



Diplomas

Information for young people and their families in the **South Lakes** area



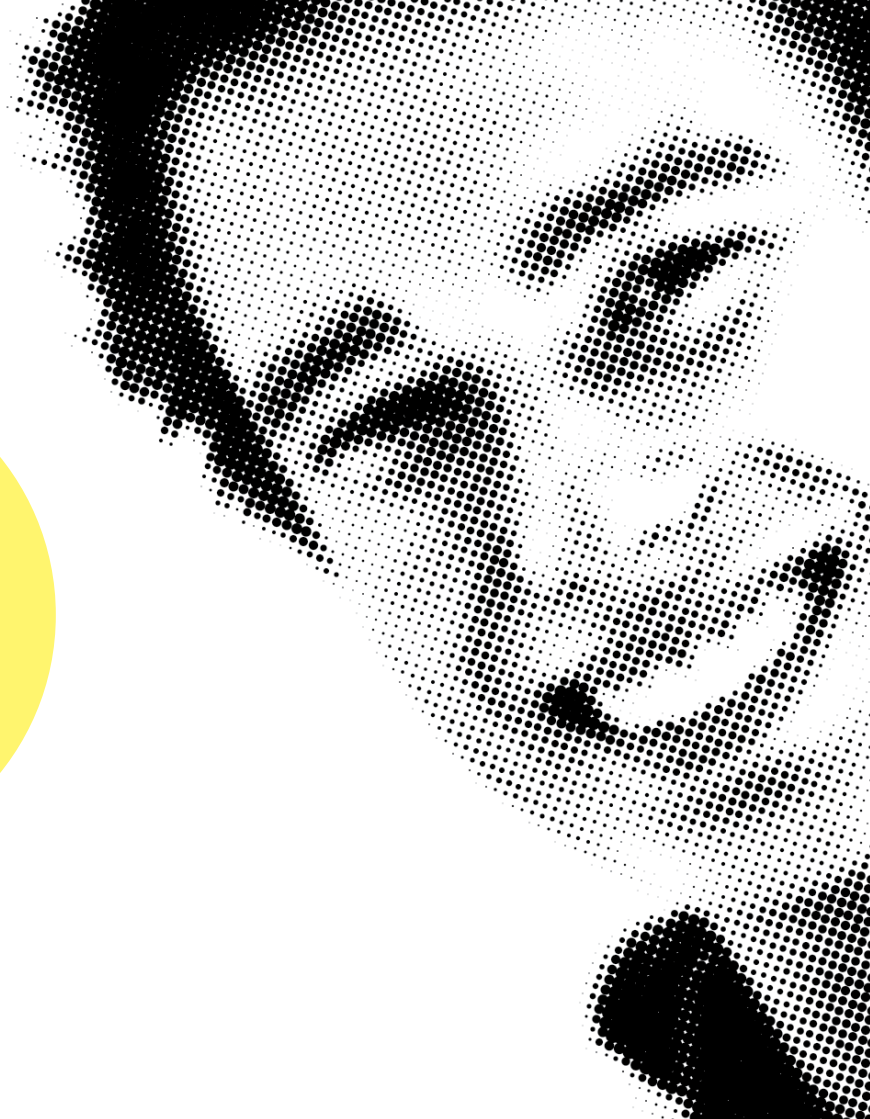
South Lakes 14-19
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What's so exciting about Diplomas?

- They are a brand new type of qualification designed to bring your learning to life.
- They will be delivered by local schools and colleges with an excellent record for new applied learning.
- They will appeal to all styles of learning.
- They will encourage you to build on your interests and talents.

From September 2009 young people in the South Lakes 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.
- If you do a Diploma at any of the three levels (see next page), you will be developing skills that match what employers are looking for.
- Diplomas combine applied and theoretical learning – in other words you'll be doing practical things alongside traditional classroom based tasks.
- They are flexible qualifications – if you start a Diploma course you may want to go onto the next Diploma level, or you can change direction and go onto 'A-levels' or an apprenticeship or a job. It's your choice where it will lead.
- As part of a Diploma course, you will carry out an extended project – a chance to plan and organise your own learning, and do some independent research.
- Diplomas allow you to learn in a different environment – for example, at a local college or another school.



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

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

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

*Diploma lines will be offered in South Lakes from 2009



What will a Diploma involve?

All Diplomas include these three parts:

Principal Learning

This is the compulsory part – the heart of each Diploma. This provides you with the knowledge, understanding and skills for a particular employment sector – for example, Engineering or Creative and Media.

Generic Learning

This part is the learning that all students need:

- Functional Skills in Maths, English and ICT.
- 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.

English, Maths, Science and IT will continue to be taught as part of your curriculum.

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 let you broaden your learning by choosing something different, such as a language or an 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 work. They will be available at three levels, each offering its own A* award.

Foundation: Equivalent in size to 5 GCSEs at grades D–G

Higher: Equivalent in size to 7 GCSEs at grade A*–C

Advanced: Equivalent in size to 3.5 A-Levels (420 UCAS tariff points)



Who offers Diplomas?

