

14 - 19 DIPLOMAS

TRAIN TO GAIN FACTSHEET	
Summary	The Diploma is a new flexible qualification, available at three levels, for 14-19 year olds. It can be combined with traditional qualifications, such as GCSE's and A Levels, as well as vocational qualifications, such as National Certificates/Diplomas or NVQ's. The Diploma can be used to gain entry to A Levels, Further Education courses, Higher Education Courses or by those who want to go directly in to work based training, such as an apprenticeship, or straight into employment.
Location	Diplomas will be available across the South West.
Timing	The first Diplomas will be available from September 2008. As each area has to submit a successful application in order to deliver each subject line, there are currently different subjects available in each area for the trial period leading up to full entitlement for all young people by 2013.
Why	The Diplomas are designed to create a greater focus on functional skills that are required for everyday life, demonstrating them through real life application. Young people will develop, through practical experience, with qualifications that will give them the broad education needed to progress in learning and employment. The Diplomas will offer greater choice for young people to advance quickly through the system or, if they need to, take longer in order to achieve higher standards. The Diplomas will offer a new delivery style to ensure that those in danger of dropping out can be motivated to stay in learning
How	The Diplomas will be delivered by partnerships of Schools, Training Providers, Colleges and Employers.
Key contact	Plymouth: Annie Singer, Senior Advisor 14-19, Plymouth Children's Services, Plymouth City Council, Plymouth, PL1 2AA Anne-marie.Singer@plymouth.gov.uk Plymouth Diploma Partnership Administration kathryn.baines@plymouth.gov.uk
Website	www.dcsf.gov.uk/14-19

Key messages

- The Diploma enables academic skills to be developed within an applied context. Courses will provide an understanding and hands on experience of the employment sector and will include periods of extended work experience
- Diplomas are based around work rather than traditional subjects and will allow students to develop a number of skills as well as academic qualifications
- There are many opportunities for employer involvement including: visits, talks to students, curriculum planning, work experience, involvement in taster days, staff/student mentoring, joint projects
- Programmes are designed to increase English, Maths and ICT skills as well as teamwork and creative thinking. The qualities developed will enable students to progress further into Further Education or employment
- The Advanced Level diploma is broadly equivalent to three A Levels and will provide opportunities for progression to Higher Education
- All students will complete a major project as part of the Diploma. An extended project (equivalent to half an A Level in size) forms an important part of the Advanced Diploma. The project will demonstrate skills in planning, implementing and reviewing a major piece of work

**South West Provision
Approval to deliver from September 2008**

Local Authority	Consortium Name	Subject
Cornwall	Cornwall Collegiate	Creative and Media
Dorset	Central Dorset	Construction
Dorset	Chesil	Creative and Media
Dorset	North Dorset	IT
Gloucestershire	Cheltenham	IT
South Gloucestershire	Kingswood	Construction
South Gloucestershire	Kingswood	Engineering
South Gloucestershire	Kingswood	Society, Health and Development
South Gloucestershire	Kingswood	Creative and Media
South Gloucestershire	Kingswood	IT
Plymouth City	Plymouth	Construction
Plymouth City	Plymouth	Engineering
Plymouth City	Plymouth	Society, Health and Development
Somerset	Sedgemoor	Creative and Media
North Somerset	N Somerset	Creative and Media
North Somerset	N Somerset	IT
Swindon	Swindon Partnership	Engineering
Swindon	Swindon Partnership	Construction
Swindon	Swindon Partnership	Creative and Media
Torbay	Torbay Consortium	Creative and Media
Wiltshire	West Wiltshire	Creative and Media

A new range of Diplomas will be rolled out as the year progresses to include other subjects such as

Business Admin and Finance
Hospitality
Manufacturing and Product Design
Hair and Beauty Studies
Land Based and Environmental