STOKE-ON-TRENT & STAFFORDSHIRE
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

sotsiot.ac.uk





TECHNICAL EDUCATION COURSE GUIDE

Welcome to the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Institute of Technology



At the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Institute of Technology, we recognise that a traditional university route is not the right choice for everyone. That's why we offer flexible, career-focused pathways that combine higher-level learning with hands-on experience, helping you develop the technical knowledge, practical skills and confidence needed for today's and tomorrow's workforce.

Through close collaboration with education and employer partners, our programmes are designed around real industry needs. Learning by doing is at the heart of the Institute of Technology experience, with access to excellent teaching staff, industry-standard equipment, specialist facilities, live projects and employer-informed teaching. This ensures you graduate with the skills and experience required for high-demand technical and professional careers.

Whether you're leaving college, returning to learning, changing direction or looking to progress while you work, we provide opportunities to gain higher-level qualifications and unlock your potential through accessible routes into higher education and skilled employment.

Explore our courses and discover the pathway that's right for you. Your future is yours to shape. Start your journey with the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Institute of Technology.

Georgina Barnard

Vice Principal:
Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire
Institute of Technology

TECHNICAL. SKILLS. WORK.

The future is ready… are you?

The Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Institute of Technology offers non-traditional routes to higher education for those sectors where there are particularly pressing skills gaps – advanced engineering, high value manufacturing, modern methods of construction, digital and health and life sciences.

Located in Stafford Town Centre close to Stafford Train Station, the Institute of Technology hub delivers the very best in technical education. A selection of courses will also be offered at a number of key education providers across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, giving students the choice of study locations.

Courses on offer have been designed in collaboration with local and national employers, giving students of all ages and backgrounds the real-world experience they need to stand out from the crowd in a competitive jobs market. A skilled workforce is critical to local businesses and the wider community.

From T Levels to university level courses, students have access to the very best learning environment with industry standard equipment and resources.

SCAN HERE

Or visit sotsiot.ac.uk to find out more



What is an Institute of Technology?

Institutes of Technology (IoTs) are a £300M government backed investment designed to significantly increase the number of students participating in higher technical education and provide the skills that businesses need both now and in the future, to support regional and national productivity.

We work in collaboration with leading employers and education providers who are critical stakeholders in the design, delivery and strategic direction of our IoT. With local employers including Siemens, Hitachi, Dell, MOOG and Indurent already involved as our core employer partners and members of our governing body, we are focused on working with local employers to drive economic growth and productivity.

+ High Value Manufacturing and Advanced Engineering
+ Modern Methods of Construction
+ Digital and Creative
+ Health and Life Sciences

5 CORE EMPLOYER PARTNERS — DELL, HITACHI, INDURENT, MOOG, SIEMENS

4 FURTHER EDUCATION PROVIDERS — NSCG Newcastle and Stafford Colleges Group, South Staffordshire College, Burton and South Derbyshire College, Stoke on Trent College

1 HIGHER EDUCATION PROVIDERS — Keele University

1 PRIVATE TRAINING PROVIDER — Axia Solutions

ONE COLLABORATION

Isla McFadzean

HNC/D Digital Content Creation



Why did you decide to study the HNC/D Digital Content Creation course?

It's a dynamic course that offers transferable skills for a wide variety of creative careers. I previously studied the Level 3 BTEC in Photography so this was the natural choice as I knew that I would benefit from more contact time with tutors and smaller class sizes compared to universities. I've had a positive learning experience and studying at higher education level has been no exception.

How has the IoT and its innovative learning facilities helped you to gain the competitive edge?

The facilities, equipment and standards of teaching are really inspiring. Everything is so easy to use and of industry standard, so this has definitely given me the head start. We have had access to industry equipment including mirrorless cameras, advanced lighting systems and audio equipment, so having had access to this technology before we even graduated is incredible.

Describe the key skills you have developed on the programme.

Having the opportunity to work on live briefs has been invaluable and has packaged all the skills we need together. Working on creative aspects of advertising, social media, client liaison and web design has set us up to understand exactly what to expect from such a fast-moving industry.

How have the smaller class sizes and a tailored approach to real-world learning enhanced your learning experience?

