



TOOT HILL

SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

A photograph of a young woman with curly hair, wearing a dark sweater and a lanyard that says 'STUDENTS' UNION' and 'TOOT HILL SIXTH FORM COLLEGE'. She is sitting at a desk, looking down and writing on a piece of paper with a pen. The image is overlaid with a blue tint.

A GUIDE TO **KEY STAGE 5** **VOCATIONAL** **COURSES**

WHAT ARE VOCATIONAL COURSES

AND HOW DO THEY COMPARE TO A-LEVELS?

What is the aim of vocational courses?

Vocational courses are designed with a specific career path in mind, related to the subject.

How are they graded?

The courses are graded Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction*.

What is the coursework-to-exam ratio?

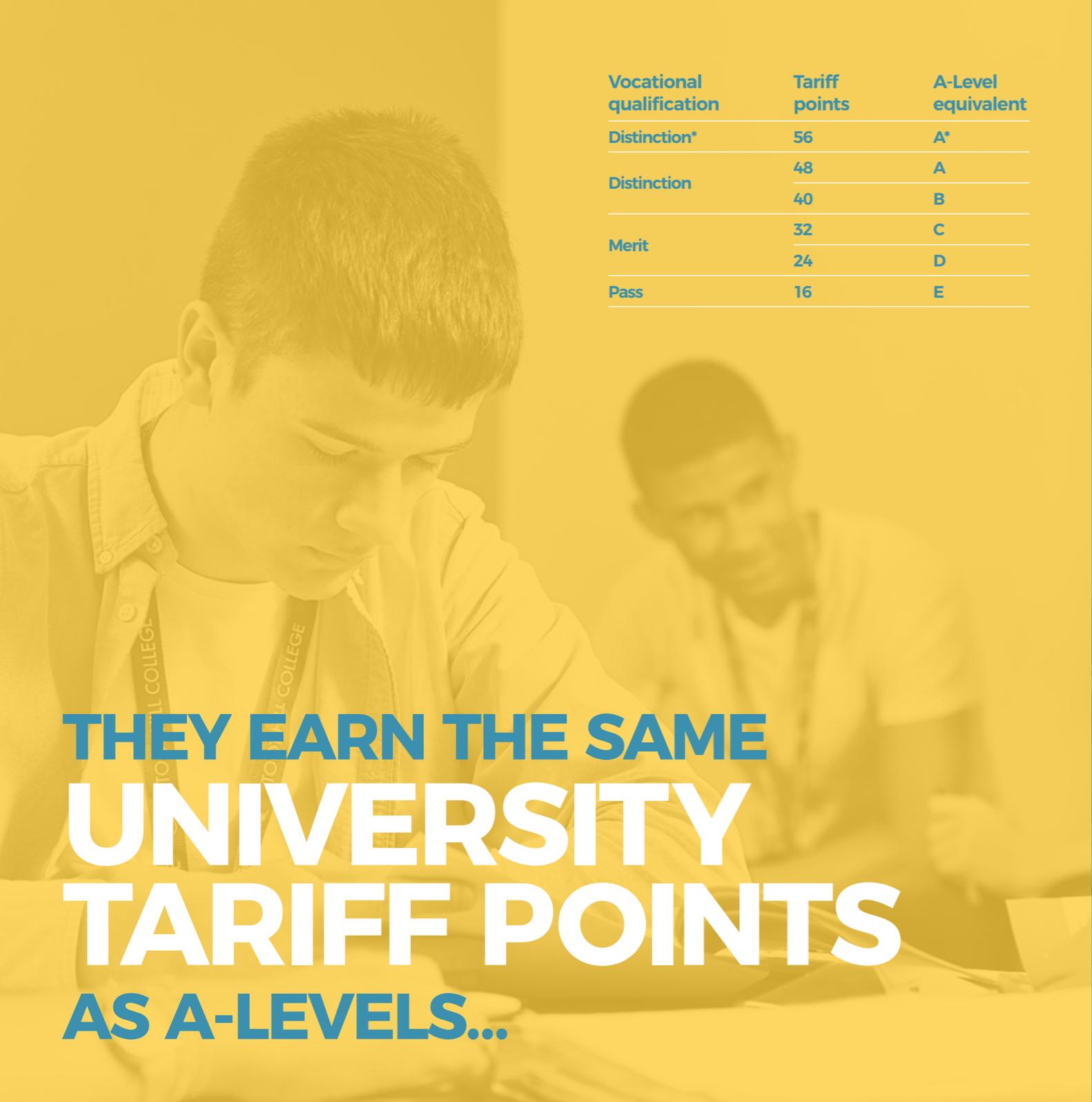
Vocational courses generally have a higher proportion of internally-marked coursework assignments than A-Levels, although all of the courses now also include exam units.

