

Northamptonshire Diploma Map

The Corby and Kettering 14-19 Partnership

Kettering

- Creative and Media.
- Engineering.
- Information Technology.
- Sport and Active Leisure.

Corby

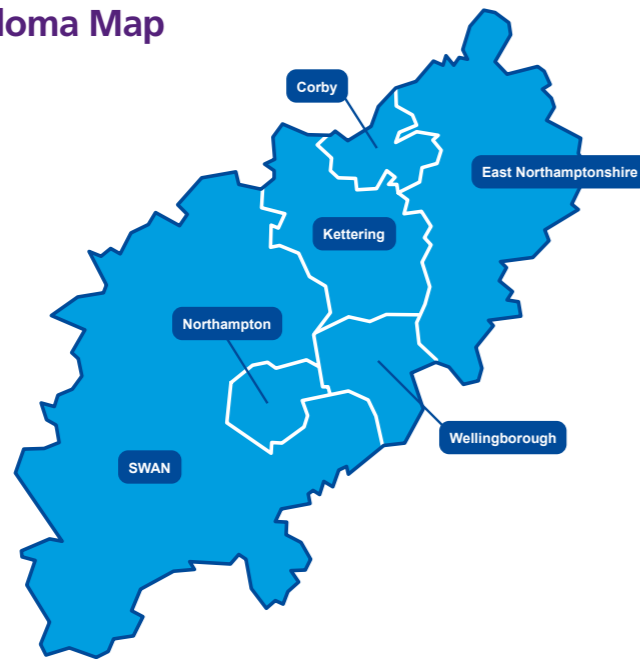
- Creative and Media.
- Construction and the Built Environment.
- Business, Administration and Finance.

Northampton Town 14-19 Collaboration

- Society, Health and Development.
- Creative and Media.
- Engineering.
- Hair and Beauty Studies.
- Information Technology.
- Hospitality.
- Sport and Active Leisure.

South West Area Northamptonshire Partnership (SWAN)

- Creative and Media x 2.
- Construction and the Built Environment.
- Engineering.
- Business, Administration and Finance.
- Hospitality.
- Environment and Land-Based Studies.
- Information Technology.



East Northamptonshire Partnership

- Creative and Media.
- Engineering.
- Society, Health and Development.
- Construction and the Built Environment.
- Environment and Land-Based Studies.
- Hair and Beauty Studies.
- Business, Administration and Finance.
- Hospitality.
- Sport and Active Leisure.

Contact your school for further details.

Information for Employers

The Diplomas have been developed with the help of over 5000 employers and help equip young people with the attributes you are looking for. Young people who have studied for a Diploma will enter the workplace with more relevant work skills and understanding of work.

For young people to gain these skills it is important that employers give young people the opportunity to problem solve, think creatively, communicate with other people and work as part of a team in real life context.

How can you get involved?

There are many ways Diploma students can benefit from what you have to offer:

- Workplace visits for young people and school staff.
- Come into schools and talk to young people about your business, your experiences in the work place, what is expected of young people at work etc.
- Provide resources, equipment and use of premises.
- Offer work experience placements for young people and work shadowing for teacher.
- Help be a part of career conventions in schools.
- Interview techniques and completing CVs.

For more information

Contact:

NEWS - Northamptonshire Education and Work Service Team

Tel: 01604 614924

Email: amsutton@connexions-northamptonshire.org.uk

Visit www.direct.gov.uk/diplomas

Other leaflets available from Connexions

- "Keep up with the changes in Education"
- "Is your teenager employable?"

connexions

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

The Diploma

A new qualification for 14 to 19 year olds



What are Diplomas?

- A qualification for 14-19 year olds; they are one of the three main options alongside GCSEs, A Levels and Apprenticeships.
- They offer a stepping stone for young people aged 14-19 and more choice of courses and learning pathways.
- They have been developed by schools, colleges, universities and employers working together and each Diploma is based around a particular employment sector.

They help young people gain the:

- qualifications they need for work, college and university; and
- skills and knowledge needed by employers and higher education.

What subjects do they cover?

Ten Diploma subjects will be available across the county from September 2010:

