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| **Course name:** National Certificate in Information Technologies |
| **Which course/ syllabus will I be following?**  OCR Level 2 Cambridge National Certificate in Information Technologies |
| The collection and communication of data and storing of data/information happens all around us. Technology underpins how it is collected and communicated nearly all of the time. It can be seen in all walks of life, from a wearable fitness tracker recording how many steps you have taken, your mobile phone provider recording your usage to create your bill or an online retailer being able to target you with specific promotions based on your purchase history. Knowing how and why data is gathered and being able to turn raw data into something meaningful is essential as the you move through education and into employment.  **The National Certificate in Information Technologies** builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills established through the Computer Science and ICT elements of the Key Stage 3 programme of study. You will learn about different digital hardware and software technologies and how these are integrated to create digital solutions to manage and communicate data and information. You will also investigate legal, ethical and moral considerations when using technology. You will learn about the types of threats that exist when collecting, processing data and storing data/information and explore counter measures such as how to mitigate the risks of cyber-attacks.  You will use a range of different application and utility software to present information for a range of purposes, including web and mobile technologies. By the end of this course you will be able to confidently select and use the most appropriate technology safely and effectively. |
| **How is the course assessed?**  **1 hour 45 minutes written examination** (50% weighting). **Unit R012** - *Understanding tools, techniques, methods and processes for technological solutions* The exam assesses your knowledge and understanding of different technologies, and the tools and techniques used to select, store, manipulate and present data and information. You will be expected to develop appropriate technological solutions. You will need to discuss different legislation and detail the impact of using technologies on organisations and individuals.  **Assignment based task** (50% weighting) 20 hours. **R013** -Developing technological solutions  The assignment is set and externally moderated by the exam board. You will complete the unit under controlled conditions in the classroom. You will be expected to use different hardware and software technologies to create an integrated technological solution that processes data and communicates information.  *Overall results* are awarded on the following scale: **Level 2** - Distinction\* (equivalent to Grade 8.5 GCSE), Distinction (Grade 7 GCSE), Merit (Grade 5.5), Pass (Grade 4). |
| **Which careers/ post 16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?**  **The National Certificate in Information Technologies** will prepare you for a range of post-16 qualifications, including Information Technologies, Digital Media, and Computer Science. The course better prepares you for using IT in the general workplace across any industry. The qualification also supports progression into employment through Apprenticeships in areas such as Digital Marketing or Business Administration. |