By working together, South Lakes schools and the FE college are committed to offering you the widest possible curriculum choice.

Further details of how and where Diplomas will be delivered will be available during the spring term 2009.

Your school and your Connexions Personal Adviser will keep you informed about all the options open to you in the South Lakes area.



What do employers think?

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

“Diplomas will greatly improve the skills of young people making them better prepared for the world of work”.

Louise Duffy
Training Schemes Manager, Armstrong Watson

“The diploma in Creative and Media will help develop the creativity of all students, opening their eyes to a world of possibilities”.

Clive Jones
Chairman of GMTV and Two Way TV



What do universities think?

Taking a Diploma could be the first step towards college or university. It will give you the research and analytical skills you need to succeed on a degree course. If you do an Advanced Diploma, universities will regard it as equivalent to three and a half A-levels.

You can see for yourself what every university has to say about the Diploma on the UCAS website (www.ucas.ac.uk).

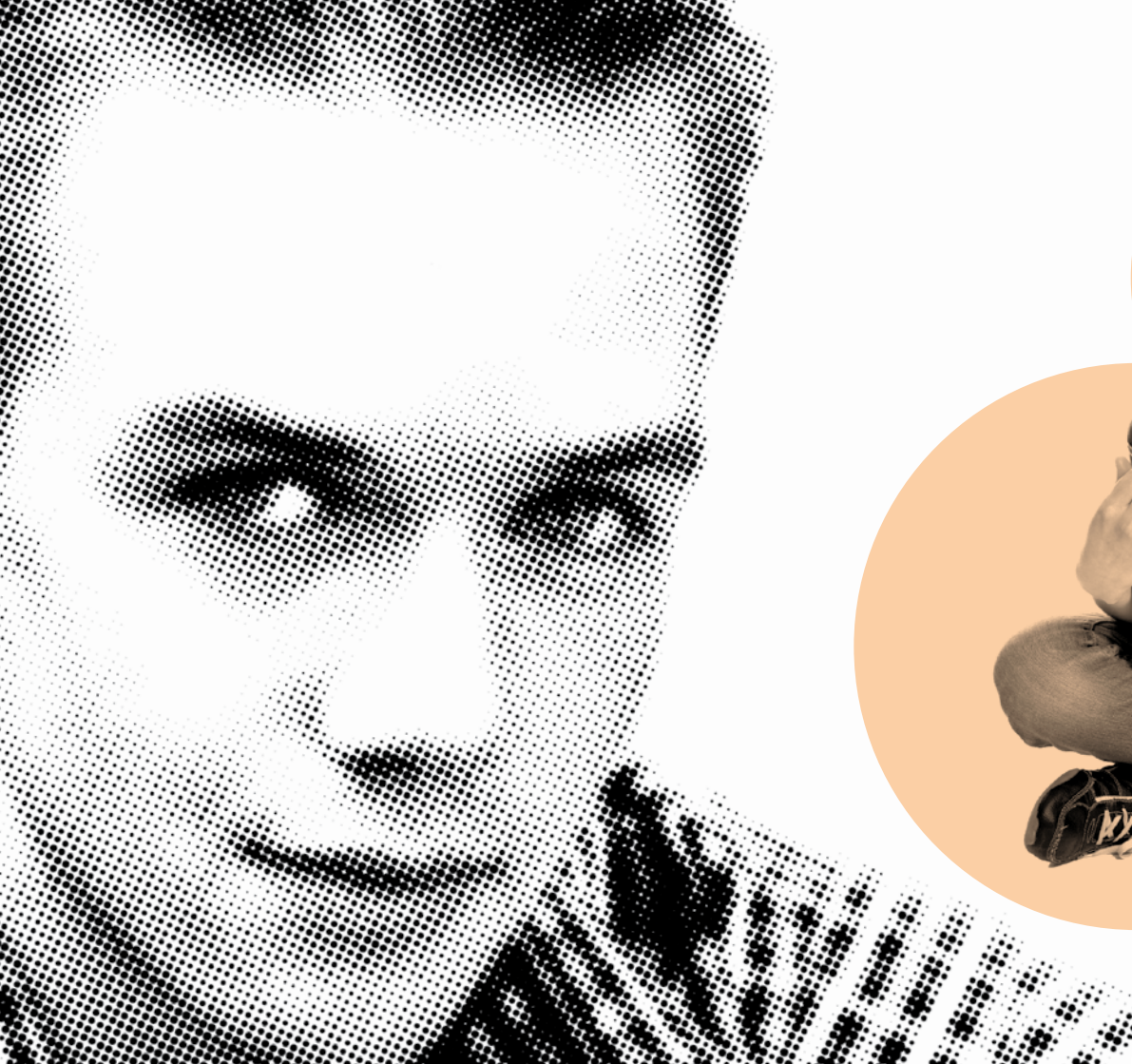
Here is a selection of comments:

“The University of Manchester welcomes the introduction of the level 3 Advanced Diploma”.

