

# WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF QUALIFICATIONS

**Students in Year 10 and 11 will begin subjects at Level 2. The majority of these 'academic' subjects assessed by GCSEs, although there are opportunities for students to study vocational subjects.**

Academic GCSE	<p>GCSE stands for 'General Certificate of Secondary Education'. These are academic qualifications that are recognised and valued by schools, colleges, employers and universities so they will be useful whatever you are planning to do in the future. GCSE courses involve studying the theory of a subject and usually includes some investigation work. Some may involve practical work.</p> <p>GCSEs are Level 1 and 2 qualifications and are graded 9-1. Some subjects have 'tiers' of entry (Higher and Foundation) to support students studying at different levels of ability.</p>
Vocational BTEC	<p>BTEC (Business and Technology Education Council) qualifications are work-related or vocational courses suitable for a wide range of learners. Like GCSEs they are nationally recognised and have been designed to meet the needs of employers and allow progression to further study. They provide a practical, real world approach to learning.</p> <p>BTECs are assessed through coursework and generally have one examination. These courses are suitable for students who might not show their full potential in courses that are assessed through lots of examinations.</p>

## ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE

In November 2010 the Department of Education introduced a new qualification for students at 16 years called the English Baccalaureate (EBACC).

- ★ English
- ★ Mathematics
- ★ Two Sciences (one of which can be computing)
- ★ History or Geography
- ★ A Foreign Language

The subjects the government have included are designed to ensure that all students have the opportunity to study a broad core of subjects, ensuring that doors are not closed off to them in terms of future progression to certain universities.

Students will study History or Geography and a Modern Foreign Language so you are in the best possible position when applying for Sixth Form College, the world of work or to University.