How difficult are they?

All of the courses are 'Level 3' in difficulty—the same as an A-Level course.

How are they viewed by universities?

Most universities accept them. They are given the same equivalent number of UCAS points as A-Levels.



Vocational qualification	Tariff points	A-Level equivalent
Distinction*	56	A*
Distinction	48	A
	40	B
Merit	32	C
	24	D
Pass	16	E

**THEY EARN THE SAME
UNIVERSITY
TARIFF POINTS
AS A-LEVELS...**



**WHICH VOCATIONAL
COURSES ARE
OFFERED AT
TOOT HILL?**

BTEC NATIONAL (SINGLE AND DOUBLE)

APPLIED SCIENCE

OVERVIEW

During the first term you will be preparing for an externally-marked practical assessment in January on any topic from electrical circuits and energy, burning fuels, enzymes or diffusion. You will have to plan an experiment, obtain data and then evaluate the procedure and collected data under exam conditions.

After Christmas the focus will change to learning content for an externally assessed examination in June on cells, chemical properties and waves. After the exam, you will complete an individual scientific investigation on a topic of your choosing, which is marked internally after the summer.

Year 13 begins with preparation for the final externally-marked assessment to be sat in January. You will learn key ideas and concepts relating to chemical reactions, organs and systems and thermal physics. After January, the remaining assignments on genetics, astrophysics and another lab techniques assignment are all internally-marked. There will be an option to boost your grade by re-sitting an externally marked exam in June if necessary.

ASSESSMENT

42% coursework/58% examination (Single Award)
54% coursework/46% examination (Double Award)

REQUIREMENTS

General college entry requirements plus recommended grade 4 or above in GCSE Science qualifications.

WHERE CAN IT LEAD?

A BTEC in Applied Science can lead to a university course in nursing and midwifery, health sciences, natural and environmental science and more. The course also opens up opportunities for apprenticeships with companies in the science industry (e.g. chemical science, pharmaceutical development, laboratory technician, research and development etc.). Careers include environmental engineer, higher education lecturer, medical sales representative, nanotechnologist, science writer and many more.

OVERVIEW

In Year 12 you will study a variety of topics.

The first unit is the business environment (examined) covering all the fundamental business principals, such as ownership, aims and objectives, ethics and finance.

The second unit is project management (coursework) where you will plan and manage a large, special event and lastly the customers and communication unit (coursework), which involves preparing a marketing proposal for a local company.

In Year 13 you will prepare a report on accounting concepts (coursework) linking to the financial and legal requirements for a firm to follow. There is also a unit based on recruitment and training in organisations (coursework).

ASSESSMENT

50% coursework/50% examination (Single Award)
58% coursework/42% examination (Double Award)

REQUIREMENTS

General college entry requirements only.

