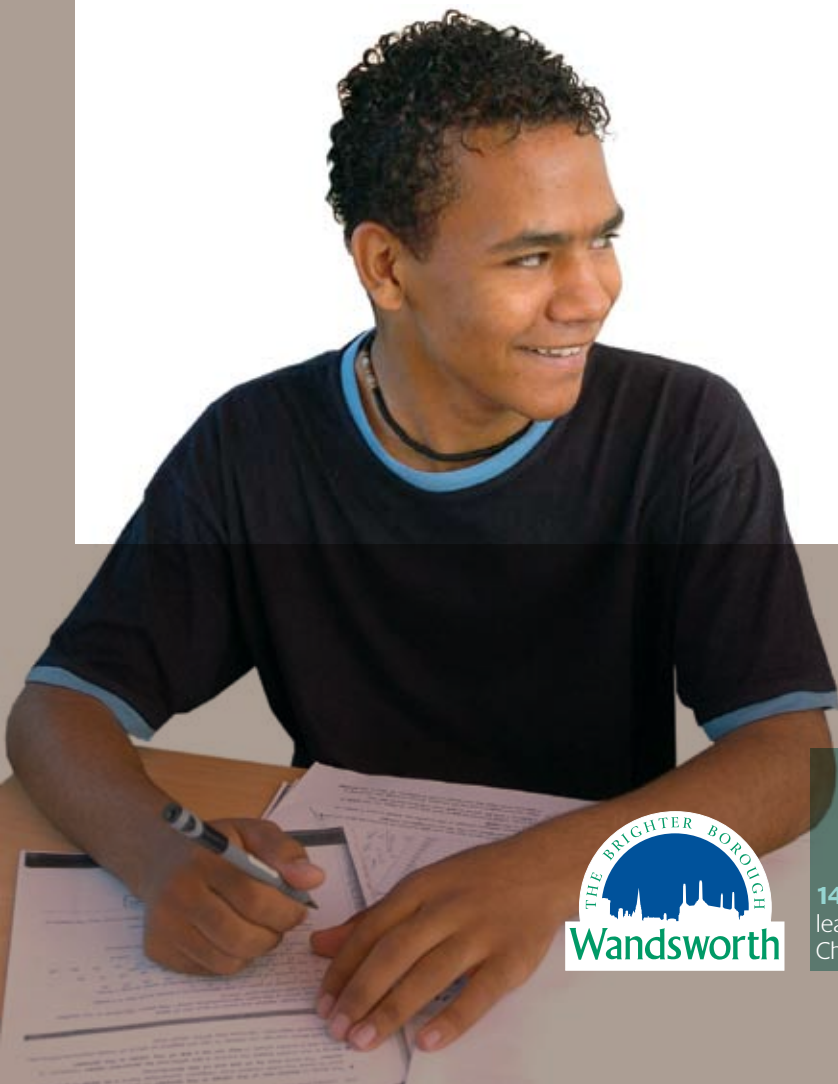


Society, Health & Development Diploma

A guide for employers



14-19 Partnership
lead by Wandsworth
Children's Services

Why are Diplomas being introduced?

In the most radical reform to education for over half a century, the Government announced that it would be introducing a new secondary qualification for 14-19 year olds. For too long, many young people have been leaving education without the sound grasp of the basics they need for work and life.

Each Diploma will focus on a specific industry sector and will provide students with an understanding of that industry's structure, its role in society and economic importance.

What is a Diploma?

The Diploma is based around an employment sector, combining academic study with practical experience. Students will develop skills such as teamwork and self-management, with at least 10 days working with an employer. There will be a stronger emphasis on English, maths and ICT and a project to complete. There will be three levels; Foundation, Higher and Advanced.

The Government really wants to make sure that Diplomas are tried and tested, and therefore has only allowed some schools and colleges to run them in the first instance.

What subjects do Diplomas cover?

Starting in 2008, there will be five subjects spread across the country:

- Construction and the Built Environment
- Creative and Media
- Engineering
- Information Technology
- Society, Health and Development

Another five will be introduced in September 2009, with a further four in September 2010. All are wide-ranging for example, Construction and the Built Environment is concerned not just with the traditional building industries but also with planning, environmental impact and facilities management.

Generally, the Diploma will be a full-time two-year course with students being able to choose to make their course broader by studying a language, science or a specialist area.

What could a Diploma lead to?

Foundation and Higher Diploma students could continue studying, or take their new skills into a job that offers further training, whilst Advanced Diploma students could apply to university or enter employment.

Each Diploma will give a breadth of learning that enables young people to keep their options open and give

them valuable transferable skills sought after by employers and universities.

Diplomas do not make young people ready for a specific job but give them a head start in the competitive employment market.

What can businesses do to help?

One area that most businesses would recognise is taking young people on work experience placements. However, there is a variety of support you can give that ranges from helping with projects that set students challenges, letting a teacher visit your workplace or helping us produce materials that reflect the work within your sector. Small businesses are particularly welcome and can add value by giving time, often with helping with other small businesses at a school event.

We need employers to promote, recognise and value the Diplomas and this can only be achieved by your involvement!

The benefit will be a wider pool of better qualified young people who understand your business or industry.

This is investing in your future!

What are we doing in Wandsworth?

Our first diploma in September 2008 is the Society, Health & Development Diploma. This is a huge industry sector and covers:

- **Children's workforce** – nurseries, schools, out of school clubs, Guides, youth work etc.
- **Community justice** – youth offending teams, probation service, community police, Crime Concern etc.
- **Health** – primary care trusts, NHS & private hospitals, GPs, optometry, psychotherapy etc.
- **Adult social care** – social services, care homes, housing charities & associations, care workers etc.



National Diploma roll out

In September 2008 five Diplomas will be introduced:

- Society, Health and Development
- Construction and the Built Environment
- Engineering
- Information Technology
- Creative and Media

Another five start in September 2009:

- Business Administration & Finance
- Environmental and Land-based Studies
- Manufacturing & Product Design
- Hospitality and Catering
- Hair and Beauty

The final four start in September 2010:

- Travel and Tourism
- Public Services
- Sport and Leisure
- Retail

Plus three academic Diplomas will also be introduced in 2011 in Science, Languages and Humanities.

The three levels of Diploma can be compared broadly in time with the current qualification system as follows:

- Foundation Diploma – 5 GCSEs (grades D-G)
- Higher Diploma – 7 GCSEs (grades *A-C)
- Advanced Diploma – 3.5 A levels

A Progression Diploma will also be available which takes broadly the same time as two A levels for students who do not wish to complete a whole Advanced Diploma.

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If you feel your business would like to know more please contact Ellie Boorer, either by email **eboorer@wandsworth.gov.uk** or by phone on **020 8871 8630** or visit **www.direct.gov.uk/diplomas**