Smaller class sizes mean that as a group we get more out of our learning and questions that we do have can be answered promptly. There is no waiting around as our tutors are always on hand to guide us through projects, whilst giving us the space to consider our own thought processes, ideas and concepts. Having the expertise of people who have been in industry and understand trends and what's expected has been beneficial.

What's next for you?

I have set up my own business called imCreative specialising in graphic design, commercial photography, videography and digital content creation.

STUDY WITH US

The Institute of Technology (IoT) provides students of all ages with real-world learning opportunities and accessible routes into higher education in a variety of sectors. From Level 3 to Level 6, the IoT offers a modern approach to study for those learners just starting out to those with industry experience looking to advance their careers. Whatever level you're at, your future starts here.

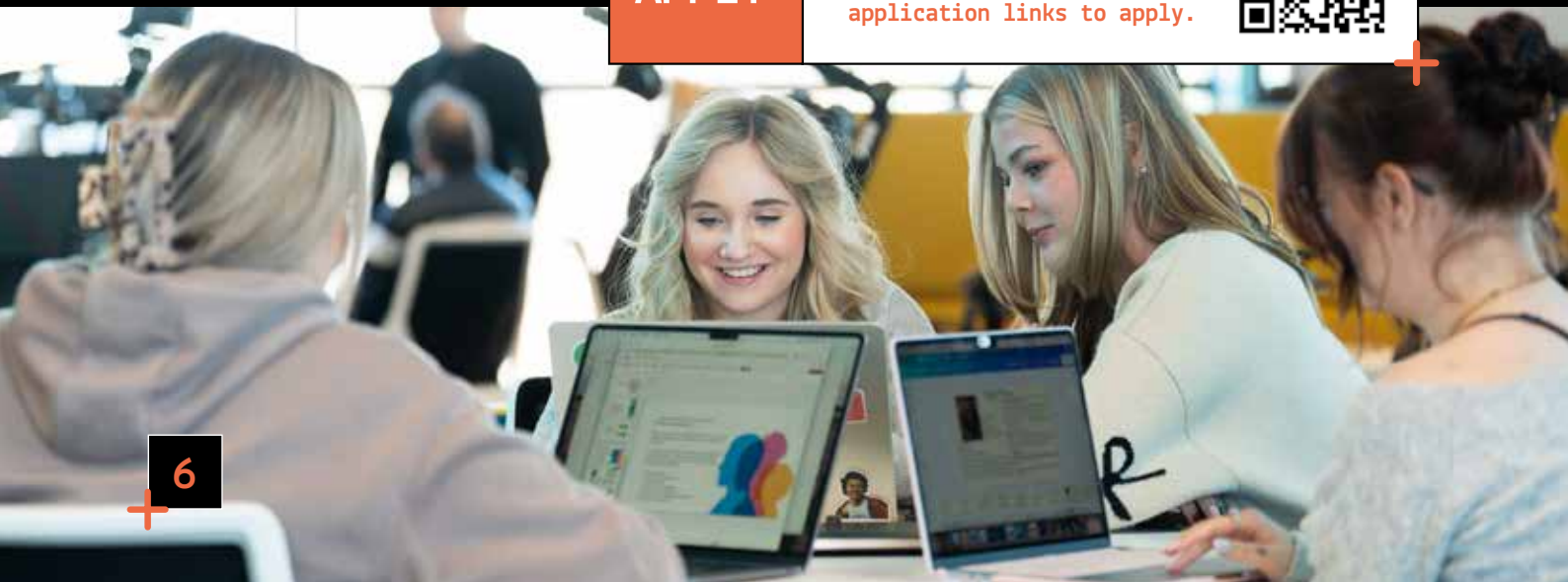
What sets us apart?

- You'll get the chance to get hands-on, industry-focused experience: the equipment and learning facilities on offer will set you up for your chosen career and give you the competitive edge.
- Learn from industry-experienced lecturers: our team have been where you are and are dedicated to sharing their expert knowledge and insights to help you to take your next steps.
- You can choose a study option that fits around your work and life: full-time and part-time study is available, so you can choose a pathway that works for you.
- Gain university skills & qualifications close to home whilst having access to high quality teaching, direct access to employers, transferable skills, and a qualification equivalent to the first or second year of university at a much lower cost.
- We can help you to access financial support, making studying more affordable so that you can focus on getting to where you want to be in your career.

