

Diploma levels and what they can lead to:

Diploma level	Starts when?	Equivalent qualification*	Where next?
Foundation	Year 10 or 12	4 or 5 GCSEs grades D to G	Further study for the next level of Diploma; or take a different type of qualification such as GCSEs, A levels, an Advanced Apprenticeship, a BTEC or an NVQ; or employment.
Higher		5 or 6 GCSEs grades A to C	
Progression	Year 12 or above	2 A levels	Further study or training; Apprenticeship, a vocational qualification or another Diploma course; or employment.
Advanced		3 A levels	

*Based on how long each takes to teach and how difficult they are.

If you are considering choosing a Diploma and know that you wish to study a particular FE or HE course afterwards, check that the Diploma is considered to be suitable preparation for the course.