

BTEC IT and Computing

Learner of the year 2020: Andrea Rodrigues

College:  Ada. National College
for Digital Skills

Location:  London, England

Area type:  Urban

**Number of
students:**  176

BTEC IT & Computing Learner of the Year
Andrea Rodrigues is a student at Ada,
the National College for Digital Skills
working towards a BTEC Level 3 National
Extended diploma in Computing.

Andrea chose to study BTEC Computing to help her fulfil her ambition of becoming a software engineer. “From project management to software design and development to computer networking and cyber security, I felt that the units covered in the course would give me the best learning foundation, opening up different types of career opportunities in the computing industry while giving me the chance to work on projects in college,” she says.

Andrea is a passionate, proactive, and ambitious student, who actively pursues opportunities both within and beyond the college. With top grades in all her exams and coursework, Andrea’s dedication and commitment to computing are evident. “Andrea has a real love for the subject and

always displays incredible curiosity to learn new things as well as producing rigorous work,” says Tina Gotschi, Vice Principle at the Welling School.

“Andrea’s work has been of such a high standard, that it has led to her gaining recognition from a variety of tech sector experts and professional organisations.”



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Andrea Rodrigues
Level 3 National Extended diploma in Computing



As a founding member of the college's Primary Computing Club, Andrea took the lead in developing and delivering over twenty Computer Science lessons to local Year 4 and 5 pupils. As a result, Andrea was invited by the Royal Institution to help develop and deliver the first of a set of national Primary Computing Masterclasses. This contributed to Andrea being voted Young Digital Leader 2019 by Digital Leaders, the UK's premier digital leadership platform. With a growing reputation not only as a talented programmer, but also as an ambassador for young people in tech, Andrea also served as a panellist at the Teaching Tech to Gen Z conference at the German School in Richmond, speaking about how to ensure the social and mental well-being of young adults in the digital age. Andrea was also invited to deliver a session at the Mozilla Festival in June 2019 allowing her to develop her own leadership skills while also supporting and mentoring others.

As if Andrea weren't busy enough, she is also the student body president at Ada, and so leads the student voice group in initiatives including fundraising for charity as well as organising the student yearbook.

“Andrea’s ambition is second-to-none; she knows what she wants to achieve, and she sets out, working hard to achieve it,”

- Vicky Clarke, Assistant Principal at Ada

The skills that Andrea has learned through her course are not only useful for her future career but are already showing dividends. “As part of the BTEC Computing

course I had to develop a game. This first project I worked on gave me the opportunity to learn a new programming language: JavaScript. Learning this language has opened me up to so many opportunities as I have used the knowledge from working on this project to develop other web apps,” explained Andrea.

As a highly motivated and proactive student, Andrea carries her learning on outside the classroom as much as possible, going above and beyond the course expectations. “Outside of college I like to develop my programming skills by working on web development projects, where I learn about the new web technologies that are being used and how I can use them in my own projects. This has helped with my BTEC computing coursework units, for example Human Computer Interaction (Unit 10), when developing my product as a web app. I feel I go the extra mile in learning by reading more about the topics that I am studying.”

“Andrea is pro-active and approachable, with great leadership qualities in her role as Student Voice President.”

- Natasha Reynold, Graphic leads and student vice coordinator.