OCR Nationals
ICT Case Study 8

"We have a complete cross-section of ability on this course and we all have fun!"

Thomas Telford School
Telford

Number of students: 1284

Key Feedback

- **Flexible** – OCR Nationals in ICT are accessible, flexible and fair. Their structure lets teachers tailor and pace learning to students' interests and individual progress.

- **Clarity** – The assessment criteria are transparent and comprehensive, so students can really focus on demonstrating what they know, understand and can do.

- **Relevance** – The students enjoy the relevant, up-to-date content and the chance to progress in a logical fashion through scenarios that are similar to real-life experiences. The resources we use allow the students to continue to develop their skills at home and provide them with high quality, interactive, multimedia learning materials which further enhance the learning experiences.

- **Motivation** – Students and teachers can clearly see what has to be demonstrated in order to improve attainment and if they produce the evidence then they can get the grades they deserve. This empowers and motivates students to take control over their own learning and provides a huge incentive to the more independent learner. Understanding **how** you are being assessed is the key to achievement - what a powerful lesson to learn!

- **Instant feedback** – Continuous assessment from teaching staff on the course releases the student's full potential rather than reciting things from memory in an exam.

- **Success** – All our Key Stage 4 students successfully complete the OCR Level 2 National First Certificate qualification – 170 students each year.

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OCR
Nationals

> "Teachers value the units, which really differentiate by outcome, and are enjoying thinking of exciting and interesting ways to upskill their pupils in the latest technology."
>
> Jill Barrow, Deputy Headteacher, Thomas Telford School

OCR Nationals ICT – a great success with our students

At Thomas Telford, the ICT Nationals offer a very up-to-date progression from Key Stage 3 ICT and an excellent basis for a range of Post 16 courses. The wide range of units ensures students receive a broad ICT education which supports their achievement in other subjects and also provides them with very suitable and appropriate skills for further/higher education and/or employment.

Tailored teaching

The course offers opportunities for differentiation and its flexibility means that every school can work to the strengths of their teaching teams and the resources available to them. As well as offering three different unit grades the qualification also offers the opportunity for students to achieve 1, 2, 3 or even 4 GCSE equivalence. Units can be combined in a logical way – for example students can study web graphics and animation whilst building their own website; video and sound can be studied whilst creating a multimedia product; digital imaging skills can be used whilst learning the art of desktop publishing.

Results

It speaks volumes that 95% of Thomas Telford students stay on into the 6th form for further study in Applied ICT.

Qualification Overview

ICT Nationals aims to:

- Develop learners' skills, knowledge and understanding – with special relevance to jobs in ICT
- Enable progression to further education programmes or occupational training, enter employment or enhance their current employment status
- Develop a learner's ability to work autonomously and effectively
- Enable learners to develop knowledge and understanding in specialist areas of ICT
- Promote interaction between employers, centres and learners.

Features:

- Centre-assessed and externally moderated by OCR
- No timetabled exams – candidates complete units at a time that suits the centre
- Grades are Pass, Merit or Distinction
- Levels 1, 2 and 3 – eligible for funding under the Learning and Skills Council.

For other OCR Nationals qualifications, see our website.

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