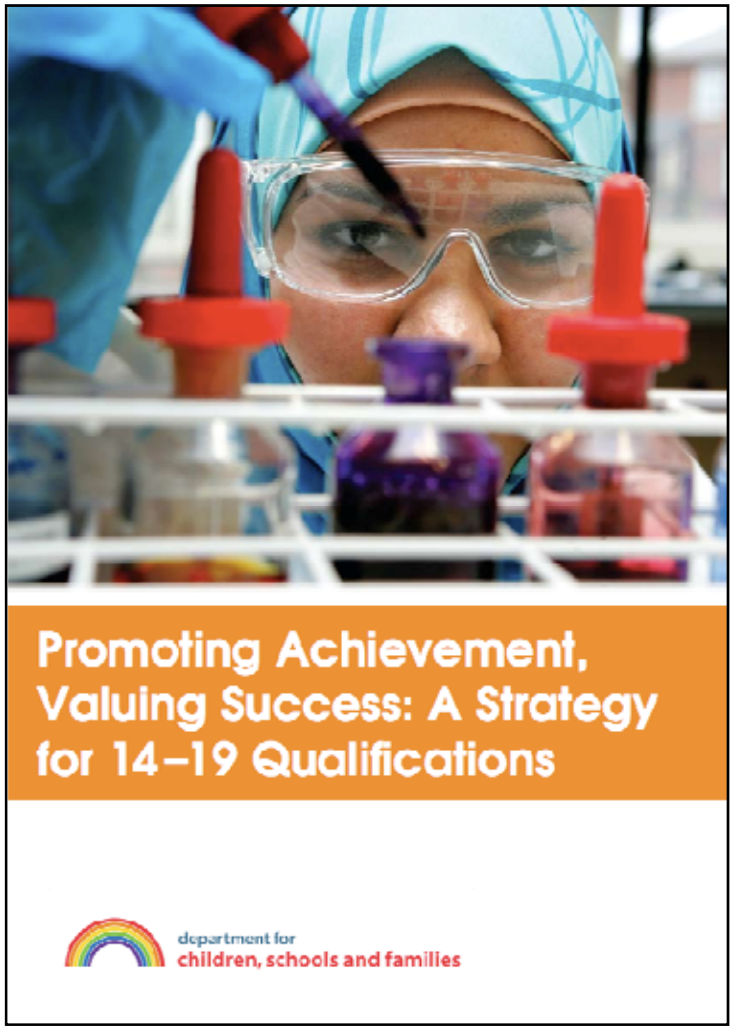
Mary Curnock Cook
Director, Qualifications & Skills

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority

Promoting achievement, valuing success

- launched 31 March 2008
- building on 2005 White Paper



www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority

14-19 Qualifications Strategy

- 4 main suites of qualifications (with entitlement from 2013)
  - GCSE/A Level
  - Diploma
  - Apprenticeship
  - Foundation Learning Tier
- New criteria for S96 funding
- Biennial Review of qualifications offer
- QCF
- Applied A Levels go; Applied GCSEs stay
- AEAs go; IB reduced emphasis
- New Extended Diploma