Our education partners offer students the chance to earn qualifications that combine theory and practical learning, including apprenticeships, Higher National Certificates (HNCs), Higher National Diplomas (HNDs), Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs) and 'top-up' degrees.

HOW TO APPLY

Applying for one of our courses is easy. Visit sotsiot.ac.uk and find your chosen course. Follow the application links to apply.



SUPPORTING YOUR BUSINESS

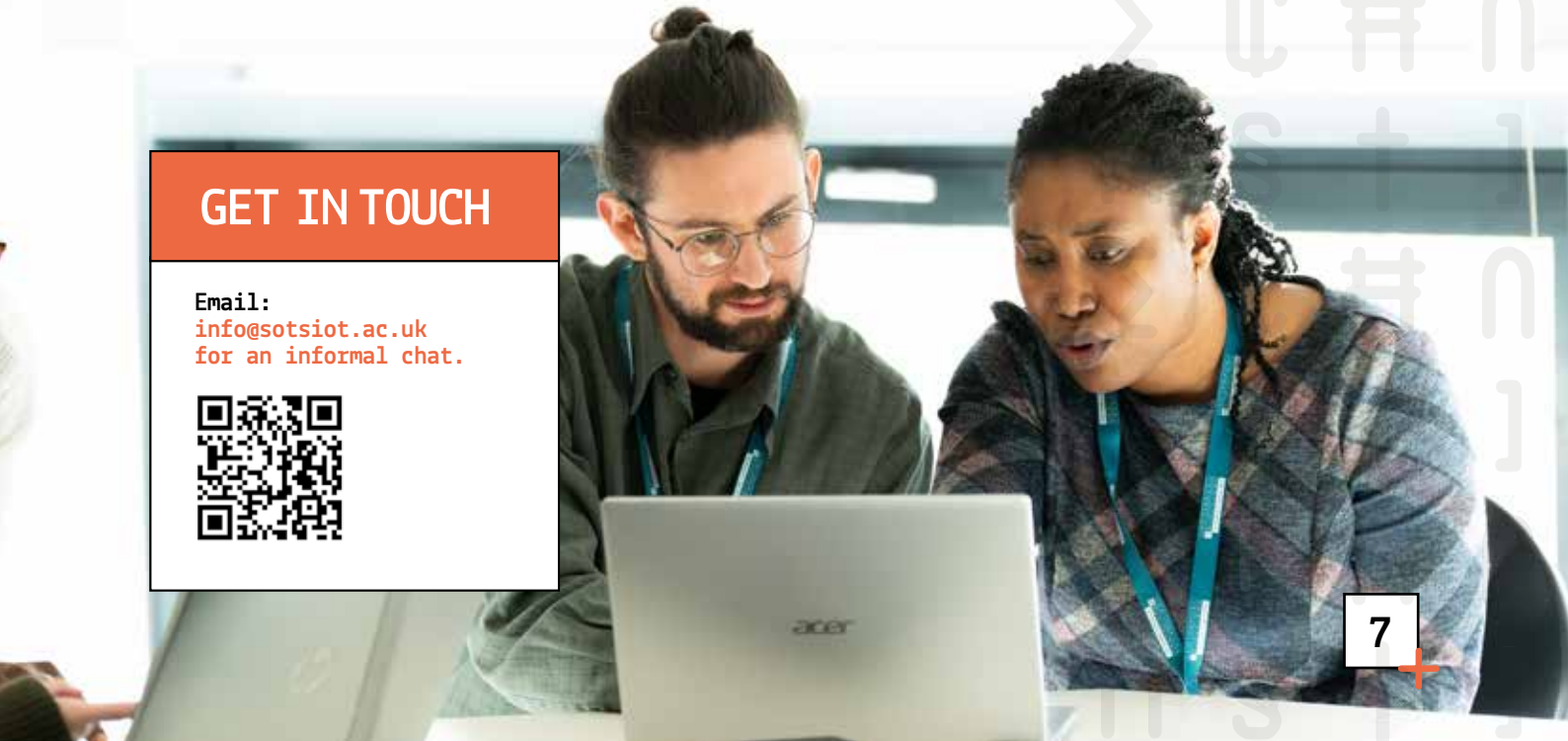
The Institute of Technology can work with your business to offer technical education programmes to support your own training and fill skills gaps. From Level 4 to degree level, we offer:

+ University level qualifications
+ Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs)
+ Higher Apprenticeships
+ CPD and upskill opportunities
+ Bespoke modular and short courses

Grow your future workforce with us today.

