



A Academic Year
The school and college year runs from September to July.

Apprenticeships
Vocational (work-based) learning schemes.

Assessment
The method of grading and evaluating / judging how well students are progressing. This may include exams and course work.

Attainment
What students accomplish.

Attainment Target
The individual goal set for a student. Targets are a way of checking student progress.

AQA
Assessment & Qualifications Alliance – the awarding body/exam board (formed by merging the Associated Examining Board (which is the awarding body for GCSE and GCE A Levels) with the Northern Examinations and Assessment Board).

Awards
A term used for qualifications (Certificates, Diplomas etc).

Awarding Body / Examination Board
The organisation that writes the specification, sets and marks the exams and moderates the teacher assessed work.

Awarding Body / Examination Board websites:

www.aqa.org.uk
www.edexcel.org.uk
www.ocr.org.uk
www.wjec.co.uk
www.nocn.org.uk
www.princes-trust.org.uk

B BTEC
Business & Technical Education Council - Vocational qualifications that teach the skills that are needed for working life. The overall BTEC qualifications are given pass, merit or distinction grades.

C Catchment area
A defined geographical area from which a school takes its students.

CATs
Cognitive Ability Tests



Controlled Assessment

Many subjects have this, which counts as part of your final assessment (this is a percentage grade, with the remaining part assessed by one or more exams). The Controlled Assessment is marked by the subject teacher, but it is also sent to external examiners who moderate the marking. Controlled assessments have to be completed in class time under supervision.

Core Curriculum

English, Mathematics and a Science - those subjects which must be studied by all students.

Current Grade

A current grade is the grade at which a student is working at now.

Curriculum

All the courses and learning opportunities a school offers as a programme of study to be followed by students

D

DfE

Department for Education, which is the government department responsible for education.

Differentiation

The way in which the school's curriculum and teaching methods are adapted to meet the needs of children.

E

Entry-Level

An educational route for students who require extra help or have specific learning difficulties. Many of entry-level courses follow a general programme with continuous assessment to enable students to develop their potential.

EdExcel

Educational Excellence Foundation - awarding / examination body.

Evaluation

How well did it work?

EWO

Education Welfare Officer - a person employed by the LA to make sure that children are getting the education they need. They deal mainly with school attendance.

Exclusion

Exclusion means that your child may not attend lessons or go on to the school premises for a set period of time.



F Foundation Level

These are beginner courses that develop communication and study skills and provide a well-rounded introduction to a chosen subject. Most people use them as a route to Intermediate level courses.

Functional Skills

Functional Skills are practical skills in English, maths and information and communications technology (ICT). Functional Skills will involve taking separate tests which will give students a qualification if they pass them. They will also count towards other qualifications, including Diplomas and Apprenticeships.

G GCSE

General Certificate of Education - academic examination of basic secondary education generally taken over two years by 14-16 year olds.

Grades

GCSE grades measure the attainment of students studying GCSE subjects (eg A*, A, B).

H Healthy Schools

A Healthy School promotes the health and wellbeing of its students and staff through a well-planned, taught curriculum in a physical and emotional environment that promotes learning and healthy lifestyle choices.

I IAG

Information, Advice and Guidance

IEP

Individual Education Plan - drawn up by a school's SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator). It sets targets for a child to achieve and a date for a review of progress.

ICT

Information and Communication Technology – refers to the whole area of computers.

Inclusion - A process by which schools, local education authorities and others develop their cultures, policies and practices to include students

INSET - Days In-Service Education and Training. INSET days are set aside to allow teachers to update their skills and knowledge in order to raise student achievement.



K **Key Skills**

Key skills are a range of essential skills that underpin success in education, employment, lifelong learning and personal development. Available across all post-16 routes in the UK, they include communication, application of number and information technology.

Key Stages

The National Curriculum is divided into four Key Stages (KS1 to KS4):

- Key Stage 2: Year 3 to Year 6 at primary school (ages 7-11)
- Key Stage 3: Year 7 to Year 9 at secondary school (ages 11-14)
- Key Stage 4: Year 10 to Year 11 (ages 14-16)
- Key Stage 5: Year 12 to Year 13 (ages 16-18)

L **LA**

Local Authority.

Levels

National curriculum **levels** are set by the government to measure the attainment of students up to and including Year 9 (eg level 4, level 5).

Level 1

Level 1 qualifications include GCSEs, GNVQs at Foundation Level and NVQ1s. Grading is equivalent to GCSE grades D-G

Level 2

Level 2 qualifications include GCSEs at grades A*- C, GNVQs at Intermediate Level, BTEC Certificates and Extended Certificates.

Level of Progress

A whole level of progress is achieved when a student's current level of attainment increases from a 4b to a 5b or from a B grade to an A grade.

M **Moodle**

Modular Object-Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment, or VLE, a facility that allows students to log on and access their work remotely.

N **National Curriculum**

The basic framework setting out what children aged 5 to 16 in state schools should learn.

National Curriculum Levels

Assessments of ability for students.

NOCN

National Open College Network – awarding / examination body.



NVQ

National Vocational Qualifications are work-based qualifications.

O **OCR**

Oxford Cambridge and RSA - awarding/examining body incorporating previous Oxford Cambridge and RSA qualifications.

OFSTED

The Office for Standards in Education is designed to raise standards in British schools and colleges through regular inspections. The inspections are conducted by teams of Ofsted-accredited (but independent) inspectors, led by a Registered Inspector. They must ask parents for their opinions, and anyone is allowed access to the completed report, detailing their results in terms of performance for quality and consistency.

P **Predicted Grade / Level**

A predicted grade / level gives a clear overview of the grade / level a student can realistically be expected to achieve at the end of the academic year. Predicted grades / levels are provided by subject staff.

Portfolio

A collection of examples of work.

Progress / Progression

Continuous proven improvement, moving students forward with their learning.

Projected Level / Grade

The students' predicted grade at the end of a Key Stage.

S **SATs**

Standard Assessment Tests (taken in Year 9) which check children's progress.

SEN

Special Educational Needs. Learning difficulties, talents or other needs, for which a child requires special help.

SENCO

Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator. The teacher in a school who is responsible for arranging the extra help for children with special educational needs.

Statement

A document that sets out a child's needs and all the extra help (provision) s/he should get.

Sub-levels

The national curriculum levels can be divided into 3 sub-levels (eg a level 5 could be 5a, 5b or 5c).



Syllabus or Specification

This is an outline of what students have to study in any subject.

T

TA

Teaching Assistant – a non-teaching member of staff who helps to meet the educational needs of the student

Targets

The individual goals set for a child. Targets are a way of checking the child's progress.

Target Grade

An end of year target grade is the grade a student is working towards. Target grades are provided by the government.

Tiers of Entry

For the majority of our GCSE courses there is a single tier of entry. Where there are two tiers (Higher and Foundation) this is indicated against the subject.

U

UCAS

Universities and Colleges' Admissions Service is the organisation which handles university applications.

V

VLE

Virtual Learning Environment, a facility that allows students to log on and access their work remotely

Vocational Qualifications

Vocational qualifications are work-related qualifications available in a wide range of subjects which relate to different jobs and industries.

W

WJEC

Welsh Joint Education Committee – awarding / examination body.

Work-Based Learning

Leads to NVQ qualifications gained in the workplace.

Work Experience

A system which allows students approaching the end of their secondary education the opportunity to take part in work placements.