

Year 11 to Post 16

What do you need to know?



GCSEs and other accredited qualifications

GCSEs are the main qualifications we all know – how much do we know?

* The government uses the term age related, this means their expectation is that all young people should have GCSEs including Maths and English which are grades 4 – 9 (Level 2) – more about Levels later
* Grades 1 – 3 are below ARE (Level 1 qualifications) but they are still GCSEs and are passes – if you hear anyone saying otherwise – challenge! However, re-sits / Functional Skills need to be picked up Post 16
* What Ebacc is and how it relates to GCSEs will be outlined later
* BTECs have a range of levels, some of which are equivalent to GCSEs, more about BTECs soon
* Functional Skills Levels Functional Skills qualifications are available at Entry 1, Entry 2, Entry 3, Level 1 and Level 2. As an approximate comparison, Entry Level 1 – 3 is below GCSE level, Level 1 is comparable to GCSE grades 1 – 3, and Level 2 is comparable to GCSE grade 4
* T Levels are a Level 3 Qualification equivalent to 3 A levels, more about T Levels soon
* ASDAN offers a range of nationally approved qualifications based around the development of personal, social and employability skills. Qualifications are offered to learners working from Entry 1 up to Level 3.
	+ Cope ASDAN is the Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (**CoPE**) it is available at three levels: Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3.

GCSE & BTEC late entries

The information below shows the deadlines for academic year 2023, each year there are similar deadlines, late fees are double and high late fees are triple.

Exam entries can be done right up to the last few days prior to the exams starting. A registered exam centre is needed. Exams can be sat in a venue other than school but if this happens, unless the venue is also an exam centre, the exam papers will need to be collected from the on-roll school (registered exam centre). Exceptional circumstances – if a student has an even/experience which could significantly impact on their performance in the exam/s; with evidence provided, the exams officer can apply for exceptional circumstances, this enable outcome to be boosted, particularly if a grade boundary has just been missed.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Qualification | Entries deadline    | Late fees charged from  | Amendment fees charged from | High late fees charged from |
| AS/A level, GCSE, AEA, ELC(A), Edexcel Award, Mathematics in Context, Project qualifications | 21 February 2023 | 22 February 2023 | 22 April 2023  | 22 April 2023  |
| BTEC Firsts, BTEC Nationals, BTEC Tech Awards, BTEC Level 2 Technicals | 23 March 2023 | 24 March 2023 | N/A | 23 April 2023 |
| International GCSE | 21 February 2023 | 22 February 2023 | 22 April 2023 | 22 April 2023 |
| BTEC Firsts, BTEC Nationals\*Deadline to make June 2023 entries for learners who sat in January 2023 without incurring late entry fees | 31 March 2023 | 01 April 2023 | N/A | 23 April 2023 |
| BTEC Firsts and Tech Awards\*Deadline to make June 2023 entries for learners who sat in February 2023 without incurring late entry fees | 14 April 2023 | 15 April 2023 | N/A | 23 April 2023 |
| BTEC Level 2 Technicals\*Deadline to make June 2023 entries for learners who sat in March 2023 without incurring late entry fees | 05 May 2023 | 06 May 2023 | N/A | N/A |

**Accredited Qualification Levels**

England, Wales and Northern Ireland

There are 9 levels in all – Entry level to level 8

**Entry level**

Each entry level qualification is available at three sub-levels - 1, 2 and 3. Entry level 3 is the most difficult. Entry level qualifications are:

* entry level award
* entry level certificate (ELC)
* entry level diploma
* entry level English for speakers of other languages (ESOL)
* entry level essential skills
* entry level functional skills
* Skills for Life

**Level 1 qualifications are:**

* first certificate
* GCSE - grades 3, 2, 1 or grades D, E, F, G
* level 1 award
* level 1 certificate
* level 1 diploma
* level 1 ESOL
* level 1 essential skills
* level 1 functional skills
* level 1 national vocational qualification (NVQ)
* music grades 1, 2 and 3

**Level 2 qualifications are:**

* CSE - grade 1
* GCSE - grades 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4 or grades A\*, A, B, C
* intermediate apprenticeship
* level 2 award
* level 2 certificate
* level 2 diploma
* level 2 ESOL
* level 2 essential skills
* level 2 functional skills
* level 2 national certificate
* level 2 national diploma
* level 2 NVQ
* music grades 4 and 5
* O level - grade A, B or C

