

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE DIPLOMA IN ENGINEERING

Do Diplomas mean as much as GCSEs and A levels?

Diplomas are being offered at three levels and will be equivalent to existing grades:

- 1 The Foundation Diploma is equivalent to five GCSEs (D-G) and takes around the same time to complete
- 2 The Higher Diploma is equivalent to seven GCSEs (A*- C) and takes around the same time to complete
- 3 The Advanced Diploma is equivalent to three and a half A levels

What do they lead to?

There are a number of routes after the Diploma which include:

- Apprenticeships
- Higher education
- Employment

Who should choose to study for the Diploma?

Diplomas are open to all students.

The Diploma will suit some students more than others. Teachers and staff at local schools and colleges will be able to give you the best advice on the suitability of the Diploma in Engineering for your daughter or son.

They are best placed to discuss this with you based on your son or daughter's past education achievement, school reports, abilities and interests.

The Diploma is different in the mix of educational experience it offers. As well as classroom teaching there is time spent away from school or college. Sometimes this involves being in a local business or workplace and we are working with employers to create placements for students taking the Diploma in Engineering.

The variety and real world experiences makes the Diploma exciting combining new experiences with good practical preparation for the future.

How much time will be spent on work placements?

Diploma students will complete a minimum of ten days' work experience.

There will also be opportunities to hear inspirational talks by people who are success stories in the world of engineering and for individual mentoring so that students make the most of the opportunities.

What does it cost?

There are no extra or hidden costs involved and from the end of Year Eleven onwards students can apply for financial support (Educational Maintenance Allowance).

Is there a guaranteed course or job at the end of it?

No qualification guarantees a job but the Diploma in Engineering has been developed and designed with future opportunities in mind. Employers have been involved in the content of the Diploma and they are key partners in giving a new generation of young people new skills and confidence about their abilities. The Diploma is also designed to assist young people when they are deciding what they want to do in the future and it will help them achieve their goals.

How can I find out more?

This is a really good time to be making some decisions about these courses.

Your son or daughter's school or college will be able to give you advice on the relevance of the Diploma in Engineering to their future education and career prospects.

There are also a number of websites which can provide you with more information:

<http://yp.direct.gov.uk/diplomasandyourchild>
<http://www.14-19reform.gov.uk>
<http://www.opsi.gov.uk>
www.connexions-direct.com

Diploma in Engineering in Lambeth and Southwark

More choices and more opportunities for your child



The Royal Academy
of Engineering



Diploma in Engineering in Lambeth and Southwark

September 2008 marks the beginning of a new chapter in education for 14 to 19 year olds in Lambeth and Southwark

There will be exciting opportunities for students attending local schools and colleges like your son or daughter. Things are changing to keep pace with the challenges and changes in society.

A new family of Diploma qualifications is being introduced as a key part of a national programme to widen educational choice for today's young people.

The Diplomas will offer new skills and qualifications

In recognition of our strong, productive relationship with The Royal Academy of Engineering and the London Engineering Project, schools in Lambeth and Southwark have been chosen to launch one of the new qualifications - the Diploma in Engineering.

Students will be based in their own school or local college, but will have the chance to do some of their learning in other schools, FE colleges, university or in different work places. This means that in every Diploma discipline, the

best teaching and best facilities will be available to students in their area.

Local employers are coming on board from 2008 to support classroom practise and give work experience opportunities to students.

The Diploma in Engineering will be taught in local selected schools and colleges until 2013 when all 17 Diploma subjects will be available across the country.

Professional training will be given to teaching staff delivering the Diplomas. A range of supporting materials will be made available too.

The Diploma in Engineering will help motivate young people, give them the inspiration to stay on and study and offer fresh pathways to jobs, training, and further and higher education. It will also strengthen skills in important subjects - Mathematics, English and ICT.

A good mix of practical learning and academic study

If your daughter or son takes the Diploma route then they will be able to combine a good mix of theoretical study with practical experiences, often outside the school and college environment. They will also meet people from industry who can really inspire them.

The course will equip them with learning, thinking and personal skills

which all young people need to succeed throughout their lives. It will encourage them to work in teams and to manage their own time as well as giving them the chance to present their ideas to others in ways that increase their self confidence.

This qualification will provide insights into different employment sectors and the kind of jobs on offer. Engineering is well paid and there are career routes to a diverse range of roles such as surveying and construction. New green technologies and inventions that support health care are also the direct results of the talents and inventions of engineers.

The skills that are gained give young people the chance to help shape the environment and communities of the future. If they enter the engineering professions they will have a wide range of careers to choose from.

Engineers are responsible for every device that makes our lives easier and more fun - everything from cars to mobile phones, sportswear, medical devices and water treatment systems.

Most of the appliances that the modern world relies on run on electricity and electrical engineers are the people responsible for developing and making such electrical appliances.

Engineers help us communicate via the internet and digital television. An engineer has helped to design and build the computers and printers we use, the chairs we sit on, our mobile phones, the planes we go on holiday in; even the saucepans we use to cook our dinner.

Compulsory elements include:

The Engineering World

- Including how engineering impacts on our lives

Discovering Engineering Technology

- Looking at basic principles like design and materials

Engineering the Future

- Developing and promoting new ideas

Students can also pursue particular interests which can help them fulfil their ambitions through optional study.

Offering essential skills for life

All Diploma students will complete their own special project as part of their studies and this can be anything from designing an environmentally friendly car to inventing a new solution for communities in the developing world like using technology to create sources of clean water and providing new solutions for the challenges of providing sufficient food.

A Diploma in Engineering does not restrict your son or daughter's career options - it widens them.

The skills they learn will be equally valid and valued by employers when they enter the world of work.