GET IN TOUCH

Email:
info@sotsiot.ac.uk
for an informal chat.



THE PRODUCT DESIGN CENTRE

Taking your ideas to the next level

The IoT is also home to the Product Design Centre which exists to help businesses to evolve and grow their technical expertise and products. This state-of-the-art facility features everything needed to transform bold ideas into market-ready solutions and includes cutting-edge manufacturing technologies and a fully equipped electronics assembly and testing laboratory.

Backed by industry, the centre offers expert guidance, technical education and support to help individuals and companies turn innovation into commercial success – all in one place.

The Product Design Centre goes beyond creativity. From concept to prototype, the product design service and cutting-edge facilities on offer include:

- **+ CAD/CAM Systems**
- **+ Coordinate Measuring Machine (CMM)**
- **+ Electronics assembly and testing laboratory**
- **+ 3D FDM and Polyjet printers**
- **+ Mazak 5-Axis CNC machine**



MORE INFO

Explore the Product Design Centre here

Sam Hinks

HNC/D Engineering for England (HTQ)



How did your journey with us begin?

When I was at school, I didn't really know which career path to take, but I knew that I didn't want to go to university. I went to an open event and signed up for the Level 3 Engineering BTEC which is where it all started. My tutors supported me throughout and nothing was ever too much trouble. I liked being involved in what I could and wanted to achieve and the course was clear in its expectations to us as learners. The teaching team really helped me to get the best marks possible and I will always be grateful for that.

What attracted you to study a university-level course at the Institute of Technology?

At the end of the BTEC, some of my classmates went on to university but I knew I wanted to get a full-time job in engineering and continue my journey with the Institute of Technology. The class sizes were a real pull for me and I've been able to work through my studies whilst working full time. I haven't had the stress of preparing for big end of year exams which suited me and you would not believe how amazing the facilities are at the Institute of Technology.

How have your experiences and access to cutting-edge technology helped you to develop as an engineering professional?

The courses and learning facilities have given me a further insight into various elements of engineering by studying subject areas such as Further Machines and Drives and Further Control Systems. The lecturers firmly believe in industry experiences, so this has been beneficial to me alongside ideas sharing sessions which helped us to gel as a cohort.

What's next for you?

Now that I have gained my HND, I have opened doors for more opportunities. I am now going to Australia to work for a few years within the engineering field. Having both work experience and qualifications to back this up, I now know my career path and feel confident in getting to where I want to be.

GET CAREER READY

Types of Qualifications

The Institute of Technology offers a broad range of qualifications ranging from Introductory career-focused courses through to Higher Technical Qualifications and University-Level programmes. Below and on page 11 you'll find the different routes on offer and where they can take you next.

T Levels (Level 3)

A two year course equivalent to three A Levels, these technical based qualifications prepare students for work and higher education. Designed with employers, they include a substantial industry placement of 45 days over the period of the two year course.



Vocational courses (Level 3)

A more hands-on course that relates to a specific career or technical skill. You will study one subject in-depth, mixing theory and practice. The focus is on coursework, with a balance of hands-on practical experience and some external assessments - a great choice if you know the kind of area you want to work in. Vocational qualifications are widely-recognised to get you into university, apprenticeships or to progress your career in employment.

Apprenticeships (Level 2-7)

Combine practical on-the-job training with in-college learning with an apprenticeship. You'll get the training that is relevant to your job and be paid a salary. University-level apprenticeships are available to help you to progress through the levels and aim for a career in management.



