



Diplomas

Information for young people and their families in the **Eden** area







What's so exciting about Diplomas?

- They are a brand new type of qualification designed to bring your learning to life.
- Local schools and colleges will deliver them.
- They will appeal to all students.
- They will encourage you to build on your interests and talents.

From September 2009 young people in the Eden area will have the chance to study for a Diploma. This booklet tells you more about these exciting new options...



And what's different about Diplomas?

- They have been designed by teachers and employers together.
- Each Diploma is linked to a broad employment sector – for example Environmental and Land-based Studies.
- If you study a Diploma at any of the three levels (see next page), you will be developing the skills that employers want.
- Diplomas combine applied and theoretical learning, in other words you will be doing practical things alongside traditional classroom based tasks.
- They are flexible qualifications. If you start a Diploma course you may want to go on to the next Diploma level. You can change direction and go on to 'A-levels', an apprenticeship or a job. You choose where it will lead.
- As part of a Diploma course, you will carry out an extended project. This is a chance to plan and organise your own learning and carry out some independent research.
- Diplomas will allow you to learn in a different environment, for example, at a local college, another school and at local businesses.



Diplomas are being introduced gradually in selected areas over the next few years

By 2017 Diplomas will be available to all young people covering:

*Environmental and Land-based Studies	Business, Administration and Finance	Public Services	Science
*Information Technology	Hair and Beauty	Retail	Humanities
Engineering	Hospitality	Manufacturing and Product Design	Modern Foreign Languages
Society, Health and Development	Creative and Media	Travel and Tourism	
Construction and the Built Environment	Information Technology	Sport and Active Leisure	

*Diploma lines will be offered in Eden from 2009



What does a Diploma involve?

Diplomas provide a challenging and aspirational course with a 'hands-on' emphasis. All Diplomas include these three parts:

Principal Learning

This is the compulsory part and the heart of each Diploma. This provides you with the knowledge, understanding and skills for a particular employment sector, for example, Environmental and Land-based Studies or Information Technology.

Generic Learning

This part is the learning that all students need:

- Skills in Maths, English and ICT specific to employment (Functional Skills).
- Personal, Learning and Thinking Skills for independent enquiry, creative thinking, team working and self-management needed in the world of employment.
- An Extended Project – the chance to investigate in-depth a topic or issue of your own choice.
- Work Experience – a minimum of 10 days.

Additional/Specialist Learning

This part of the Diploma offers you choice, depth and flexibility. You will be able to choose from a wide range of different options. Some of these will allow you to specialise in your particular Diploma sector. Others will broaden your learning by choosing something different, for example a language or additional science. This part of the Diploma might include GCSEs, A-levels and other existing qualifications, as well as specially designed units.



What level Diploma can I study?

Diplomas offer a fully rounded education and will give you the skills, knowledge and understanding you need to move on to Further or Higher Education and/or work. They will be available at three levels each offering its own grades, up to an A* award:

- Foundation:** Equivalent in size to 5 GCSEs at grades D–G
- Higher:** Equivalent in size to 7 GCSEs at grades A*–C
- Advanced:** Equivalent in size to 3.5 A-Levels (420 UCAS tariff points)



Who offers access to Diplomas?

By working together local schools and colleges are committed to offering you the widest possible curriculum choice.

Learners from all Eden Schools can apply to study Environmental and Land-based Studies and Information Technology Diplomas at Foundation, Higher and Advanced levels.

The Environmental and Land-based Studies Diploma will be based at the Newton Rigg Campus of the University Of Cumbria and the Information Technology Diploma will be based at the Appleby Heritage Centre.

For two days a week, Foundation and Higher Diploma students will travel to these designated centres for their Diploma delivery. The remaining three days will be spent studying the curriculum at their 'home school'.

English, Maths, Science and IT will continue to be taught along with other parts of the curriculum during the remaining three days.



What do employers and universities think?

Diplomas have been designed to help young people learn and practise the skills that employers value most. Many national employers have been involved in developing Diploma courses.

"Diplomas offer a really valuable new route for students. The link with real areas of work activity means that you will be much better equipped to see what you want to do and give you the best possible start in the job you choose".

Philip Callaghan
Operations Director, Bells of Lazonby Ltd

"Diplomas will greatly improve the skills of young people in Eden making them better prepared for the world of work".

Steve Pinguey
Partner, Armstrong Watson, Penrith

"Diplomas will help young people understand the wide variety of opportunities available in my industry".

Antony Penney
General Manager, North Lakes Hotel & Spa, Penrith

Diplomas are fully endorsed by the University Of Cumbria and the University Of Central Lancashire.

