



# The Cheltenham Partnership 14-19 Diplomas

## ***Information on the new Diplomas for September 2010***

***For Year 9 pupils and their parents***



The  
**Diploma**  
Bringing learning to life

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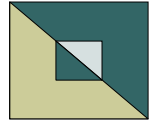
### **Cheltenham Partnership Schools & Colleges**

Balcarras  
Belmont  
Bettridge  
Bournside

Christ College  
Gloucestershire College  
Hartpury College  
National Star College

Pate's Grammar  
Pittville  
Winchcombe





# What are Diplomas?

The Diploma is a new qualification which sits between the traditional academic route of GCSE/A levels and the vocational route of young apprenticeships. The aim of the new diploma is to give students the chance to combine study of a subject they enjoy with gaining a good understanding, and practical experience of, the business world. By studying for a diploma a student will combine theoretical knowledge with practical experience, and gain a real insight into the world of work.

Over the next few years 17 different diploma lines are being introduced. All of them have in common that they will be more business-focused than many existing qualifications.

Each diploma can be studied at 3 levels, either in Years 10 & 11, or post 16.

- Level 1 (or Foundation) is aimed at students aiming to achieve the equivalent of 5 or more GCSE passes at grades D-G.
- Level 2 (Higher) is aimed at students aiming to achieve the equivalent of 5 or more GCSE passes at grades A\*-C. This level can be studied either aged 14-16, or at post 16.
- Level 3 (Advanced) provides a course equivalent to studying A levels after the age of 16.

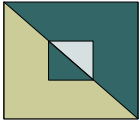
It is important that, if you choose to study for a diploma, you do so at the right level for you – your school will advise you on which level of diploma you should aim for.

You also have the chance to progress from one level to the next. You might study at Level 1 in Years 10 & 11 (Key Stage 4) and then move on to Level 2 after you are 16. Or you could do a Level 2 diploma in Key Stage 4, and then progress to a Level 3 diploma at sixth form level,

Studying for a diploma in Key Stage 4 does not commit you to carrying on with diplomas after you are 16. You could do a Level 2 diploma, then in the sixth form go on with A levels.

If you are considering studying a diploma it is important to talk with your tutor or head of year about your option choices and how that may affect your future study of career options.

The diplomas available to young people in Cheltenham are detailed in the **In Cheltenham** section.



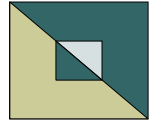
# What are Diplomas?

What is different about the new diplomas is that they bring together various bits of useful learning and experience. There are three elements to each diploma:

- The main subject part of a diploma is called the *principal learning*. This part of the diploma will take a full day each week (or its equivalent amount of time). There is more detail about what the principal learning involves in the information in this booklet about each diploma line.
- All diploma students, whatever line they are doing, also have some common elements of study – the *general learning*. This includes ensuring that they gain good functional skills in English, maths and IT, and that they develop good thinking and research skills – all skills that will stand them in good stead when they enter the world of work. Students following the Level 2 and 3 diplomas will also carry out a personal project on a subject of their own choice, which will help them to improve their research and presentation skills.
- In addition every diploma student has the chance to choose one or more additional subjects to study – the *additional learning*. These will usually be a GCSE or A level, or another qualification.

So doing a diploma involves more than existing subject courses, and this is reflected in the value of the qualification. A Level 1 diploma is equal to 5 GCSE passes at grades D-G, a Level 2 diploma worth 7 GCSE passes at A\*-C, and a Level 3 diploma equals 3.5 passes at A level. In addition to your diploma work you will study the national core curriculum including English, maths and science.

Each diploma is divided into 6-9 units of work. Each one is assessed to give you an overall grade for the principal learning part of your diploma. Most of the assessments are set by your own teachers, and are tasks based directly on the work you are doing at that time.



## Is the Diploma right for you?

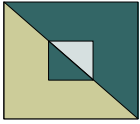
Choosing to study a diploma does not mean you are committing yourself to a particular work or career path. The diploma is an interesting and valuable experience and qualification in itself. It will give you the skills, and qualifications, to progress up many avenues in education and training.

For example, after a Level 2 diploma you could go on to study a Level 3 Advanced Diploma, or A levels, or move on to an Advanced Young Apprenticeship. Or you could move on to a Level 2 diploma after achieving your Level 1 diploma. For more information on progression and career opportunities a useful website is [www.focusoncareers.org.uk/Gloucestershire/GloucestershireHome](http://www.focusoncareers.org.uk/Gloucestershire/GloucestershireHome).

If you are interested in a particular subject area or a particular employment sector, and you want to study a course that combines work in the classroom with a focus on the business world and some hands on experience, then a diploma might well be the right option for you.