**Level 3 qualifications are:**

* A level
* access to higher education diploma
* advanced apprenticeship
* applied general
* AS level
* international Baccalaureate diploma
* level 3 award
* level 3 certificate
* level 3 diploma
* level 3 ESOL
* level 3 national certificate
* level 3 national diploma
* level 3 NVQ
* music grades 6, 7 and 8
* tech level

**Level 4 qualifications are:**

* certificate of higher education (CertHE)
* higher apprenticeship
* higher national certificate (HNC)
* level 4 award
* level 4 certificate
* level 4 diploma
* level 4 NVQ

**Level 5 qualifications are:**

* diploma of higher education (DipHE)
* foundation degree
* higher national diploma (HND)
* level 5 award
* level 5 certificate
* level 5 diploma
* level 5 NVQ

**Level 6 qualifications are:**

* degree apprenticeship
* degree with honours - for example bachelor of the arts (BA) hons, bachelor of science (BSc) hons
* graduate certificate
* graduate diploma
* level 6 award
* level 6 certificate
* level 6 diploma
* level 6 NVQ
* ordinary degree without honours

**Level 7 qualifications are:**

* integrated master’s degree, for example master of engineering (MEng)
* level 7 award
* level 7 certificate
* level 7 diploma
* level 7 NVQ
* master’s degree, for example master of arts (MA), master of science (MSc)
* postgraduate certificate
* postgraduate certificate in education (PGCE)

postgraduate diploma

**Level 8 qualifications are:**

* doctorate, for example doctor of philosophy (PhD or DPhil)
* level 8 award
* level 8 certificate
* level 8 diploma

**How do Ebaccs relate to GCSEs and what are they?**

**What are GCSEs?**

* GCSE stands for General Certificate of Secondary Education.  These are the qualifications obtained by fifteen and sixteen year old’s in the UK at the end of their Year 11 schooling.
* GCSEs provide a uniform framework for assessment in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Schools in Scotland pursue Scottish Qualifications Certificates.  Chosen subjects are studied over two years and assessed by final exams or coursework.
* While students have scope to choose some of their GCSE options, a number of subjects are obligatory. These are known as core subjects and include: Maths, English Literature, English Language, and Science (in varying forms). Welsh is considered a core subject in Wales. Some schools may enforce additional compulsory subjects in the fields of humanities, foreign languages, or arts and design.
* School are measured on both attainment & progress of all students

**What is Ebacc and how does it relate to GCSEs?**

The Ebacc a group of GCSEs the Government, listed below, which government think can support social mobility and support students in their future pathways:

* English language and literature (both have to be studied)
* Math’s
* the sciences (combined study 3 and count as 2 GCSEs or 3 sperate sciences)
* geography or history
* a language

By 2022 gov expectation is 75% students will be studying this group of qualifications. They expect 90% by 2025. Schools are measured by both the number of students who study Ebacc range of subjects and how well they do – average points score.

To calculate a pupil’s average point score we take an average of the points scored in the 5 EBacc subject areas. The EBacc is a performance measure for schools, not a qualification for pupils. Pupils’ individual average point scores are not published.

**What are BTECs and what is ASDAN?**

**BTECs**

* BTEC stands for the Business and Technology Education Council. BTECs are specialist work-related qualifications.
* They range from entry level to level 7
* BTECs are broken down into three main levels of study:
1. **BTEC Firsts**are available from entry level to Level 2 (similar standard to GCSEs). These offer an introduction to work in a vocational sector*.*Combined with other qualifications, these can enable you to go on to further study, to an apprenticeship, or into employment.
2. **BTEC Nationals** are available from Level 3 (similar standard to A levels). Many of these are well regarded by universities, further education colleges, and employers. A BTEC National qualification can lead to employment, continuing study, or professional development programmes.
3. **BTEC Apprenticeships**are available at Levels 2 to 5 across more than 25 sectors.