“Diplomas are designed to broaden young peoples horizons and give them a wider range of options including entry to universities”.
Vice Chancellor, The University of Cumbria



Some examples of progression routes:

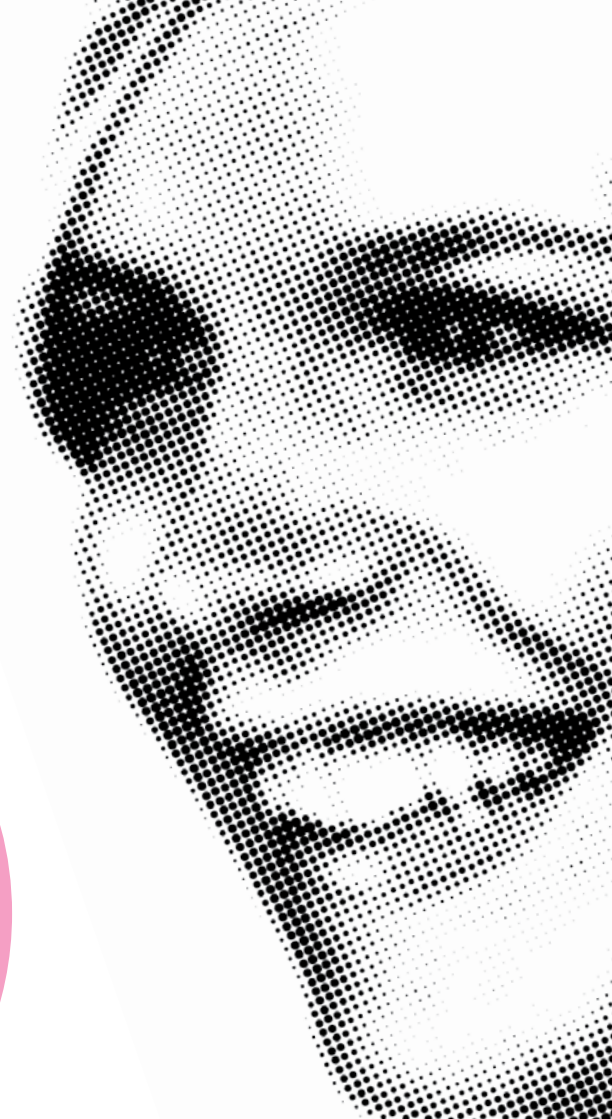
Jamie

Jamie is a Key Stage 4 student taking the Higher Diploma. He likes solving practical problems. He is good at academic work but likes a ‘hands-on’ approach to learning.

He opted for the Environmental and Land-based Studies Diploma because he liked the idea of working outside of the classroom, studying the environment and taking part in the practical style of learning offered. He is tempted to do A-Levels but may choose an Advanced Diploma in ELB.

Emily

Emily is a post-16 student taking the Advanced Diploma in Information Technology. She achieved A* in GCSE English, Maths, and Geography and A and B grades in the remainder of her subjects. She thinks IT is the future and that jobs in IT will always be in demand. For her, IT is an obvious career choice. She has decided to go to university rather than accept the job she was offered.





Which Diploma should I choose?

Available in Eden from September 2009:

Environmental and Land-based Studies

This diploma is all about the Environmental and Land-based sector and includes:

- Working with plants and all kinds of animals.
- Environmental sciences.
- The way we use land for the production of food and for having fun.
- Looking after forests, wetlands and wild areas.
- The effect we have on the world around us and how to limit the damage we do.

You will study in several different exciting and innovative ways and not just be based in a classroom. You will be given opportunities to undertake relevant skills and solve problems facing those in the industry. There will be a chance to spend some time in a real working environment and hear from a range of industry experts.

Information Technology

The Diploma in IT will examine how organisations work and the role technology plays. You will investigate the roles of different people in the industry and experience

first hand how to manage projects, design new business solutions, develop websites, manage networks and deliver IT support. You will explore the use of technology in business and learn how to create Digital Media solutions to meet a customer's business requirements.

Students taking a Diploma in IT will develop the range of skills and knowledge to succeed at college, university or employment. They will gain an insight into a wide range of career opportunities and further study options.

The IT Diploma will be delivered in an engaging and innovative way. The course will be delivered through a number of selected projects related to real business scenarios involving the application of IT. This involves important visits to exciting venues. Learners will undertake a minimum of two weeks work experience.

Diploma students will develop a good standard of English, Maths, ICT and other vital skills, for example teamwork and self-management.

