



STAGES OF LEARNING

If it's been a while since you were at school, you may not be familiar with the different National Curriculum stages:

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) = Ages 2 to 5 (Nursery)

Key Stage One = Years 1 and 2, Ages 5 to 7 (Infants)

Key Stage Two = Years 3 to 6, Ages 7 to 11 (Juniors)

Key Stage Three = Years 7 to 9, Ages 11 to 14 (Secondary)

Key Stage Four = Years 10 and 11, Ages 14 to 16 (Secondary)

Key Stage Five = Years 12 and 13, Ages 16 to 18 (Sixth Form/College)

Further Education = Ages 16 to 19 - includes any study after secondary education that's not part of higher education (that is not taken as part of an undergraduate or graduate degree)

Higher education = education leading to award of an academic degree (traditionally University, but also Colleges)

THE LATEST ON GCSE'S

GCSE's have been around for over 25 years now, but there have recently been a few major changes that employers may not yet be aware of. Here are some of the key points to note:

- **The new grading system uses numbers and not letters**
- **They are now graded 1-9 with 9 being the highest**
- **The changes started with GCSE exams in 2017 so has affected teaching since September 2015**
- **Coursework is being scrapped for most subjects**
- **All exams are taken after 2 years of study rather than modular**
- **Extra marks are given for spelling, punctuation and grammar**