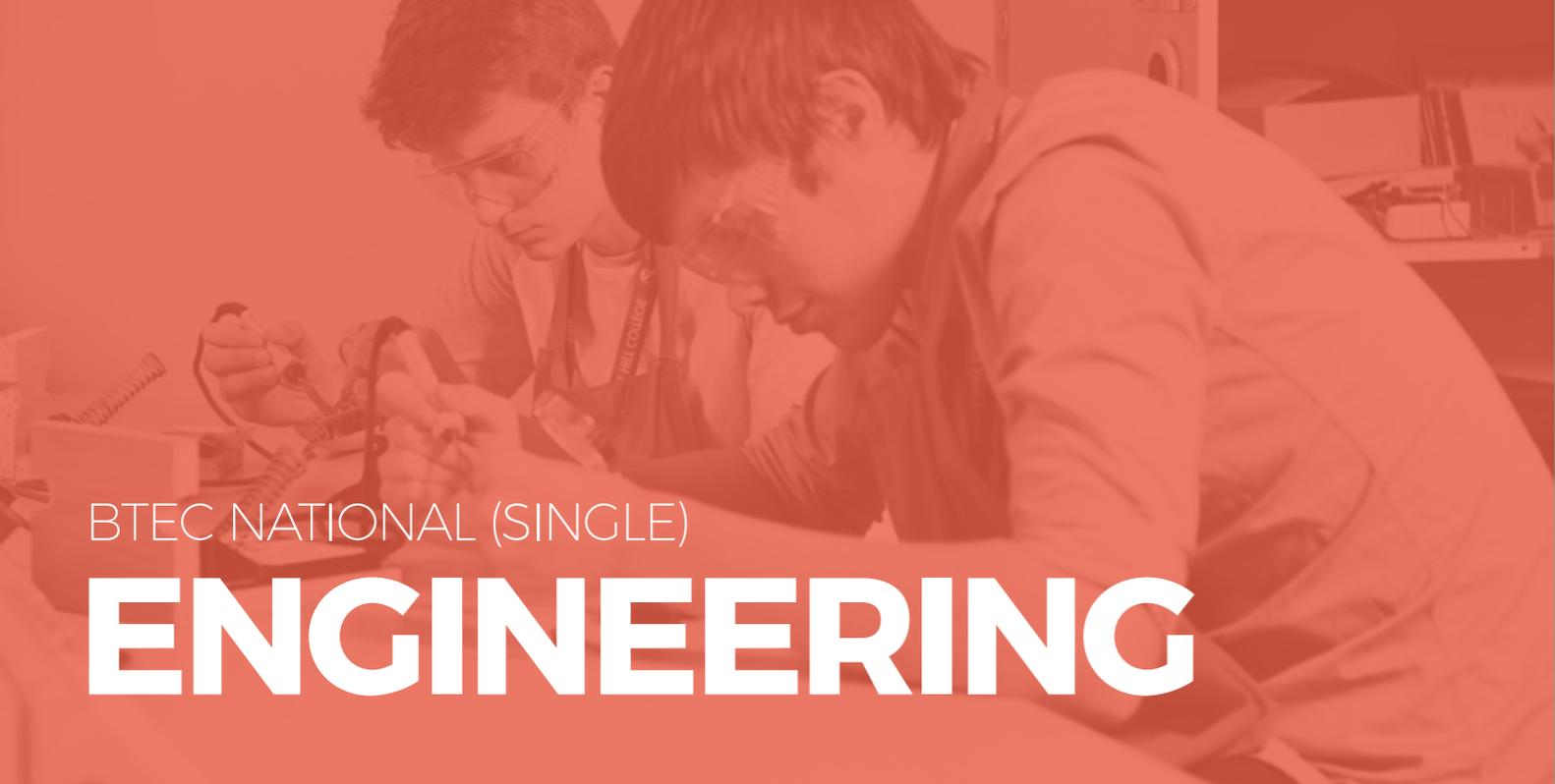
WHERE CAN IT LEAD?

An Extended Certificate in Business Studies can lead to various degree courses including business studies, management, marketing and accountancy. It can also lead to apprenticeships in administration, logistics, warehouse management and more.

Careers in people management, marketing promotion, finance and recruitment can be undertaken with this qualification. You will also develop skills and knowledge related to setting up your own business through the project management unit.

