

At Northallerton School and Sixth Form College we offer vocational qualifications in year 10 and 11 to complement our more traditional GCSE courses. These are currently available in Creative iMedia and Health and Social Care. These courses are not easier options, but instead offer a more work-related programme that is assessed throughout rather than wholly at the end. Students complete portfolio work through the two years of study with an external exam that all goes towards deciding their final grade.

Vocational courses do not use the same grading system of 9 - 1 like GCSEs. Instead they use a pass, merit, distinction grading system, although the exact number of grades differs between qualifications. The equivalence between these and GCSEs (old and new) are shown below.

<b>Old GCSE Grade (no longer used)</b>	<b>New GCSE Grade</b>	<b>OCR Cambridge National Certificate</b>
A*	9	Level 2 Distinction *
	8	
A	7	Level 2 Distinction
B	6	Level 2 Merit
	5	
C	4	Level 2 Pass
D	3	Level 1 Distinction
E		Level 1 Merit
F		Level 1 Pass
G		
U	U	Fail (F)