

Dear Parents/Guardians,

With the exam season on the horizon and Year 9 pupils due to choose their options, I wanted to take the time to provide you with some information about the different types of qualifications that are available at Brandles. We believe it's important that you understand the options available to your child, and how they can help prepare them for their future education and career goals.

At our school, we offer a range of qualifications including GCSEs, BTECs, and Functional Skills qualifications. Each of these qualifications serves a different purpose, and we work to ensure that our students have access to the qualifications that best suit their individual needs and goals.

GCSEs are academic qualifications that cover a range of subjects, including mathematics, science, English language and literature, and humanities. They are graded on a 9-1 scale, with 9 being the highest grade. These qualifications are often required for further education and university admission.

BTECs are vocational qualifications that prepare students for specific career paths. They are available at different levels and are graded on a Pass, Merit, Distinction, and Distinction* scale, with Distinction* being the highest grade. BTECs can be taken in a variety of subjects, including business, engineering, health and social care, and creative industries.

Functional Skills qualifications are also vocational qualifications, but they focus on developing practical skills in areas such as English, mathematics, and information technology. They are designed to help students apply these skills in real-life situations. Functional Skills qualifications are available at different levels, ranging from Entry Level 1 to Level 2.

We believe that all three types of qualifications offer valuable learning experiences and can provide students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in their future education and careers. Our school works hard to ensure that all students have access to the qualifications that best suit their individual strengths and goals.

If you have any questions or concerns about the qualifications available at our school, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are always here to support our students and their families in any way we can.

Sincerely,



Mr I Reid
Deputy Headteacher

Qualification awarded points

Points Awarded	Grade Achieved				
	GCSE	BTEC First Award	BTEC Introductory Award	BTEC Specialist	Functional Skills
9	9				
8.5		Level 2 Distinction*			
8	8				
7	7	Level 2 Distinction			
6	6				
5.5		Level 2 Merit		Level 2 Pass	
5	5				
4	4	Level 2 Pass			
3.5					Level 2
3	3		Level 1 Distinction		
2	2		Level 1 Merit		Level 1
1.75		Level 1 Pass		Level 1 Pass	
1.5					
1.25			Level 1 Pass		
1	1				
0.75					Entry 3
0.5					Entry 2
0.25					Entry 1