CAMBRIDGE TECHNICAL (SINGLE AND DOUBLE)

BUSINESS



BTEC NATIONAL (SINGLE)

ENGINEERING

OVERVIEW

This qualification provides a broad basis of study for the engineering sector. This course contains four units of which three are mandatory and two are assessed externally.

The three mandatory units that will be covered are:

Engineering principals: You will apply mathematical and physical science principles to solve electrical and mechanical based engineering problems.

Delivery of engineering processes safely as a team: You will explore how processes are undertaken by teams to create engineered products or to deliver engineering services safely.

Engineering product design and manufacture: You will explore engineering product design and manufacturing processes and will complete activities that consider function, sustainability, materials, form and other factors.

ASSESSMENT

60% coursework/40% examination

REQUIREMENTS

Grade 9-5 in GCSE English, Mathematics and Science.

WHERE CAN IT LEAD?

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Engineering is designed for learners who are interested in a career in the engineering sector and want to progress to further study in the sector. You will be able to combine this with other qualifications, such as an A-Level in Mathematics or Physics, which would allow you to progress to higher education to study engineering or other STEM-related programmes.

OVERVIEW

In Year 12 you will focus on a unit focusing on meeting nutritional needs of specific groups (examined and coursework). The purpose of this unit is for you to develop an understanding of the nutritional needs of specific target groups and plan and cook complex dishes to meet their nutritional needs.

In Year 13 you will complete a unit which focuses on ensuring food is safe to eat (coursework), where you will develop an understanding of hazards and risks in relation to the storage, preparation and cooking of food in different environments and the control measures needed to minimise these risks.

You will then have a choice between **Experimenting to solve food production problems** or **Current issues in food science and nutrition**, both of which are independent research projects.

ASSESSMENT

50% coursework/50% examination

REQUIREMENTS

General college entry requirements only.

WHERE CAN IT LEAD?

The specification provides a suitable foundation for the study of academic or vocational courses in higher education, including careers in food technology, nutritional science, sports science and diet, consumer protection, and food retail and manufacture.



WJEC DIPLOMA (SINGLE)

FOOD SCIENCE AND NUTRITION

OVERVIEW

In Year 12 you will study a variety of topics. The first unit is equality, diversity and rights (examined) covering all the fundamental principles, such as strategies used to promote equality, respect diversity and support individuals' rights. The second unit is building positive relationships (coursework) where you will look at the many different relationships that you will encounter within the health and social care sector, whether with colleagues, senior members of staff, other professionals within the sector and individuals who require care and support.

In Year 13 you will prepare a report on nutrition for health (coursework). This unit allows students to scrutinise different foods, consider their health benefits and investigate how to support other people to follow dietary advice to impact their health and wellbeing. You will also learn how to respond to different incidents and emergencies within health and social care settings.

ASSESSMENT

60% coursework / 40% examination

REQUIREMENTS

General college entry requirements only.

WHERE CAN IT LEAD?

A qualification in Health and Social Care can lead to university courses such as nursing (adult), nursing (mental health), applied social work etc. It can also lead to apprenticeships in youth work and community development, child and family health and well-being.

Career paths include adult nurse, counsellor, occupational therapist, personal trainer, physician associate, social worker and many more.

CAMBRIDGE TECHNICAL (SINGLE)

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

BTEC NATIONAL (SINGLE)

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

OVERVIEW

You will study four units over the duration of the course. Three units are mandatory and one unit is optional. Unit 1 is a formal exam and Unit 2 is a controlled piece of assessment—both of these are marked externally. Unit 3 and Unit 4 are coursework-based and marked internally.

This is a specialist qualification that focuses on particular aspects of employment within the vocational sector. As such the award offers a qualification which can extend study and provide vocational emphasis. They give you the knowledge, understanding and skills that you need to prepare for employment.

Typical units include:

- **Information Technology systems**
- **Create systems to manage information**
- **Social media**
- **Spreadsheet modelling**

ASSESSMENT

60% examination / 40% coursework

REQUIREMENTS

General college entry requirements only plus a recommended grade 4 or above in a GCSE ICT qualification.

WHERE CAN IT LEAD?