Higher National Certificate (HNC Level 4)/ Diploma (HND Level 5)

A Higher National Certificate (HNC) is a Level 4 vocational qualification that takes one year to complete full-time, or two years part-time. A Higher National Diploma (HND) is a Level 5 vocational qualification provided by higher and further education colleges. It takes two years to complete full-time, or three to four years if you study part-time. Both options offer practical-based courses, ideal for those wanting to enter the workforce or study towards a degree.

Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs) (Level 4-5)

HTQs are vocational pathways designed to provide students with job-ready skills and knowledge in specific technical fields. These qualifications, including HNCs and HNDs, are based on employer-developed standards and are an alternative to apprenticeships or degrees.

Bachelor's Degree (Level 6)

In partnership with Keele University, we are thrilled to offer exclusive one-year Business and Computing 'top-up' degrees. These Level 6 progression pathways will give adult students exciting opportunities to continue their studies at a local university.

Professional qualifications

Professional qualifications are vocational training courses that relate to a specific industry or career path. Designed to ensure that everyone employed in a particular job meets the minimum required standards of professional expertise.

Upskilling & Reskilling

Our flexible short courses help you develop new skills, progress your career, or meet business needs with study options designed to fit around work and personal commitments.

Courses can be funded through the Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE), employer sponsorship, or self-funding, making professional development accessible and flexible.

COURSES

STOKE-ON-TRENT & STAFFORDSHIRE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

T Levels

Course Name	Provider	Location
Level 3 T Level Engineering (Machining)	Burton & South Derbyshire College	Swadlincote
Level 3 T Level Design and Development for Manufacturing and Engineering (Mechanical Engineering)	Newcastle & Stafford Colleges Group	Newcastle-under-Lyme & Stafford
Level 3 T Level Design and Development for Manufacturing and Engineering (Electrical Engineering)	Newcastle & Stafford Colleges Group	Newcastle-under-Lyme & Stafford
Level 3 T Level Design, Surveying, and Planning for Construction (Building Services Design)	Newcastle & Stafford Colleges Group	Newcastle-under-Lyme & Stafford
Level 3 T Level Electrical Installation (Building Services)	Burton & South Derbyshire College	Swadlincote
Level 3 T Level Digital Production, Design and Development (Digital Coding and Technology)	Newcastle & Stafford Colleges Group	Newcastle-under-Lyme & Stafford
Level 3 T Level Digital Support Services	Newcastle & Stafford Colleges Group	Newcastle-under-Lyme & Stafford
Level 3 T Level in Business and Administration	Newcastle & Stafford Colleges Group	Newcastle-under-Lyme & Stafford
Level 3 T Level in Healthcare (Supporting Midwifery)	Newcastle & Stafford Colleges Group	Newcastle-under-Lyme & Stafford
Level 3 T Level Healthcare (Supporting Adult Nursing)	Newcastle & Stafford Colleges Group	Newcastle-under-Lyme & Stafford

Access to Higher Education

Course Name	Provider	Location
Access to HE Diploma (Health Professionals)	Newcastle & Stafford Colleges Group	Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stafford

University-Level courses

Course Name	Provider	Location
Level 4 HNC Architectural Technology for England (HTQ)	Burton & South Derbyshire College	Swadlincote
Level 4 HNC Automotive Engineering (Motorsport)	Newcastle & Stafford Colleges Group	Stafford
Level 4 HNC Computing - General Pathway (HTQ)	Newcastle & Stafford Colleges Group	Newcastle-under-Lyme
Level 4 HNC Construction Management for England (HTQ)	Burton & South Derbyshire College	Swadlincote
Level 4 Civil Engineering for England (HTQ)	Newcastle & Stafford Colleges Group	Stafford
	Burton & South Derbyshire College	Swadlincote
Level 4 HNC Digital Content Creation	Newcastle & Stafford Colleges Group	Stafford
Level 4 Electrical and Hybrid Vehicle Training	South Staffordshire College	Rodbaston College
Level 4 Engineering for England (HTQ)	Newcastle & Stafford Colleges Group	Stafford
	Burton & South Derbyshire College	Swadlincote
Level 4 HNC Esports	Newcastle & Stafford Colleges Group	Stafford
Level 4 Digital Technologies (HTQ)	Newcastle & Stafford Colleges Group	Stafford
Level 5 HND Computing - General Pathway (HTQ)	Newcastle & Stafford Colleges Group	Newcastle-under-Lyme
Level 5 HND Digital Content Creation	Newcastle & Stafford Colleges Group	Stafford
Level 5 HND Engineering for England (HTQ)	Newcastle & Stafford Colleges Group	Stafford

