

## STEVEN TONKIN

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### **BTEC in Information Technology**



*Steven Tonkin is 18 and recently finished his BTEC in Information Technology at Exeter College. He will shortly be starting an apprenticeship with the NHS in their digital services department.*

#### **How do you think studying a BTEC helped get you where you are now?**

By studying a BTEC I have been given the opportunity to learn a wide range of different topics within my chosen subject. This has enabled me to explore different areas and understand the scope as to which Information Technology can currently help in everyday life, as well as into the future. I wouldn't be where I am today without studying this BTEC because quite simply, I wouldn't have the understanding or the confidence to go for new jobs and to try new experiences.

#### **Can you describe your BTEC experience? What was it like?**

My BTEC experience was very positive. The content throughout the course was exceptional in all aspects as I was able to learn a wide range of topics and not just the basic and more common units within IT. This was positive because it has shown me what I can do in IT and how everything is pretty much evolved around Information Technology. Furthermore, it has provided me with valuable skills and knowledge that I didn't previously have and shown me how I can use this knowledge to further progress within the industry.

#### **How is studying a BTEC preparing you for the career you would like to go into?**

By studying a BTEC, I have been prepared for my chosen career by getting hands on experience. BTEC isn't just theory, it provides opportunities for a more practical approach allowing me to apply my knowledge and theory that has already been taught into a more practical unit, reinforcing my confidence within the subject and allowing me to use what I have been taught, and not just considering it as a waste of time. This has also allowed me to have expanded discussion points for job interviews and enabled me to be able to demonstrate my capabilities in more detail. ►

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### **What did you like most about taking a BTEC?**

What I like most about taking a BTEC is the layout of the qualification. Each unit has different aspects, but most follow the same structure. This makes understanding each unit a lot easier and provides an easier method when it comes to assessment, as you will already know what to expect and how to prepare for this. I also enjoy the practical elements of the course and how this allows you to put into practice the content that you've been taught, making it a more valuable way to spend your time studying.

### **Would you recommend taking a BTEC?**

I would strongly recommend taking a BTEC to anyone wanting to learn more about their subject as it is a great way to understand more, gain more skills and create a greater in-depth understanding of the subject and what it takes to work within it.

### **How would you say your confidence has changed since taking a BTEC? Has it made you more of a leader or focused your ambitions?**

My confidence has improved immensely since studying a BTEC because it has enabled me to gain more skills in Information Technology and helped me understand areas that I have struggled with in the past. Furthermore, it has shown what hard work is and, when you put the effort in, what success can

really feel like! It has also shown me what my ambitions are and what I would like to achieve within the industry, further boosting my confidence and goals.

### **What are your career ambitions for the future?**

After studying for a BTEC, I have been able to secure a role within the NHS. The role is working within the digital services department as a Switchboard Operator which will enable me to put some of the skills in place that I have gained from studying the BTEC. Furthermore, this role leads itself into other areas of digital services and without the BTEC, I don't feel I would have been able to get it. BTEC helped me secure the position by increasing my confidence and enabling me to demonstrate practical tasks, helping me to boost my CV and the information that I can provide within it.

### **What did you learn most from a BTEC?**

I would say the thing I learnt most from studying a BTEC was that although work can be challenging, it is achievable and if you put the effort in, you will be rewarded. BTEC has provided me with a different perspective when it comes to approaching work and has shown me what I am capable of, boosting my self-confidence and enabling me to progress further.