“Loughborough University is pleased to accept the Advanced Diploma for entry to most of its undergraduate degree programmes”.

“Liverpool John Moores University welcomes the new Advanced Diploma qualification and is keen to work with students who are undertaking it”.

“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





Which Diploma should I choose?

From September 2009, the following Diploma courses will be available in the South Lakes area:

Creative and Media

The Diploma in Creative and Media offers you an exploration of how to be really creative in a number of different and exciting areas. It will enable you to become a creative thinker, an effective communicator and a flexible enterprising person.

Creativity in Context: The things that can influence the creative process, such as society, culture, the environment or the work of other people.

Thinking and Working Creatively: Ways of exploring, experimenting with and developing ideas, skills and techniques.

Principles, Processes and Practice: The skills, techniques and processes to turn your ideas into reality.

Creative Businesses and Enterprise: An understanding of real situations and the skills that you need to succeed in the industry.

Business, Administration and Finance

This Diploma will focus on three key areas:

Business Enterprise: Develop ideas, carry out research and promote products or services.

Business Administration: Learn about business administration and how important it is to organisations.

Finance: Teaches the knowledge and skills you need to manage personal and business finances.

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...

Diploma taster sessions – a chance to experience Diploma learning for real. Taster sessions will be publicised at school later this term.

Talk...

to your Connexions Cumbria Personal Adviser for impartial information, advice and guidance. (*Contact them at school, at your local Connexions Centre or freephone 0800 435709*).

Click...

on www.direct.gov.uk/diplomas



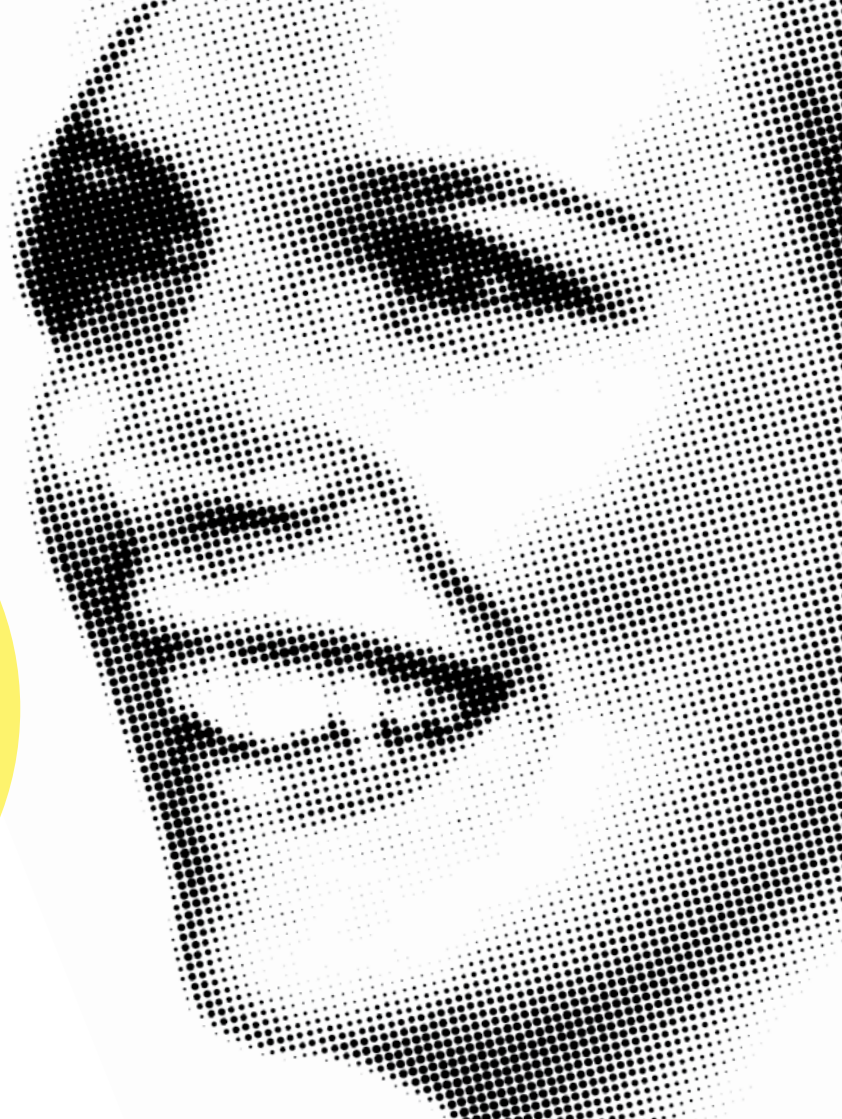
Or read more about each Diploma at:

Creative and Media

www.creativeandmediadiploma.org

Business, Administration and Finance

www.baf-diploma.org.uk





2008-2009
Better Brighter Futures

This booklet is produced with 100% recycled paper.