

KS4 (Year 10 & 11) Level Equivalents									
GCSE new levels	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
GCSE old levels	F	E	D	C		B	A	A*	
Functional skills	Entry level 1-3		Level 1	Level 2					
BTEC				Pass		Merit	Distinction	Distinction *	
NCFE				Pass		Merit	Distinction	Distinction *	
Arts Awards	Bronze Award			Silver Award					
English Speaking Board	ESB Level 1	ESB Level 2	ESB Level 3	ESB Level 4			ESB Level 5		

Levels of Education - What do they mean?

Entry Level Qualifications precede the Level 1 and 2 Functional Skills qualifications and represent the most basic qualifications, as a useful introduction to education in the topic. They are not compulsory.

Level 1 Qualifications are often achieved in Years 10 or 11 of a secondary school and are the first formal level of qualification. At Gretton, we deliver Level 1 Functional Skills qualifications in Maths and English. A GCSE at grade 3 or below would represent the equivalent of a Level 1 qualification, as most Further Education, Higher Education or workplace providers would look for Grades at 4 or above as the equivalents to Level 2 qualifications. It is not always necessary to complete Entry Level qualifications prior to taking a Level 1.

Level 2 Qualifications are the next step up from Level 1 qualifications and are represented by qualifications such as the GCSE at Grades 4 or above, a pass or above in BTEC or NCFE qualifications or the Functional Skills Level 2 certificates in English and Maths. For learners who find the demands



of GCSE in these subjects a challenge, a Functional Skill can be a useful alternative route to gaining the same qualification level, as the content is more focused on the skills needed in day-to-day life, which may make them feel more applicable and relevant for learners.