



GCSEs at St Edwards Secondary School



Level 3 BTEC Extended Diploma in IT (Software Development) at Barking and Dagenham College



Working at Ford as a Software Engineer whilst studying a BSc in Digital and Technology Solutions part time at the University of Greenwich

# Edward Flack



## Level 3 BTEC Extended Diploma in Software Engineering

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

I initially did not know a lot about computers when I started my BTEC, but it gave me some 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 some exams at the end of the year.

### 3 What did/do you like most about your current role?

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



*I tried a BTEC in a subject I had an interest in and it turned out to be the best option for me.*



### 2 Can you describe what skills you learn 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 could not 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.

### 4 Would you still recommend doing a Pearson BTEC?

For anyone who has a good idea of the career they want to go down, a BTEC should definitely be an option to consider be considered. 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 do not care for? It was the right choice for me, I tried A Levels – I was studying random subjects (Spanish, Chemistry, Media, Accounting), and I was not very good at exams and so I did not 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.



*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.*