Remember: All Diplomas will give you a qualification that could lead to college, university or work... You choose.



How can I find out more?

Visit...

the Eden futures4me convention on 12th February 2009 at Penrith Leisure Centre.

Experience...

during the academic year there will be a number of Diploma Taster Days. Ask your Connexions Adviser more about the Road Show and Taster Days.

Talk...

to your Connexions Cumbria Personal Adviser for impartial information, advice and guidance. *(At school or at the roadshow, or freephone 0800 435709).*

Click...

on www.direct.gov.uk/diplomas.



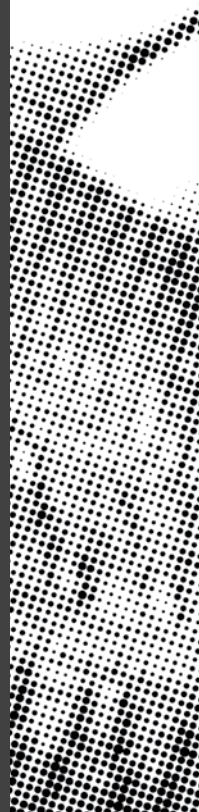
Or read more about each Diploma at:

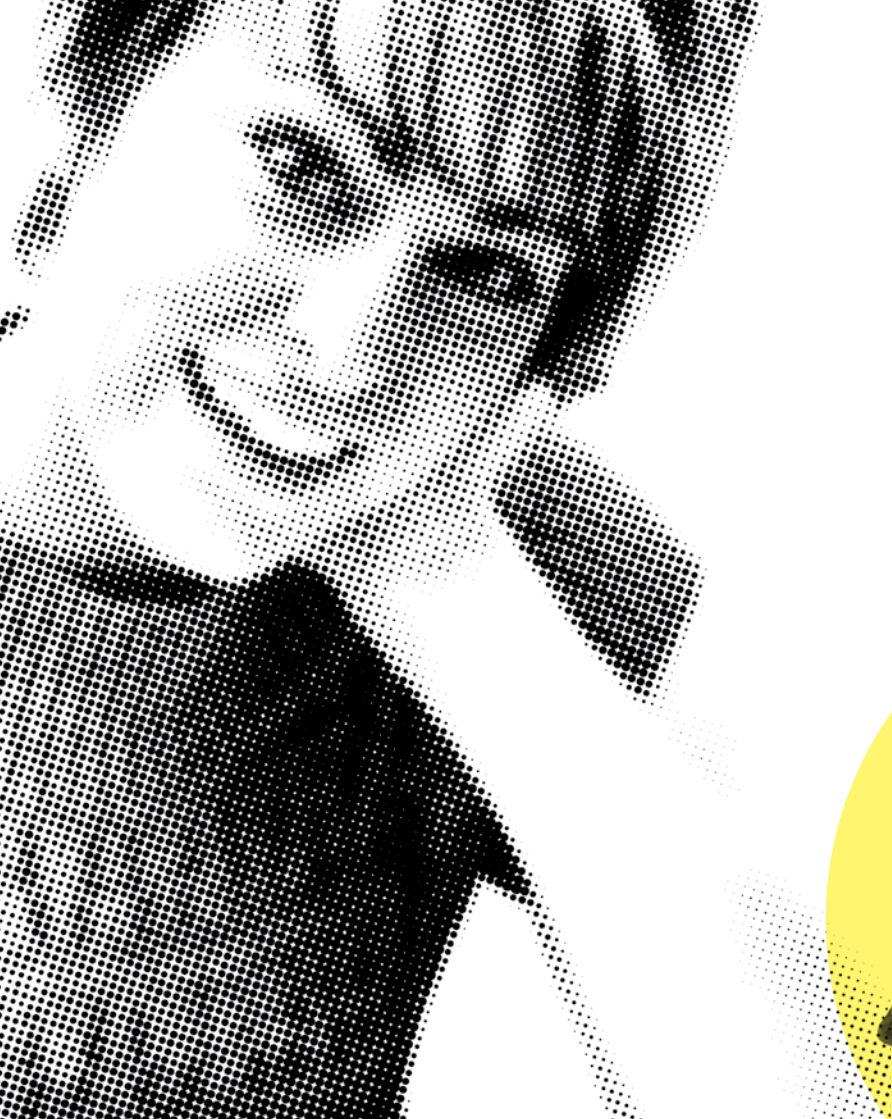
Environmental and Land-based Studies

www.diplomaelbs.co.uk

Information Technology

www.e-skills.com







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