; Exploring organisations; Effective communication; Skills for innovation; Technology systems; Multimedia; Managing projects

Skills developed

To be prepared to work hard, be sensible, and respect other adults who may be helping you.

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Progression routes and careers

An university or college degree course. **May degree courses and careers now will demand real life experience and skills. The Diploma provides exactly this.**

You can go into a variety of ICT related careers or work within a business environment. The Diploma qualification will be highly revered and will be a route into a high level career.

* some employer engagement for Sept 09 still to be confirmed