

Alex Warren



BTEC Higher National Diploma (HTQ) in Computing



HNC and HND (HTQ) in Computing
at Tresham College



PGCE
at University of Huddersfield



Employed as Level 2 Computing Course Lead
at Tresham College

1 How did studying a BTEC Higher National help get you where you are now?

Studying a BTEC Higher National HTQ helped me get to where I am today, as it gave me a good range of skills needed in daily life as well as a wide range of knowledge on multiple aspects of Computing at a higher level. It has also helped me to achieve a qualification without having the stress of exams.

2 Can you describe your BTEC Higher National experience?

One of my favorite times throughout my education was studying my BTEC Higher National HTQ. We had a small group size of around 10 people, which meant that I not only got familiar with the people on my course quickly, but also that whenever I would need support from my lecturers, I could go to them. The small group size also meant that whenever support or feedback was needed from a tutor, it was individualised and always given timely, which was definitely helpful.

3 How did studying a BTEC Higher National prepare you for your career?

Studying a BTEC Higher National HTQ and then going into teaching really benefited me as it gave me the opportunity to get lots of experience from a range of different units. Combining physical experience with a wide range of practical units and coursework assignments helped me improve in key areas I needed to be successful in my career.

4 What top 3 skills did you gain from your BTEC Higher National?



Critical thinking



Communication



Resilience

5 What did you like most about studying a BTEC Higher National?

The elements I liked most included the content that the course covered, the coursework-based assessments, and the lack of exams. Studying a wide range of coursework units helped me explore and enjoy learning different computing units to see what I liked, without having to worry about the stress of exams. Another factor that really sold me on applying to study my BTEC Higher National HTQ was the fact that Tresham College was close to me, and the tuition fees were a lot lower compared to university. This meant I could complete a two-year course then a one-year top-up in the same amount of time as my friends who went to university, but with a lot less student finance debt.



My BTEC Higher National HTQ helped me grow in both subject knowledge as well as in personal skills such as confidence.



6 What additional benefits did studying a HTQ approved course bring?

Studying a BTEC Higher National HTQ helped me to enter employment as the course set me up with the skills needed for practical working by using specialist software programs. By doing things practically, it helped me see how my learning was being applied to real world tasks, which helped me improve my critical thinking and problem-solving skills by putting tasks into perspective.

7 What are your career ambitions for the future?

After completing my BTEC Higher National HTQ, I studied a Level 6 BSc top up degree with Bedford College (validated by University of Northampton). This then led me onto a PGCE with a placement back at Tresham College under The University of Huddersfield. Without completing my BTEC Higher National HTQ, I wouldn't be where I am today, helping to teach students and set them up with a clear future they all deserve, in a way that they understand.