

TRANSITIONS

What do we mean by transitions?

When you go through a process or period of change!

You might find the transitions difficult. You won't be the only one - everyone needs time to adjust. Your teachers and tutors will understand that it isn't easy or a quick process. Transitions are ongoing and do take some getting used to!

Who is this pack for?

This guide is specifically designed for students who are choosing their GCSE options. By the end of this pack, you should know:

- * What is a GCSE
- * What is a BTEC
- * How they are graded
- * How to decide

GCSE:

Throughout Key Stage 3 (Year 7-9), you have been adapting to secondary school, learning new and varied subjects and becoming more aware of your independence. It's been a lot to take in, but hopefully you're ready to take on more responsibility for your education.

Now you're moving into Key Stage 4 (Year 10-11). This is the time to choose your GCSE and BTEC options. Studying subjects in more detail gives you skills that you need for any career!

What is a GCSE?

"General Certificate of Secondary Education"#

A GCSE qualification shows you have a good academic understanding of subjects.

GCSE's involve studying the theories and main principles of a subject. Some subjects (like Art, Design, Dance or Music) will have practical elements.

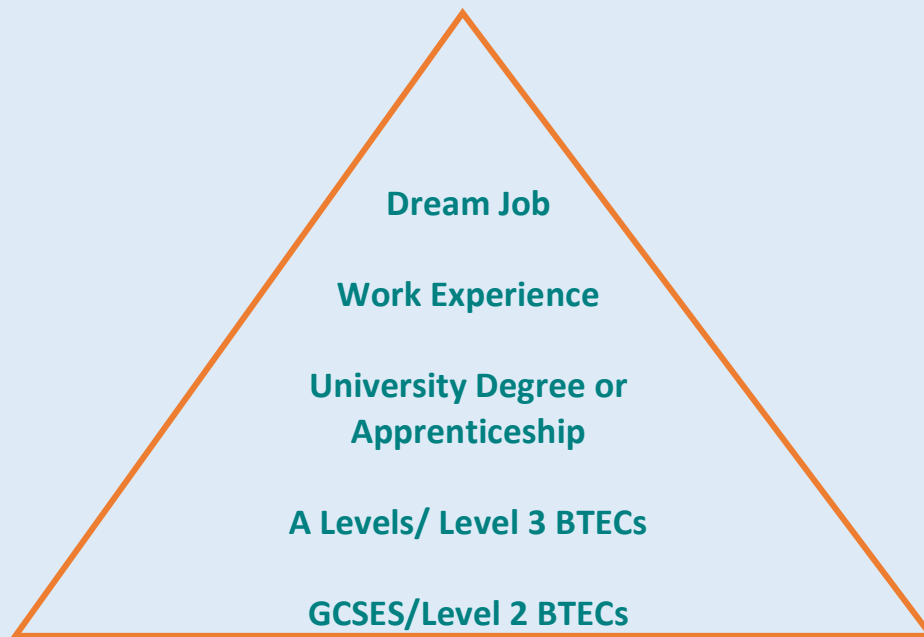
What is a BTEC?

"Business and Technology Education Council"

In Year 10 and 11, you can study Level 2 BTECs which are similar to GCSEs.

BTECs combine *practical learning* with the subject theory and knowledge.

Think of education as a pyramid - as you move through your life, you will notice you will study fewer subjects in more detail



You have to make sure you have good foundations to have more choice further up the pyramid.

Some of these subjects will be core subjects (you have to study them) and the rest are up to you! Some university courses require certain GCSEs and A Levels to study them, so it's good to be aware beforehand so you can make the most informed choice for you.

How are GCSEs graded?

GCSEs are graded on a number scale of 1-9.

4 is considered a **standard pass**, a 5 is considered a **strong pass**.

BTECs are graded as Pass, Merit and Distinction formula

Your GCSE subjects will impact:

Sixth Form or College choices
University and Degree Choices

A-Level choices
Job Opportunities

Old grades	New grades
A*	9
A	8
B	7
C	6 5 STRONG PASS 4 STANDARD PASS
D	3
E	2
F	1
G	1
U	U

How do I decide?

Be honest with yourself & make your choices for the right reasons!

Reason I like it	Good	Bad
<i>I find it interesting</i>		
<i>My friends are doing it</i>		
<i>I am good at it</i>		
<i>I know someone who has done it</i>		
<i>I can't think of anything else</i>		
<i>It looks easy</i>		
<i>It is useful for my career choice</i>		
<i>It will impress people</i>		

What next?

Do some research!

- Speak to teachers, advisors & people at home – they know you, and they know what you're capable of!
- Think about what you enjoy and what you're good at!
- Consider what careers interest you!

Research! Look at what the subject involves, and where it can get you:

PROSPECTS

If you have any questions, you can live chat a member of our team [here](#).

We'd love to know if you found this resource helpful, let us know [here](#).