## OCR Level 3 Cambridge Technical Extended Diploma in IT (600/4234/5)

This is a Technical Level qualification that is designed for learners aged 16-19 who want to develop a solid understanding of the IT sector, together with a range of practical IT-related skills. IT is at the heart of business, and the employment of IT professionals is forecast to grow at almost twice the UK average through to 2020.  The knowledge and skills gained through studying for the Cambridge Technicals in IT will enable learners to enter employment in the IT sector, either directly or through an apprenticeship, or progress to Higher Education.

**What skills and knowledge will be covered?**

Learners will take 18 units, made up of two mandatory and 16 optional units.  The mandatory units are Communication and Employability Skills for IT, and Information Systems.  Learners then choose 16 optional units from a range of around 40 options and could decide to focus on one specialist pathway or combine units from across pathways. (Pathways allow the learner to develop the skills and knowledge for a specific area of study which can then support their progress to higher-level studies.)   Most pathways have a project management unit so taking all 10 units from one pathway allows the learner to take a holistic approach to developing their skills through completing a project. The Creative pathway includes units in Developing Computer Games and Computer Animation. Learners taking the Technical pathway could choose units in IT Systems Troubleshooting and Repair, and Installing and Upgrading Software.  The Business User pathway includes units in e-Commerce, and The Impact of the use of IT on Business Systems. Learners taking the Developer pathway could choose units such as Computer Networks and Data Analysis and Design.  The Smarter Technology pathway has been developed with IBM and includes units in business analytics process for Big Data, cloud computing and mobile technology.
Whatever the focus, all learners will develop other desirable skills, such as primary research, producing management information, understanding legal and ethical implications for organisations in using IT, planning and effective communication.

**Where could this qualification lead to?**

1. Entry into a wide range of IT related careers either in the IT sector or in other sectors, for example a game designer or network technician.
2. It will enable access to an IT, Software, Web or Telecoms Apprenticeship
3. A Higher Education course. Learners could:
    a. choose to undertake an IT related degree from options including BSc Computer Science or BSc IT Practitioner.
    b. choose from non-IT related degree programmes.  This qualification has between 120 – 420 UCAS points, depending on the grade achieved, so it would be accepted by universities as meeting requirements for entry to a range of degree programmes.