Oakswood College

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# ATHE Level 4 Course Summary

## *Diploma in Computing*

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# COURSE SUMMARY DOCUMENT

## ATHE Level 4 Extended Diploma in Computing (120 Credits) Programme:

## Specification Version 1.0 - Valid from August 2025

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| **COURSE TITLE:** | *ATHE Level 4 Extended Diploma in Computing (120 Credits), Qualification Number: 610/3264/5* |
| **DURATION OF COURSE:** | Average duration 12 months. Total Qualification Time is 1200 hours, including 720 Guided Learning Hours. |
| **WHEN COURSE IS TAUGHT:** | September, January & April intakes<br><br>Teaching Blocks: September to December, January to March, April to June, July to September. |
| **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:** | To enrol on the ATHE Level 4 Extended Diploma in Computing, learners are expected to meet one of the following:<br>• A Level 3 qualification in Computing or a related field, or<br>• Equivalent international qualifications, or<br>• Relevant work experience in the IT sector (subject to assessment),<br>• Additionally:<br>• Learners should generally be aged 18 or above<br>• Proficiency in English (e.g., IELTS 5.5 or equivalent) may be required for non-native speakers |
| **COURSE OUTLINE:** | The ATHE Level 4 Extended Diploma in Computing (120 credits) is designed to provide learners with a broad and comprehensive introduction to computing at Level 4. It supports learners who wish to develop an academic understanding of computing as a discipline, as well as those preparing for employment in the IT sector, apprenticeships, or progression to higher education in computing-related fields.<br><br>The qualification builds on foundational computing knowledge and develops this further through structured study across a range of core and specialist areas. Learners explore key topics including systems development, programming and scripting, data and database systems, networking and cyber security, and legislation and ethics in computing. This combination enables learners to understand how different areas of computing interact, and how technology is used within organisations to solve problems, manage data and support digital operations.<br><br>A central feature of the qualification is its integrated and practical approach to learning. The programme includes a synoptic computing project, which requires learners to draw together knowledge and skills from across all units to design and develop a solution to a realistic computing problem. This encourages learners to apply technical knowledge in a structured way and supports the development of analytical thinking, problem-solving and independent learning skills. |

The qualification also has a strong emphasis on developing professional and transferable skills required in the IT industry. These include communication, teamwork, research, data handling, and the ability to evaluate and justify decisions. Learners are expected to work with realistic scenarios, interpret technical requirements, and produce work that demonstrates both theoretical understanding and practical application.

Assessment is assignment-based and designed to reflect real-world computing tasks. Each unit is supported by an ATHE assignment which requires learners to complete a small number of focused tasks. These tasks are often based on practical or workplace-related scenarios and require learners to demonstrate knowledge, apply technical skills, and communicate outcomes effectively. Learners are encouraged to use real or simulated organisational contexts, develop solutions to defined problems, and reflect on their approaches and results.

The qualification also provides opportunities for learners to specialise through optional units and defined pathways. Learners may choose to follow a structured pathway in Data Analysis, Software Development, or Cyber Security, or select a combination of optional units to suit their individual interests and career aspirations. Optional units cover areas such as web design, mobile application development, advanced programming, operating systems, data visualisation, and cyber security concepts. This flexibility allows learners to tailor their learning to support progression into specific IT roles or further study.

**PROGRAMME CONTENT - CORE MODULES AND ANY OPTIONAL MODULES:** (Including number of credits)

Students must achieve the 6 mandatory units including the synoptic computing project module and any 5 optional units.

| Unit Code | Unit Title | Credits | GLH | Status |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Y/650/8502 | IT Systems Development: Preparation, Analysis, Design and Problem-solving | 15 | 60 | Mandatory |
| A/650/8503 | Programming and Scripting | 10 | 40 | Mandatory |
| D/650/8504 | Data and Database Systems | 15 | 60 | Mandatory |
| F/650/8505 | Computer Systems, Networks and Security | 10 | 50 | Mandatory |
| H/650/8506 | Legislation, Regulation, Ethics and Codes of Practice | 10 | 60 | Mandatory |
| K/650/8535 | Organisational Data Architecture | 10 | 40 | Optional |
| L/650/8536 | Methods and Tools for Analysis | 10 | 40 | Optional |
| M/650/8537 | Data Preparation and Quality | 10 | 40 | Optional |
| R/650/8538 | Statistics for Analysing Datasets | 10 | 40 | Optional |
| T/650/8539 | Analytical Impact through Data Visualisations | 10 | 40 | Optional |

