

# Edward Flack

## BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Software Engineering

BARKING AND DAGENHAM COLLEGE



### How do you think your BTEC qualification helped get you where you are now?

When I started my BTEC, I initially didn't know a lot about computers, but it gave me core understanding in various topics such as hardware, networks, and programming. I then had some baseline knowledge when digging deeper into these topics, whether at work or university. I think BTECs also better prepare you for what university work is like. In both degrees and BTECs you usually have continuous coursework throughout the year that you must complete and upload – in contrast to A levels where it is often just exams at the end of the year.

### Can you describe what skills you learnt that are helping you in your current career path?

I believe having some understanding of programming and networking topics was useful. I had to learn a lot on the job, I couldn't really program properly when I started, however I had some of the core knowledge to know what I didn't know and accelerate my learning during my apprenticeship.

### What do you like most about your current role?

I like being able to build things that real people can use. Sometimes I see my team's work advertised online or at football stadiums and it makes me proud.




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My BTEC in IT (Software Development) gave me the foundational knowledge I needed to start my career. It was definitely the right choice for me.”

### Would you recommend doing a BTEC?

For anyone who has a good idea of the career path they want to go down, a BTEC should definitely be an option to consider. If you're passionate about a subject, why not study just that in depth rather than only a third of the time whilst you study two other subjects that you don't care for? It was the right choice for me, I tried A levels – I was studying random subjects (Spanish, Chemistry, Media, Accounting), and I wasn't very good at exams so I didn't do very well. I tried a BTEC in a subject I had an interest in and it turned out to be the best option for me. ■

### Progression pathway

-  GCSEs at St Edwards Secondary School
-  BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in IT (Software Development) at Barking and Dagenham College
-  Working at Ford as a Software Engineer whilst studying a BSc in Digital & Technology Solutions part-time at the University of Greenwich