

ICT Case Study



“Instant feedback is key to OCR’s ICT Nationals. Students enjoy the hands-on approach and the continuous assessment that allows them to show their full potential.”



Brooke Weston Academy
Corby, Northants
Number of students: 1220

Key Feedback

- **Real world relevance** – Skills are developed through the qualification, encouraging the use of ICT “in the real world”.
- **Flexible range of choices for learners** – With ongoing teacher assessment and feedback, the OCR ICT Nationals structure lets teachers tailor and pace learning to students’ interests and individual progress.
- **Continual assessment** – Providing teacher feedback to students maintains their motivation and sense of achievement.
- **Moderation** – Visiting OCR moderation means teachers always know how things are going. This increases motivation and confidence in the teaching team.
- **Working with teachers** – For teachers there are many benefits. Clear assessment requirements and flexible structures are backed up by extensive training and support from OCR.
- **Motivation** – Students react positively to the wide range of courses available. The fact they are up-to-date and offer a clear progression route means they are enjoyed by both staff and students.

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OCR
Nationals

Individual Talent – National Success

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“It isn’t just about whether you are clever — it’s about the way you work best.”

Mark Willimott, ICT Teacher and Senior Assistant Principal, Brooke Weston Academy



OCR Nationals ICT — a great success with our students

One of the most striking things about the Nationals qualification is the range of students and ability levels it caters for. Courses attract the full range of students, both on the compulsory Level 2 as well as on the optional Level 3 course offered in the Sixth Form. The continuous assessment approach is favoured by students over modular exams – they enjoy the hands-on approach, and being involved with the assessment. It allows all students to show their full potential, not just those who excel in exams.

Achievement

For Brooke Weston, the success of ICT Nationals has been huge. 100% pass rates are achieved with the Level 2 compulsory course. The success of Level 2 ICT, and the course format of Nationals in general, has led to stronger links with OCR and increased results success.

Career progression

The relevance of Nationals to the work environment is backed up by a programme of weekly work placements in industry and at sister schools. The success of the Nationals’ unit-based approach has allowed many students to progress to University for further study.

Qualification Overview

ICT Nationals aim 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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