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| | L/650/8545 | Advanced Programming | 10 | 40 | Optional |
| | R/650/8547 | Web Design and Programming | 10 | 40 | Optional |
| | T/650/8548 | Mobile Applications Development | 10 | 40 | Optional |
| | Y/650/8549 | The Principles of Full-Stack Development | 10 | 40 | Optional |
| | F/650/8550 | Software Testing Frameworks and Methodologies | 10 | 40 | Optional |
| | H/650/8551 | Principles of Networks | 10 | 40 | Optional |
| | J/650/8552 | Concepts and Features of Operating Systems | 10 | 40 | Optional |
| | L/650/8554 | Cyber Security Concepts | 10 | 40 | Optional |
| | R/650/8556 | Security Architectures | 10 | 40 | Optional |
| | A/650/8559 | Cryptography | 10 | 40 | Optional |
| | H/650/8560 | Synoptic Computing Project | 10 | 40 | Mandatory |

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| **WORKLOAD:** (Including number of contact hours with college staff and expected hours of self-study) | This is a 120-credit qualification. Total Qualification Time is 1200 hours, and Total Guided Learning Hours is 510 hours.<br><br>The specification explains that TQT includes Guided Learning Hours plus additional non-supervised learning such as preparation, private study, research, work-based learning and assessment activity. It does not provide a weekly contact-hours model. |
| **LENGTH OF THE MODULES:** | *Each module lasts 10 weeks (equivalent to one term) covering 40 contact hours. Usually, four modules are taught per term.* |
| **THE OVERALL METHODS OF ASSESSMENT FOR THE MODULES:** (for example, exams, coursework or practical assignments) | Assessment for each unit is based on achievement of the Learning Outcomes at the standards set by the Assessment Criteria. Learners may achieve Pass, Merit, Distinction or Fail for each unit.<br><br>Assessment is completed through submission of internally assessed learner work which may also include written assignments, practical coursework, case studies, reports and presentations, synoptic project (final integrated assessment) And/or PowerPoint presentation where required.<br><br>Oakswood College uses ATHE provided assignment briefs for each unit, including extension activities for higher grades. The qualification includes mandatory business, finance, leadership and management units, plus two optional specialist units selected according to the rules of combination. |

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| **AWARD RECEIVED ON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE COURSE:** | ATHE Level 4 Extended Diploma in Computing (120 Credits)<br>(Qualification Number: 610/3264/5)<br><br>Awarding Body<br>ATHE (Awards for Training and Higher Education)<br>UK Ofqual-regulated awarding organisation |
| **WHERE THE PROGRAMME IS TAUGHT:** | **Programme Delivery Location and Address:**<br><br>In-person, on-campus at: Oakswood College Tricorn House 7th Floor 51–53 Hagley Road Birmingham B16 8TP<br><br>Modes of delivery may include full-time, blended learning or distance learning. |
| **STAFF WHO ARE DELIVERING THE TEACHING:** | Teaching is delivered by a team of academics with expertise in business management, international business, marketing, finance, operations and human resource management, many of whom have significant professional and consultancy experience in industry. |
| **THE FEES WHICH STUDENTS CAN EXPECT TO PAY:** | Fees: £1,800.<br>Privately paid by the student. |
| **REASSESSMENT FEES** | Reassessment Fees for Each Module: £20<br>Plus<br>External Verification Fees: £200 |
| **COURSE DEPOSIT:** | *25% of the tuition fee* |

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**ADDITIONAL PROGRAMME COSTS:**

**These are costs in addition to tuition fees that students may have to pay to complete the course. The figures provided here are indicative estimates of additional costs:**

| Cost item | Compulsory / Optional | Indicative amount / range per year |
|---|---|---|
| Books and other study materials | **Optional** (library provides e-access to many core texts) | Around **£100 per year** (minimum average spend typically advised for undergraduate books) |
| Printing and photocopying | **Optional** (students choose how much to print) | **£50 per year** recommended to cover general printing and final-year project printing/binding |
| Stationery and general study supplies | **Optional** | Approximately **£30–£60 per year** depending on personal preference |
| Optional UK study trips and visits | **Optional** – only if students choose to participate | Typically, **£20–£60 per UK day trip**, depending on destination and activity |
| IT equipment and internet access | **Expected** (students must be able to access online resources and VLE) | Highly variable; many students use an existing laptop. Where a new device is needed, a basic study-ready laptop typically costs **from £300 upwards** |

**QUERIES:**

If you have any questions about this Course Summary Document or the course in general, please contact our Academics team on: acadamicsupport@oakswoodgroup.co.uk