If you want to talk about the diploma options a bit more, speak with your form tutor, Head of Year or careers teacher in school, or arrange to see your Connexions adviser.

Please note that the Diploma is being phased in over the next few years, and so not all lines or levels are immediately available – there is more information about this in the next section.



# The Diploma in Cheltenham

The Cheltenham Partnership of schools and colleges is working together to put on the Diploma. Each diploma line has one or more lead institutions, where the teaching will be happening. This may or may not be your own school. If your chosen diploma is being taught at another school or college you will need to go there each Thursday for the principal learning day – the rest of the week you will stay in your own school. If your chosen diploma is happening at another institution your own school will talk with you about transport arrangements.

From September 2010 the following diplomas are on offer to Year 10 students across the partnership. All the diplomas are offered at Level 2 only at this stage – Level 1 and Level 3 will be added later.

**IT** taught at Christ College and Gloucestershire College

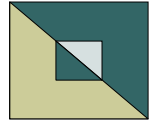
**Creative & Media** at Pittville School and the University of Gloucestershire

**Hospitality** at Gloucestershire College

**Sport & Active Leisure** at Christ College, Gloucestershire College and Hartpury College

**Environmental and Land-based** at Winchcombe School and Hartpury College

**Society, Health & Development** at Balcarras School (for 2010 this is a pilot programme available only to students at Balcarras)



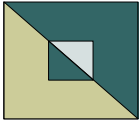
## What to do next

If you are interested in finding out more about diplomas go to the Cheltenham Partnership's website at [www.cheltenhampartnership.net/diplomas](http://www.cheltenhampartnership.net/diplomas). Here you will find more general information, and links to other useful websites.

If you want to find out more about particular diploma lines, then sign up for one or more of the **Diploma Taster Days** in January:

<b>Information Technology</b>	Monday January 18 at Christ College
<b>Environment &amp; Land-based</b>	Tuesday January 19 at Hartpury College
<b>Hospitality</b>	Wednesday January 20 at Gloucestershire College
<b>Sport &amp; Active Leisure</b>	Thursday January 21 at Gloucestershire College
<b>Creative &amp; Media</b>	Friday January 22 at Pittville School
<b>Society, Health &amp; Development</b> <i>(limited to Balcarras pupils only for September 2010)</i>	Monday January 25 at Balcarras School

**To sign up for a Diploma Taster Day please speak with your form tutor or Head of Year!**



# CREATIVE & MEDIA

***This diploma is being offered at Level 2  
from September 2009***



This diploma is for anyone interested in exploring and developing their knowledge, skills and understanding of the creative and media industries, one of the fastest growing employment sectors nationally.

During the course you will be involved in practical aspects of performance, visual and media arts covering such areas as drama, dance, music, photo imaging, craft, film, TV and creative writing. You will experience thinking and working creatively and, in addition, gain an understanding of the business side of the arts, through vocational projects which include arranging your own festival or producing a TV advertisement. In the process you will learn about the range of careers opportunities in the creative and media sector.

The main part of the course will be delivered at Pittville School, a Specialist Performing Arts College, but aspects of certain units may be delivered at The University of Gloucestershire or Gloucestershire College, allowing you to access specialist media resources such as radio or TV studios.

As part of the course you will be required to have at least 10 days of work experience, gaining further insight into the creative and media industries.

Your independent project is an opportunity to learn more about an area of creative art or media which really interest you.

The main element of your diploma work (Principal Learning) will take place on a full day each week. Based largely at Pittville School, you will cover four units in the first year, visiting arts venues or Gloucestershire University or College to access specialist facilities. In the second year you will study the remaining three units.

## **To find out more:**

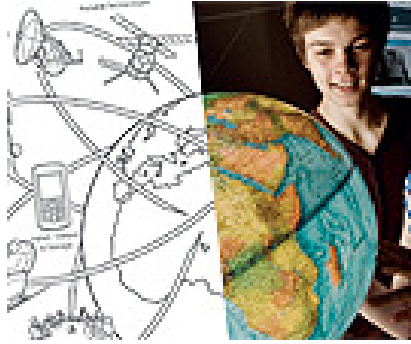
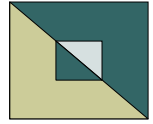
There is a taster day for anyone interested in the Creative & Media diploma on **Friday January 22, at Pittville School.**

*If you want to sign up for the Taster Day please speak with your form tutor or Head of Year.*

There is more information about diplomas in general, and about this diploma on the Cheltenham Partnership's website at [www.cheltenhampartnership.net/diplomas](http://www.cheltenhampartnership.net/diplomas).

From this website you can link to other useful sites.





# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

*This diploma has been running for 2 years  
and for 2010 is being offered at Level 2*

This diploma is for anyone who is interested in studying and finding out more about what is involved in the technical and business aspects of ICT.