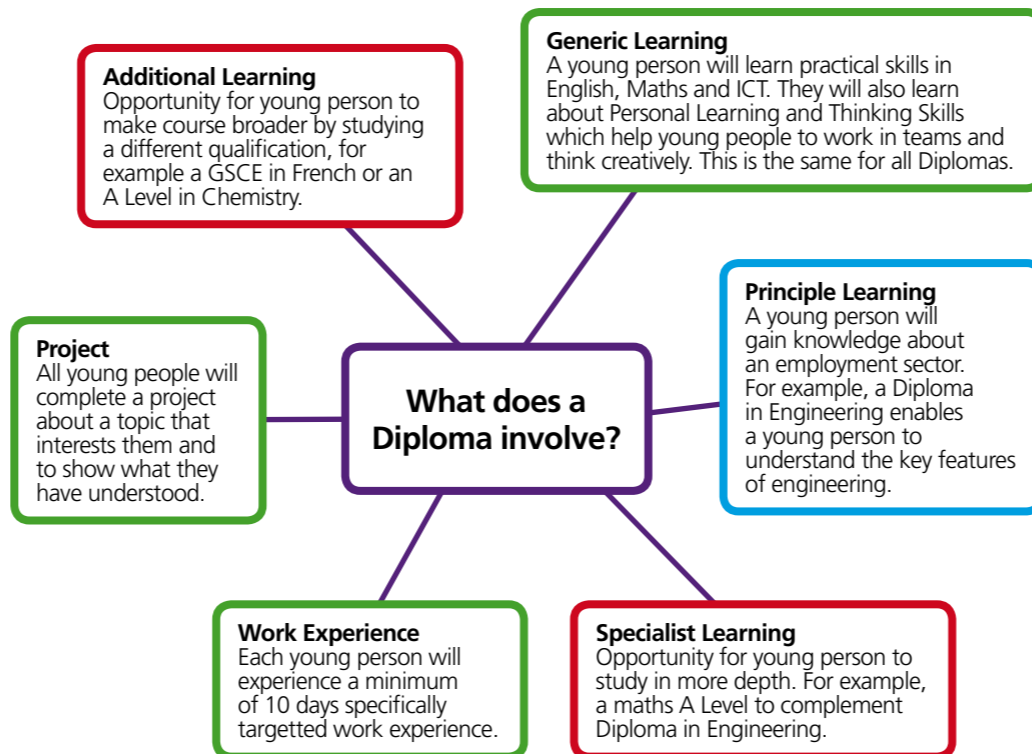
- Business, Administration and Finance.
- Construction and the Built Environment.
- Creative and Media.
- Engineering.
- Environmental and Land-based Studies.
- Hair and Beauty Studies.
- Hospitality.
- Information Technology.
- Sport and Active Leisure.
- Society, Health and Development.

More Diploma subjects are being developed and will be available in the future.

Look at the Northamptonshire map to see what diplomas are available in your area.

Where is a Diploma taught?

- At school, college, with a training provider or employer... or a combination of all three.
- Within classrooms, workshops and workplaces.



Diplomas are made up of different parts. A young person will do a mixture of practical assessments and exams. Look at the chart below to see what happens at different levels:

	Principal Learning	Generic Learning			Additional or Specialist Learning	Equivalent to
	Main Subject (e.g. Engineering)	Project	Functional Skills	Work Experience	Optional courses agreed with your teacher	
Foundation Diploma Level 1	Practical assessments and 1 exam	Project	ICT/Maths/English Level 1	Minimum 10 days	Choose from a range of qualifications including:	5 GCSEs (grade D to G) Level 1
Higher Diploma Level 2	Practical assessments and 1 exam	Project	ICT/Maths/English Level 2	Minimum 10 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BTECs • GCSEs • A Levels 	7 GCSEs (grade A* to C) Level 2
Advanced Diploma Level 3	Practical assessments and 2 or 3 exams	Extended Project	ICT/Maths/English Level 2	Minimum 10 days		3.5 A Levels Level 3

Your Questions Answered

Are there different levels of a Diploma?

There are three levels of Diploma:

- **Foundation Diploma** – Level 1 – equivalent to 5 GCSEs grades D-G.
- **Higher Diploma** – Level 2 – equivalent to 7 GCSEs grade A*-C.
- **Advanced Diploma** - Level 3 – equivalent to 3.5 A Levels.
- **Progression Diploma** – Level 3 - for students who do not wish to complete whole Advanced Diploma - equivalent to two A Levels.

Will young people study other subjects?

Alongside the core curriculum subjects your teenager can choose from a range of optional subjects. For example a student studying for a Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment might choose a more specialist subject like Surveying.

Or they could broaden their course by studying a language or science. In addition to these they will also complete a project and spend at least 10 days with an employer.

How long does it take to complete a Diploma?

It generally takes two years to complete a Diploma. In some cases a young person will be able to do one in less, if they are taking a Foundation or Higher Diploma at age 16 for example. In some cases, it might take longer allowing a student to work at their own pace.

Will Diplomas be valued by employers?

Employers, schools and higher education have been working together to develop Diplomas to help meet the needs of business. Young people will get the skills, knowledge and understanding they need for work.

Will Diplomas be accepted by universities?

Universities will regard the Advanced Diploma as broadly equivalent to 3.5 A Levels. Colleges and universities know students should have the kind of knowledge and skills they are looking for, both for relevant degree subjects and for higher level study.

What could a Diploma lead to?

Foundation and Higher Diploma students can continue with their education or take new skills into a job that offers further training. They can study for the next level of a Diploma or take a different type of qualification like GCSEs, A Levels or an apprenticeship. Doing a Diploma does not necessarily mean a young person can automatically go into a job.