



I didn't enjoy things like English and maths so won't it be just like that again?



No. Diplomas are based on the skills you need for work. Although this has to include a good understanding of English, maths and IT (yes, you really need them in any job!) the Diploma has been designed to help you learn in a very practical way. There will be opportunities to learn in a different and more adult environment including the workplace.



Once I've completed the Diploma what next?



You can move from the Diploma to other qualifications, an apprenticeship, college or university course, or directly into work. It has been designed to fit in with all the other pathways.



Who else can help me?



Talk to your parents and encourage them to go with you to parents and options evenings so that they can support and help you make your decisions.

Use your careers library at school and the Connexions Office careers library to research all your options and choices. Your careers teacher will also be able to offer advice.

There is another information leaflet for young people available on line at:

www.yp.direct.gov.uk/diplomas/



OK then, how will a Diploma really help me?



The Diploma opens up choices for young people by offering a different way of learning. It gives you the opportunity to find out about a wide range of jobs in the career area you are interested in and gives you the skills that employers want. And it is also a new route into college or university courses.

But the Diploma might not be the best option for you. There are lots of other alternatives.

You need to discuss your plans with others who can help you make the best decision for you. We can help by providing honest and independent advice. Contact your Connexions Personal Adviser now!

If you want to discuss these or any other issues please contact us.

We are here to help you.

For further information see www.cfbt.com/wayahead or email londoninfo@cfbt.com

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Diploma Confusion?

Help! I can't choose

We know it's confusing because there are so many choices!

Connexions Personal Advisers are here to give you completely impartial advice to help you make your own diploma decisions.

We can help you look at all the alternatives and choices by making sure you have all the information you need!

Whatever qualifications you are studying for, you have a number of different routes to choose from when you finish your course. It is important to fully explore each one. Don't just opt for what you're expected to do or what others are doing. Come and talk it through with us!

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How long do Diplomas take?



Usually two years full-time. If you are doing a Foundation or Higher Diploma and you are 16 or over, it should take less time to complete.



Which subjects can I do?



From September 2008 five Diplomas will be available – Construction and the Built Environment, Creative and Media, Engineering, Information Technology, and Society Health and Development.



What if I change my mind?



If you find you are not happy and decide you have made a mistake, we are here to help discuss what other courses are available.

But think first . . . Find out now about **all** the options and discuss your choices with your parents, school and your Connexions Personal Adviser so you do make the right decision for you first time.



My parents say I should do A levels but I think I'm more practical and would do better on a Diploma course



Each young person is different and so are their choices. You need to find out more about the content of the Diploma you are interested in. Whichever career area you choose, a Diploma will involve both theoretical and practical elements. It may be that you could also combine an Advanced Diploma with A levels. Get the best advice by talking to your Connexions Personal Adviser.



Will employers understand the Diploma like they do GCSEs and A levels?



Lots of employers have been involved in the development of the new Diplomas but naturally it will take some time for all employers to understand them. The government is responsible for making sure that employers get to hear much more about the Diploma. Connexions Personal Advisers are also working with employers in our area to make sure they do understand.



I'm worried about going to a different college or school



It's natural to feel a bit worried about going to a different school or college – remember what it felt like starting at secondary school? But don't let that put you off. Visit the new college or school, see the facilities and talk with the tutors and other students. Any change can be difficult but just like moving to secondary school you will meet new friends and soon settle in.



I can't afford to stay in college – I need to earn money!



If you choose to stay at school to do the Diploma in the sixth form or college, you may be entitled to EMA (Education Maintenance Allowance) to help you. It could give you up to £30.00 per week which won't affect your parents' benefits. You may also be able to work part-time.

To find out more information about EMA ask for a leaflet from your school or go to **direct.gov.uk**



I know exactly what job I want to do – will a Diploma give me the skills I need to do a particular job like bricklaying?



No, Diplomas are designed to focus on a career area such as Construction and the Built Environment, Engineering, Society Health and Development, Information Technology and Creative and Media. They are not designed to give you training in one job.

The idea is that you will gain a variety of transferable skills that will be useful in a whole range of jobs rather than just one. This keeps your choices open.

If you are really sure you still want to be a bricklayer you should look at the other alternatives such as NVQs or Apprenticeships . . . but check out the related Diploma as well – so you can make the best decision with all the information.



What will the Diploma involve?



Each Diploma will include the following parts:

- **Principal learning** – looking at the knowledge and skills you will need for all jobs in that occupational area
- **Additional learning** – allowing you to choose areas to look at in more detail from a range of options
- **Generic learning** – which involves the personal learning and thinking skills needed in all jobs, an extended project of your choice and additional maths, English and IT if required based on learning by experience. There will also be an opportunity to gain more work experience.