



Background

Following the review of post-16 provision (in N Ireland by CCEA and the Department of Education), a **Qualifications' Framework** has now been developed in order to clarify the different options available to young people.

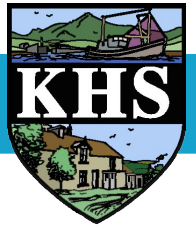
The following is a summary:

| LEVELS OF ATTAINMENT | GENERAL QUALIFICATION | GENERAL VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS | OCCUPATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS |
|-------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| HIGHER LEVELS 4 & 5 | FURTHER & HIGHER EDUCATION / TRAINING / EMPLOYMENT | | |
| LEVEL 3 ADVANCED | GCE "A" & "AS" | APPLIED GCE "A" & "AS" | NVQ 3 |
| LEVEL 2 INTERMEDIATE | GCSE GRADES A* – C | APPLIED GCSE GRADES A* – C | NVQ 2 |
| LEVEL 1 FOUNDATION | GCSE GRADES D – G | APPLIED GCSE GRADES D – G | NVQ 1 |

Introduction

The range of qualifications provided by Kilkeel High School for the Sixth Form has been developed to:

- allow you to choose programmes which meet your needs and gain credit for your achievements;
- ensure that the qualifications offered to you are worthwhile and valued;
- enable you, where desirable and appropriate, to mix and match different types of qualifications;
- encourage you to achieve qualifications in Key Skills;
- offer clear progression routes into further and higher education, training and employment.** (Sixth Form is not just to prepare you for college/university; it is to encourage you to take your qualifications as far as possible!)



Increased breadth of curriculum is advised for all students. This will involve:

- (a) studying a wider range of subjects;
- (b) increasing the range and types of qualifications which you obtain;
- (c) developing competence in Key Skill areas;
- (d) continuing to participate in the school's Enrichment Programme;
- (e) having access to high quality careers' advice.

How does study at Advanced level differ from GCSE?

- At GCSE, students study 9 / 10 subjects.
- At Advanced level, students study 3/4 subjects, but to much greater depth.
- At A level students, are expected to study for approximately 3 hours a night, 5 nights a week.
- At A level students are expected to take more responsibility for their own work and use Private Study wisely.
- At A level students are expected to apply understanding, to analyse and evaluate. To develop these skills students will need to undertake independent study (e.g. extra questions and/or background reading).