

MORE SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES GET THUMBS UP TO TEACH THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE DIPLOMA

From 2010, 78% of local authorities in England, in total 205 consortia's, will offer the Diploma in Business Administration and Finance following an announcement made last week by Schools Minister Jim Knight.

Schools and colleges needed to pass a rigorous application process in order to get the go ahead to deliver the qualification, which is available to 14-19 year olds. The Diploma, which will be introduced in September 2009, has been developed with the help of employers and universities. It combines classroom learning with practical hands-on experience to better prepare students for work and university.

Business Administration and Finance students will study a range of disciplines relating to the sector, such as business administration, business finance and accounting, marketing and sales, customer service and personal finance. In addition to this, students will continue to study English, maths and ICT, and will gain essential transferable skills, such as presentation and time management.

Commenting on the Diploma in Business Administration and Finance Jim Knight said:

“The Business Administration and Finance Diploma is going from strength to strength and I am delighted that so many more students will have the opportunity to study it. The qualification is an exciting new choice for young people, which will help students to gain the knowledge and skills they need to succeed at university and in the career of their choice. “

Mr Tony Cohen Nsure Financial Service Limited, Worthing (Chairman of the BAF DDP) said:

“I am delighted that more schools and colleges in have been successful in their bid to teach the Diploma in Business Administration and Finance giving young people the opportunity to apply what they learn in the classroom in a practical way, the Diploma in Business Administration and Finance will give them a more realistic understanding of the financial services sector. I fully support the Diploma, not only because it will benefit students, but because the knowledge, skills and experience they gain while they are learning will benefit employers like me in the future.”

In all, 97 per cent of English local authorities will be offering some Diploma subjects by 2010. From this September, up to ten Diploma subjects will be taught in selected areas of the country, and a further four subjects will be available from 2010. By 2013 a grand total of 17 Diploma subjects will be available to choose from, in all local authorities.

To find out more about the Diploma in Business Administration and Finance visit www.baf-diploma.org.uk or www.direct.gov.uk/diplomas.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

About the Diploma in Business Administration and Finance

1. There are three levels of Diploma – Foundation, Higher and Advanced – that will be graded in the same way as GCSEs and A levels. The Foundation Diploma is equivalent to five GCSEs; the Higher Diploma is equivalent to seven GCSEs grade A*- C; the Advanced Diploma is equivalent to three-and-a-half A Levels grade A*- E.
2. In 2008 the first five Diploma lines, Construction and the Built Environment; Creative and Media; Engineering; Information Technology; and Society, Health and Development were introduced. In 2009, they were joined by a further five disciplines: Business, Administration and Finance; Environmental and Land-based Studies; Hair and Beauty Studies; Hospitality; and Manufacturing and Product Design. 2010 will see the introduction of four more Diplomas, Public Services; Sport and Leisure; Retail; and Travel and Tourism; and by 2011 the final three lines, Science; Languages and International Communication; and Humanities and Social Sciences will be introduced.
3. The Diploma is part of the Government's changes to education for 14-19 year olds. Alongside it, GCSEs and A levels have been strengthened and more Apprenticeship opportunities will be available. A new framework called the Foundation Learning Tier is being developed for students working below level two so they will leave school or college with the knowledge and skills they need for the next stage in their development. In addition, the 11 year olds who started secondary school in Sept 2008 will be the first students who will all continue their education or training to 17.
4. The Diploma has been designed in conjunction with universities and employers. Over 5,000 employers have been involved in the design of the first five disciplines and all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) have said they will consider applicants who have achieved an Advanced Diploma
5. Schools and colleges have come together to form partnerships called consortia to deliver the Diploma. Students who study the Diploma may learn in the different institutions across the partnership.

The Sector Skills Council leading the Business Administration and Finance Diploma is the Financial Service Skills Council (FSSC) work in partnership with the Council for Administration CfA)