



Pathways -Courses start at different levels depending GCSE grades – a level 4 equals a Pass (C)

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	
8	A*
7	A
6	B
5	
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

Vocational Learning – BTEC Diplomas (Offered at all local colleges and some school 6th forms)

This is a mixture of hands on learning, classroom learning and work experience and assessed through course work and exams.

Courses directly relate to a career area like childcare, social care, I.T, hospitality and public services

There are different levels of Diploma (Level 1, 2 and 3) depending on GCSE results

Academic – A Levels (Offered at all local colleges and school 6th forms)

Are more classroom and exam based and you usually choose 3 or 4 subjects. Studied for 2 years before taking A Level exams

Choose subjects same as GCSE, or choose different subjects that have not been studied before like Law, Psychology, and Sociology. To get onto most A Level courses need to

achieve at least 5 GCSE's at grade A*-C (9-4) including Maths and English, with a 5/6 in the subject hope to study. Some colleges may ask for higher grades.

Apprenticeships

This type of learning involves on-the-job practical training. Go to college or a training provider one day a week then work for 4 days a week with an employer at their premises

Can do an apprenticeship in many career areas. To find out more look on the apprenticeship web site www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

Most ask for 4's at GCSE in Maths and English. Level 2 to Degree.

In the future this will include nursing, policing and the Law.

Foundation Learning

Traineeships - If not quite ready for an apprenticeship, some work experience may be needed to help secure a placement, a Traineeship may be suitable.

Study Programmes - Designed to help improve skills to be ready for a traineeship or apprenticeship and are based at small providers throughout the City. Focus on personal skills, vocational skills and maths and English support.

Growth sectors in Stoke-on-Trent.

Advanced manufacturing – Applied materials, auto/aero engineering, Med-tech, Agri-tech, and Energy.

Tourism and leisure

Professional and business.

Digital and creative

Other local important sectors due to size and growth:

Health and social care, constructions, retail, Education, logistics and distribution and other manufacturing.

Skills (CBI Report)

70% of employers rate Literacy and Numeracy skills as 1 of their 3 most important considerations when recruiting school leavers.

45% ranked aptitude and readiness for work as the single most important factor.

60% rated resilience, communication and problem-solving in their top 3 priority skills.

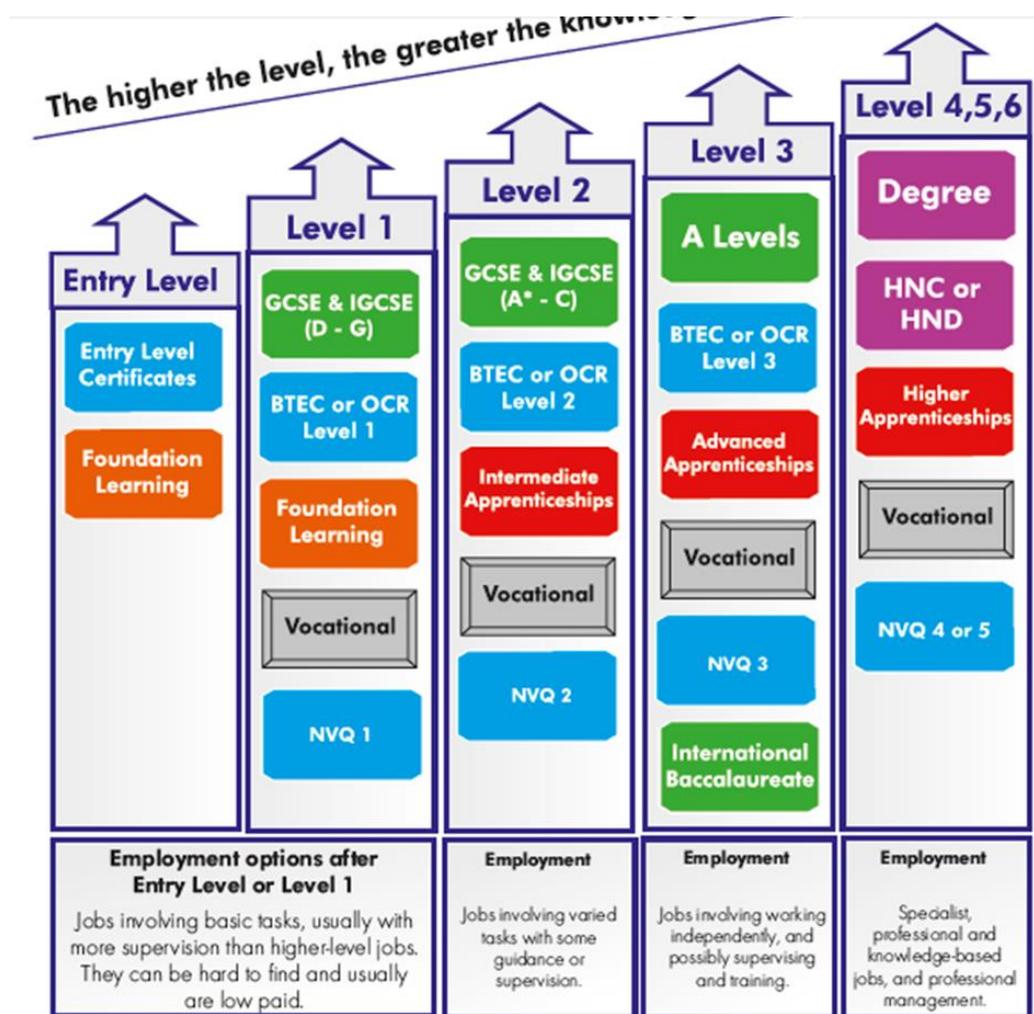
40% highly valued digital and IT skills.

French, German and Spanish language skills most commonly in demand in business.

NB:

In England young people have to be in some form of education or training until they are 18 – this is called the Raising of the Participation age.

If young people do not get a 4 in Maths and/or English at GCSE they have to continue to study these subjects post 16.



Key

- General Qualifications
- Vocational Qualifications
- Apprenticeships
- Foundation Learning
- Higher Education