During the course you will look at different organisations and investigate the technology and communication methods they use and how this supports the business. You will then make recommendations on what could be done to improve the use of technology. You will also look at the more technical aspects of ICT including networking, technology systems and multimedia.

At times in the course you will have the chance to focus on some ICT and Business ideas and activities that really interest you. You will have at least 10 days of work placements which will give you first hand experience of how of the business of ICT works. This is complemented by numerous visits and trips including the opportunity to go to Disneyland Paris.

Your project will give you the opportunity to research and find out about an aspect of ICT which really interests you.

The main part of your diploma work (the principal learning) will happen on a full day each week, for the full day. During the first year you will study your first four units of work partly at Christ College, a specialist sports college, and partly at Gloucestershire College. Studying the remaining three units during your second year you will again be split between Christ College and Gloucestershire College, which is a recognised Centre of Vocational Excellence (CoVE) in Information Technology Services (ITS).

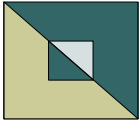
## **To find out more:**

There is a taster day for anyone interested in the diploma in ICT on **Monday January 18, at Christ College in Cheltenham.**

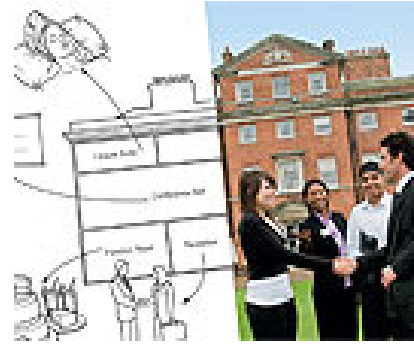
*If you want to sign up for the Taster Day please speak with your form tutor or Head of Year.*

There is more information about diplomas in general, and about this diploma on the Cheltenham Partnership's website at [www.cheltenhampartnership.net/diplomas](http://www.cheltenhampartnership.net/diplomas).

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# HOSPITALITY



***This diploma is being offered at Level 2  
from September 2010***

*The Diploma will give young people a head start by equipping them with important life and work skills that are invaluable both in employment and in everyday life. **Mike Palmer, Owner, Outback Steakhouses***

If you want to work in any of the following industries then this is for you.

- Hotels
- Restaurants
- Pubs, bars and nightclubs
- Contract food providers
- Hospitality services
- Membership clubs
- Events – such as Glastonbury

There are four themes within the Diploma and a successful business will understand all of them and their influence on the business.

- The hospitality industry
- People in the hospitality industry
- Business and finance in the hospitality industry
- Hospitality operations

What really makes this a great qualification to take is that you will have a minimum of 10 days work experience out in the industry, but you will also be working in some of the most modern and catering facilities in the country, including the Renaissance Restaurant at the Cheltenham campus of Gloucestershire College.

You will work in teams, and how you relate to others, both colleagues and customers, will play an important part in your assessment. As you would expect in a very hands-on industry you will also have practical assessments based around both your college work and industrial experience. You will also have an opportunity to show individual skills in the research project, and in other written assessments.

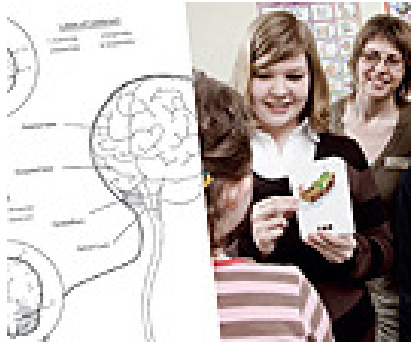
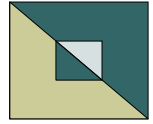
## **To find out more:**

There is a taster day for anyone interested in the Hospitality diploma on **Wednesday January 20, at Gloucestershire College.**

*If you want to sign up for the Taster Day please speak with your form tutor or Head of Year.*

There is more information about diplomas in general, and about this diploma on the Cheltenham Partnership's website at [www.cheltenhampartnership.net/diplomas](http://www.cheltenhampartnership.net/diplomas).





# SOCIETY HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT

***This diploma is being offered at Level 2  
from September 2010 (to students at  
Balcarras only in the first instance)***

This diploma is for anyone who is interested in investigating about what is involved in working with a variety of different people, including young offenders, children, patients with long term illnesses and those with disabilities.

The main part of your diploma work (the principal learning) will take place in Balcarras School for approximately 13 hours a fortnight. During the course you will carry out investigations using a wide range of research techniques including interviews, visits to different SHD settings, questionnaires and internet research. You will use these techniques to investigate nine different units which cover a wide range of topics including communication and healthy living. The outcome of these investigations is not always written coursework it can be presentations, group work and event planning.

