

VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Vocational qualifications have helped millions of people develop the skills they need to achieve their potential. They are work-related qualifications that provide a more practical, real-world approach to learning alongside a key theoretical background. They can be studied alongside GCSEs and A Levels, and are widely valued by schools, colleges, universities and employers.

Progress is measured throughout the course via the completion of units. Each course is made up of a number of units, the number of which is dependent on the level and size of the course being studied. As pupils work through these units, they are able to gauge their own performance and measure their own progress. Approximately 40% of their course will be assessed externally.

Each vocational unit will be graded as a Pass, Merit or Distinction. These grades will be combined to give a final grade for the specific subject studied. All Level 2 vocational courses are fully recognised as holding equivalences to GCSEs. This can be seen below:

Level 2	GCSE old
Vocational Grade	Equivalent Grade
Distinction*	A*
Distinction	A
Merit	B
Pass	C

The Level 2 courses options offered for study in this booklet carry the equivalence of 1 GCSE graded A* - C on the old system. However, for those pupils who may struggle to achieve this, there will be the option to complete sufficient units to gain a Level 1 which is equivalent to one GCSE graded D – G on the old system.