A BTEC IT qualification can lead to university courses in computer science, Information Communication Technology, programming, website design etc. Apprenticeships include technical support, helpdesk, ICT technician, multimedia designer etc. Possible career paths include PC sales support, programmer, IT software trainer, systems analyst, ICT consultant and many more.

BTEC NATIONAL (SINGLE AND DOUBLE)

SPORT

OVERVIEW

You will study three mandatory units:

- **Anatomy and physiology**
- **Fitness training and programming for health, sport and well-being**
- **Professional development in the sports industry**

You will also choose one optional unit; the optional unit for the current Year 12s is **Application of fitness testing**, which will be studied in Year 13 alongside Unit 1 which is an exam.

ASSESSMENT

33% coursework/67% examination (Single Award)
55% coursework/45% examination (Double Award)

REQUIREMENTS

General college entry requirements plus a recommended grade 4 or above in a GCSE PE qualification.

WHERE CAN IT LEAD?

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport is equivalent in size to one A-Level. It is for students interested in learning about the sport sector alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of HE courses, but not necessarily in sport.

Study of sport particularly encourages the development of skills and behaviours such as teamwork, leadership, performance analysis, resilience, evaluation, analysis and synthesising concepts. These skills are developed through the variety of approaches to teaching and learning enabled by the specification.

OVERVIEW

Everyone taking this qualification will study three mandatory units, covering the following content areas:

- **The world of travel and tourism**
- **Global destinations**
- **Principles of marketing in travel and tourism**

This is a specialist qualification that focuses on particular aspects of employment within the vocational sector. It gives you the knowledge, understanding and skills that you need to prepare you for employment.

ASSESSMENT

70% coursework/30% examination

REQUIREMENTS

A grade 5 or above in GCSE Mathematics and GCSE English.

WHERE CAN IT LEAD?

A qualification in Travel and Tourism can lead to a career as a travel agent, travel officer or travel agency co-ordinator, travel consultant, airlines staff, transport officer etc.

It can also lead to apprenticeships such as a travel agent, tourism manager, tourist guide and also university courses such as tourism management, hospitality and tourism and any language degree.

BTEC NATIONAL (SINGLE)

TRAVEL AND TOURISM



ASSESSMENT **AND** PROGRESSION

Failing an exam unit on a vocational course (National Policy)

If you fail an externally-marked exam in the vocational courses, you are allowed two re-sits.

If you fail both re-sits (regardless of any of the externally-marked coursework units you may have completed and these results), you automatically fail the entire course and cannot continue.

If you do pass the exam unit but feel you could do better, it is possible for you to have a go at a resit to improve your grade—in any case you will keep your highest scoring exam attempt.

The national average of attainment for vocational qualifications

The national average of attainment for all students studying these vocational qualifications is a Distinction.

Due to this fact, many destination providers will expect a Distinction or above, and almost all will want a Merit or above.

Warning!

While a Pass grade sounds positive, please remember that it is viewed as the equivalent of a grade E at A-Level, leading to more limited destination options available if you acquire this grade at the end of your qualification.

Toot Hill Targets

You will have a 'Toot Hill Target' (THT) for each of your courses—achieving this target means that you are achieving at least in line with the national average based on your GCSE results.

At the end of Year 12, you must achieve your THT or one below your THT to automatically re-enrol onto the course into Year 13.

If, at the end of Year 12, you achieve two below your THT, your re-enrolment onto the course into Year 13 will be dependent on a meeting with a member of the College Leadership Team with a formal intervention plan put in place and agreed by the college, yourself and a parent/carer.

If, at the end of Year 12, you are more than two below your THT, you will not be able to continue on this course.

We will not know the final Year 12 grade of the vocational course, upon which re-enrolment on the course into Year 13 is dependent, until A-Level Results Day in August.

You must achieve a Merit or above in a Single Award vocational course to continue, and at least a Merit Pass and above in a Double Award vocational course in order to be able to re-enrol on the course into Year 13.



toothillcollege.co.uk/courses