Undergraduate courses

Course Name	Provider	Location
Level 6 BA (Hons) Business and Management (1 year top up)	Keele University	Keele University
Level 6 BSc (Hons) Computing (1 year top up)	Keele University	Keele University
Level 6 BA (Hons) Finance and Management (1 year top up)	Keele University	Keele University

Apprenticeships

Course Name	Provider
Level 3 AAT	Newcastle & Stafford Colleges Group
Level 3 Engineering Manufacturing Support Technician Standard - Lean Production or Robotics Pathways	Newcastle and Stafford Colleges Group & South Staffordshire College
Level 3 Engineering Fitter	Newcastle & Stafford Colleges Group
Level 3 Engineering Maintenance Technician	Newcastle & Stafford Colleges Group
Level 3 Mechatronics Maintenance Technician	Newcastle & Stafford Colleges Group
Level 3 Laboratory Technician Standard	Newcastle & Stafford Colleges Group
Level 4 Artificial Intelligence for Business	Axia Solutions
Level 4 Associate Project Manager	Newcastle & Stafford Colleges Group
Level 4 Automation & Controls Engineering Technician	Burton & South Derbyshire College
Level 4 Civil Engineering Senior Technician	Newcastle & Stafford Colleges Group
Level 4 Construction Design and Build Technician	Burton & South Derbyshire College Stoke-on-Trent College
Level 4 Construction Site Supervisor	Burton & South Derbyshire College Stoke-on-Trent College
Level 4 Engineering Manufacturing Technician	Newcastle & Stafford Colleges Group & South Staffordshire College Group
Level 4 Facilities Manager	Axia Solutions
Level 4 Lead Engineering Maintenance Technician	Newcastle & Stafford Colleges Group Stoke-on-Trent College
Level 4 Network Engineer	Newcastle & Stafford Colleges Group
Level 4 People and Project Manager	Axia Solutions
Level 4 Professional Accounting Taxation Technician	Newcastle & Stafford Colleges Group
Level 4 Quality Practitioner	Newcastle & Stafford Colleges Group
Level 4 Quantity Surveying Technician	Stoke-on-Trent College
Level 4 Software Developer	Newcastle & Stafford Colleges Group
Level 5 Technician Scientist	Newcastle & Stafford Colleges Group

Short Courses

Course Name	Provider	Location
Introduction to Inventor	Newcastle & Stafford Colleges Group	Stafford
Introduction to CNC Machining	Newcastle & Stafford Colleges Group	Stafford
Introduction to Pneumatics & Automation	Newcastle & Stafford Colleges Group	Stafford
Introduction to Robotics & Automation	Newcastle & Stafford Colleges Group	Stafford
ILM Level 5 Certificate in Leadership and Management	Axia Solutions	Institute of Technology
ILM Level 7 Certificate in Strategic Leadership	Axia Solutions	Institute of Technology
Managing People, Leading well - 5 day course	Axia Solutions	Institute of Technology
Introduction to Coaching – 2 day course	Axia Solutions	Institute of Technology
Introduction to Lean – 1 day course	Axia Solutions	Institute of Technology



THINKING OF JOINING US?

Applying is fast and easy following these simple steps:

1. Select

Find the industry sector you're interested in.

2. Pick your course

Find the course and level you'd like to apply for.

3. Apply

Fill in our contact form and our delivery partners will be back in touch to discuss your application.

4. Submit

We'll be in touch once we've received your application.

NEED ANY MORE INFORMATION?

If you need any extra information or advice on choosing the best course for you, get in touch to chat through your options.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

Keele University · Axia Solutions · Burton and South Derbyshire College · Stoke on Trent College · South Staffordshire College · DELL · HITACHI · MOOG · SIEMENS · INDURENT

YOUR FUTURE STARTS WITH US

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The information contained within our brochure is correct at the time of going to print. For all the latest information it is best to check our website.