**ASDAN**

* Is a charity with a vision to see the talents and abilities of young people in greatest need held in high esteem
* ASDAN’s mission is to engage young people aged 11 to 25 years in greatest need to achieve meaningful learning outcomes, which elevate them to go on to further education, training or work, and empower them to take control of their lives.
* If you have someone studying for CoPE this is an ASDAN qualification which a lot of schools use for those students who have foundation level outcomes (Level 1), but it can also be accessed by those who are ARE in year 11 (Level 2) and sixth form (Level 3)

**What are T Levels?**

* T levels have been developed through business leaders working with further education providers, (with support from DfE and Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education), to produce a qualification which provides work experience (min of 45 days / 215 hours) along side a Level 3 qualification which is equivalent to 3 A levels – around 1800 hours of study in total over 2 years
* They begun to be delivered in some subject areas in 2020 by Sept 2023 all subjects listed (see link below) will be rolled out
* Students will also be required to work towards the attainment of maths and English if they have not already achieved grade 4 at GCSE, as they do on other 16 to 19 programmes. However, T Level students are no longer required to achieve either a grade 4 in English and maths GCSE or level 2 in functional skills to pass their programme.
* Further education providers were asked to bid to deliver and if they were approved they drew down the funding
* Further information available [Introduction of T Levels - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/introduction-of-t-levels/introduction-of-t-levels) and [T Levels | The Next Level Qualification](https://www.tlevels.gov.uk/)

**How are T Levels different from Apprenticeships?**

* T Levels differ from an apprenticeship. T Levels prepare students for work, further training or further study. An apprenticeship is typically 80% on-the-job and 20% in the classroom and is more suited to those who want to earn a wage and learn at the same time and are ready to enter the workforce at age 16.
* Both T levels and apprenticeships subject to scrutiny and accredited by the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education [Search / Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education](https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/search/?query=T+levels)

**How do the current GCSEs grades compare to the old system?**

The table to the right gives you a simple comparison. Students studying combined science will receive one of 17 possible grades, from 1-1, 1-2, 2-2, 2-3... to 9-9



In Wales grades remain at A\* to G (A\* being the highest)

In Scotland this is a good guide to access [Guide\_to\_Scottish\_Qualifications.pdf (sqa.org.uk)](https://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/Guide_to_Scottish_Qualifications.pdf) there is no direct comparison but in summary Scottish N5 qualifications are equivalent to grades 4 – 9 in England. Scottish N4 qualifications are equivalent to the lower grades

To compare across all This is a link to an excellent leaflet which includes Ireland and all of the British Isles and the best source to compare them all [Qualifications\_Can\_Cross\_Boundaries.pdf (qqi.ie)](https://qhelp.qqi.ie/learners/qualifications-recognition-advice/comparing-qualifications-in-the-uk-and-ireland/Qualifications_Can_Cross_Boundaries.pdf)

**Progress 8 – what is it?**



**Attainment 8 – what is it?**

**Attainment 8 – what is it?** The tables below show an example of how GCSEs will be scored, the next stage the 8 total points scores are added together and then divided by 10, to provide the attainment 8 score. The points below add up to 63, this gives an attainment 8 score of 6.3.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Qualification** | **Points** | **Included?** | **Group its counted in** | **Doubled?** | **Total points** | **Total points** |
| GCSE Maths | 7 | Yes | English and Maths | Yes | 14 | Can’t count early entries for double weighting |
| GCSE English Language | 8 | Yes | English and Maths | Yes | 16 | As above |
| GCSE English Literature | 6 | Yes | Open Group | No | 6 | As above |
| GCSE Additional Science | 6 | Yes | EBacc | No | 6 |  |
| GCSE Art | 5 | Yes | Open Group | No | 5 |  |
| GCSE Core Science | 7 | Yes | Ebacc | No | 7 |  |
| GCSE French | 56 | Yes | Open Group | No | 5 |  |
| GCSE Spanish |  | Yes | EBacc | No | 6 |  |
| GCSE Religious Studies | 4 | No |  |  |  | Not included as 8 slots filled |

**Pot of Money Post 16 and progression**

* Post 16 settings can draw down funding up to age 19, there are conditions
* Students can do courses up to age 19 as long as not done that subject in that level already
* Age 19+ funding available to do level 3 if not already got quals to this level
* No duplication of qualifications is allowed
* Can move sideways e.g. IT level 2, can then move to Media level 2 if not academically able to access level 3
* Could go down a level if justification e.g. if done a level three course and other course needs to start at level 2 this can be justified if new subject e.g. bricklaying and you had studied Health & Social Care
* If you don’t get 4s or above in English and Maths:
	+ GCSE if you get a 3
	+ Functional Skills at Level 2 if you get a 1 or 2
	+ Functional Skills at entry level if you did not have the ability to study English & Maths at GCSE level