This course is an applied course, so it involves bringing the SHD sector into the classroom to prepare you for work within it. Lessons will allow you work independently and as a group and they will be mainly activity based to enable you to explore your thoughts and ideas on specific topics.

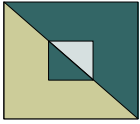
You will have at least 10 days of work experience which will give you first hand experience of how SHD businesses work. You will also complete a project and this will help you to extend your planning, research, analysis and presentation skills on an aspect SHD which really interests you.

## **To find out more:**

There is a taster day for the Society, Health & development diploma **on Monday January 25, at Balcarras School in Cheltenham**, although this first year it will be offered only to Balcarras students.

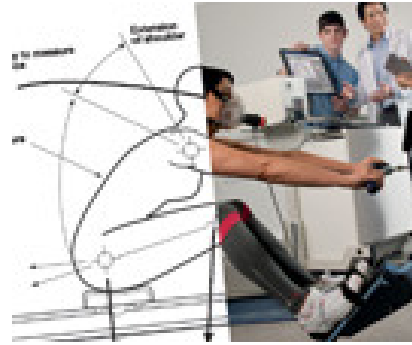
*If you want to sign up for the Taster Day please speak with your form tutor or Head of Year.*

There is more information about diplomas in general, and about this diploma on the Cheltenham Partnership's website at [www.cheltenhampartnership.net/diplomas](http://www.cheltenhampartnership.net/diplomas). From this website you can link to other useful sites.



# SPORT & ACTIVE LEISURE

***This diploma is being offered at Level 2  
from September 2010***



This diploma is for anyone who is interested in studying and finding out more about what is involved in the business of sport and active leisure.

During the course you will look at the science behind people remaining fit and healthy, and investigate how sport and active leisure are important in the local community. Underpinning this you will look at how sport and leisure operate as businesses, and gain some real experience and insight into the commercial side of the sport and active leisure industry.

At times in the course you will have the chance to focus on some sport and active leisure ideas and activities that really interest you. You will have at least 10 days of work placements which will give you first hand experience of how of the business of sport and active leisure works.

Your project will give you the opportunity to research and find out about an aspect of sport or active leisure which really interests you.

The main part of your diploma work (the principal learning) will happen on a full day each week, for the full day. During the first year you will study your 4 units of work partly at Christ College, a specialist sports college, and partly at Gloucestershire College. Studying the remaining 4 units during your second year you will spend most of your time at Hartpury College, which has a sports specialism and a national reputation in the sports & active leisure field.

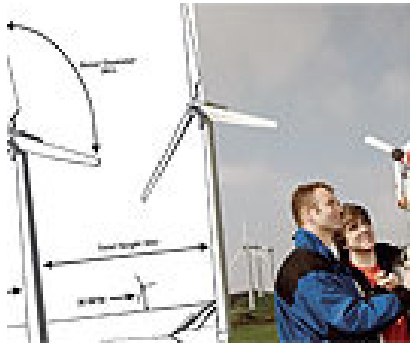
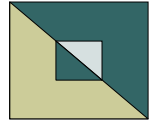
## **To find out more:**

There is a taster day for anyone interested in the Sport & Active Leisure diploma on **Thursday January 21, at Gloucestershire College in Cheltenham.**

*If you want to sign up for the Taster Day please speak with your form tutor or Head of Year.*

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## ENVIRONMENT & LAND-BASED

*This diploma is being offered at Level 2  
from September 2010*

This diploma is for anyone who is interested in studying and finding out more about what is involved in the business of managing our rural environment, including the range of activities linked to farming and the countryside.

During the course you will look at how ecosystems operate, at plant and animal management and care, and at the role plants and animals have in our society. Underpinning this you will look at how important it is to develop sustainable businesses in our rural environment, and gain some real experience and insight into the commercial side of the environment and land-based industries. A main part of the course will be taught at Hartpury College, a specialist centre for land-based courses with a national reputation, and you will have access to the college's own farm and animal care facilities.

At times in the course you will have the chance to focus on some environment and land-based ideas and activities that really interest you. You will have at least 10 days of work placements which will give you first hand experience of how of the environment and land-based businesses work.

Your project will give you the opportunity to research and find out about an aspect of the environment or land-based activity which really interests you.

The main part of your diploma work (the principal learning) will happen on a full day each week, for the full day. During the first year you will study your 4 units of work mainly at Winchcombe School, while also visiting Hartpury College to access their facilities. You will study the remaining 4 units during your second year at Hartpury College.

### **To find out more:**

There is a taster day for anyone interested in the Environment & Land-based diploma on **Tuesday January 19, at Hartpury College.**

*If you want to sign up for the Taster Day please speak with your form tutor or Head of Year.*

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