**16 – 19 Bursary what is it and how can it be used?**

**16 to 19 Bursary Fund: Overview - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)**

# Overview

You could get a bursary to help with education-related costs if you’re aged 16 to 19 and:

* studying at a publicly funded school or college in England - not a university
* on a training course, including unpaid work experience

A publicly funded school is one that does not charge you for attending it.

There’s a different [scheme in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland](https://www.gov.uk/education-maintenance-allowance-ema).

**If you’re 19 and over**

You could also get a bursary if you either:

* are continuing on a course you started aged 16 to 18 (known as being a ’19+ continuer’)
* have an [Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)](https://www.gov.uk/children-with-special-educational-needs/extra-SEN-help)

**What a bursary is for**

A bursary is money that you, or your education or training provider, can use to pay for things like:

* clothing, books and other equipment for your course
* transport and lunch on days you study or train

**What you'll get**

There are 2 types of 16 to 19 bursary:

* a bursary for students in vulnerable groups
* a discretionary bursary

**Bursary for students in vulnerable groups**

You could get a bursary worth up to £1,200, depending on [your circumstances and benefits](https://www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund/eligibility).

**Discretionary bursary**

You could get a discretionary bursary if you need financial help but do not qualify for a bursary for students in vulnerable groups. Your education or training provider decides how much you get and what it’s used for.

If you’re over 19, you’ll only be eligible for a discretionary bursary.

Your provider will decide how you get your bursary. You might get:

* an instalment paid by cash, cheque or bank transfer
* things like a travel pass, free meals or books

Some providers also offer one-off payments to cover study trips or travel for university interviews.

**For other areas**

Wales [Education Maintenance Allowance | GOV.WALES](https://www.gov.wales/education-maintenance-allowance)

Scotland [Further Education Bursary - Student Information Scotland](https://www.studentinformation.gov.scot/students/further-education/bursary) & [Apply for or renew an Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) - mygov.scot](https://www.mygov.scot/ema)

Northern Ireland [Financial support at school or college | indirect](https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/11-19-your-learning-and-career-options/financial-support-school-or-college) and for Ireland the best link is [gov.ie - Further education (www.gov.ie)](https://www.gov.ie/en/policy-information/018b7-further-education/)

**Raising the Participation age - what does it mean?**

**What counts as participation?**

The three primary ways for a young person to participate are:

* full-time study in a school, college or with a training provider – around 18 hours per week;
* full-time work or volunteering (20 hours or more) combined with part-time education or training leading to relevant regulated qualifications; or
* an apprenticeship; traineeship or supported internship

**What about those who have not engaged in EET?**

For young people who have been absent from the education system and are now attending a re-engagement programme, no hourly requirement of education applies. Local authorities should be satisfied that a minimum amount of contact time or learning hours are built in and that the express intention of the programme is to support the young person to move into: full-time education at a school or college; full-time work or volunteering with part-time education or training leading to a relevant regulated qualification; or an apprenticeship, traineeship or supported internship. Once reengagement to appropriate education or training is secured, the wider requirements for participation apply.

**What about full time work?**

If a young person is in full time work with no education or training they should be studying part time and there is a 280 hours per year min of study required. This does not have to be in one block or one course as long as it add up to 280 hours plus over one year

**What about armed forces?**

Armed forces do count as there will always be an element of training.

If a young person is waiting for a training place to start they should consider if they could improve their Math and English whilst waiting or could volunteer or seek temporary employment

**What about young parents?**

There is no legal requirement that determines at what point a new mum should return to education and training. It is reasonable to use the same time period for which statutory maternity leave is available to those in work. Planning for a return to EET should take into account personal circumstances and should be done in advance.

**What about those who have full time jobs with no training?**

They should be encouraged to take up suitable part time education and training which will lead to a relevant qualification. Please note this also applies to those who are in a job with training, but it does not lead to any relevant recognised qualifications.