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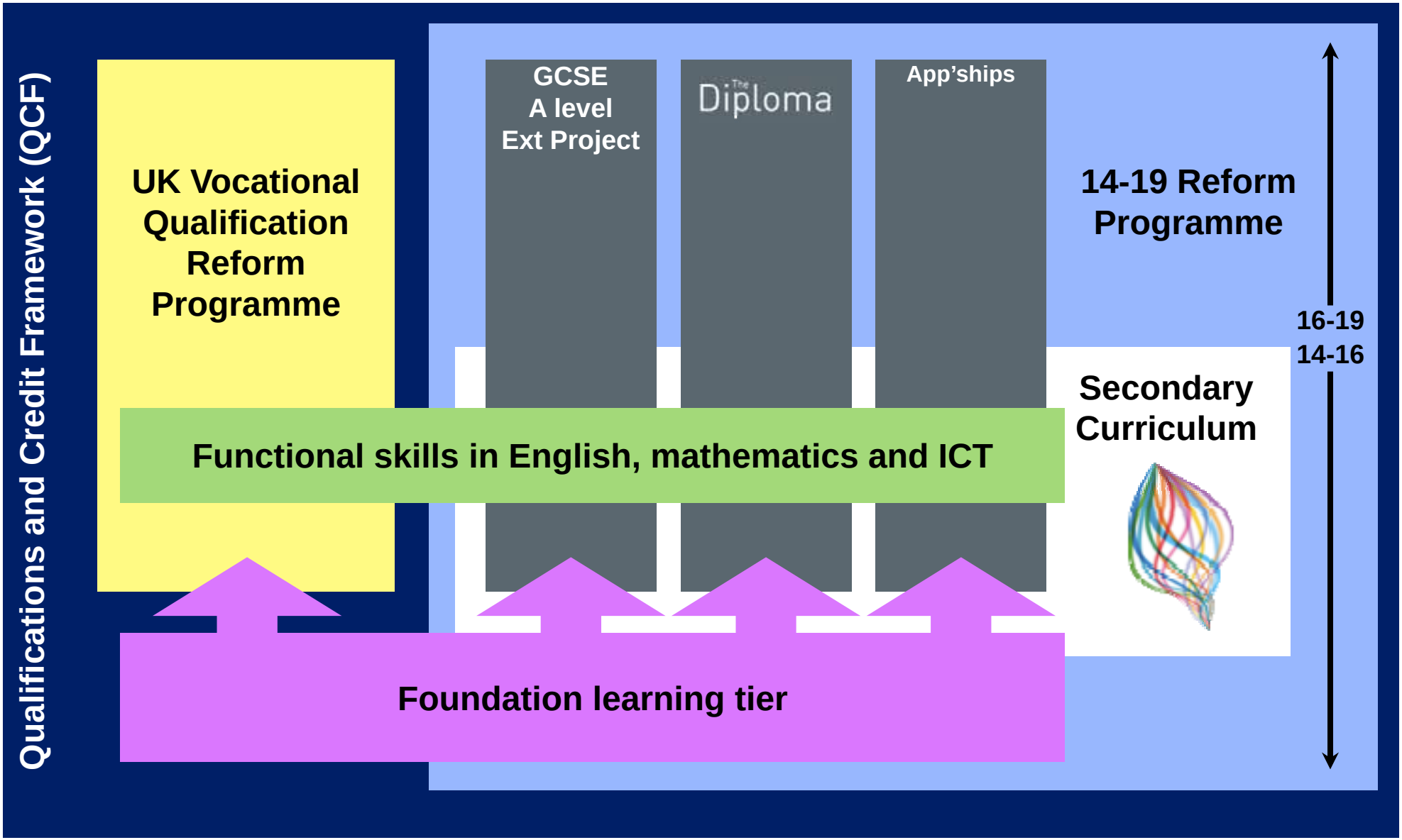
Painting the Picture



GCSE, A level and the Extended Project

GCSE

modernised content

incorporation of functional skills

controlled assessment

A level

reduction from six to four units in most subjects

stretch and challenge

introduction of the A* grade

coursework reduced

Extended Project

skills that employers and higher education demand:

planning, research, analysis, evaluation, presentation, etc.

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What are Diplomas?

- Education (*not* training)
- Composite Qualifications
- Lines of Learning (*not* subjects)
- Curriculum based
- Collaboration and partnership to develop
- Collaboration and partnership to deliver
- A new approach to learning
  - Mixing applied and general learning
  - Emphasising skills as well as knowledge

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The Diploma

Diplomas: Bringing Learning to Life

First teaching 2008: Creative and media Construction and the built environment Engineering IT Society, health and development	**First teaching 2009:** Business, administration and finance Environmental and land-based studies Hair and beauty studies Hospitality Manufacturing and product design
First teaching 2010: Public services Retail Sport and leisure Travel and tourism	**First teaching 2011**: Humanities Languages Science

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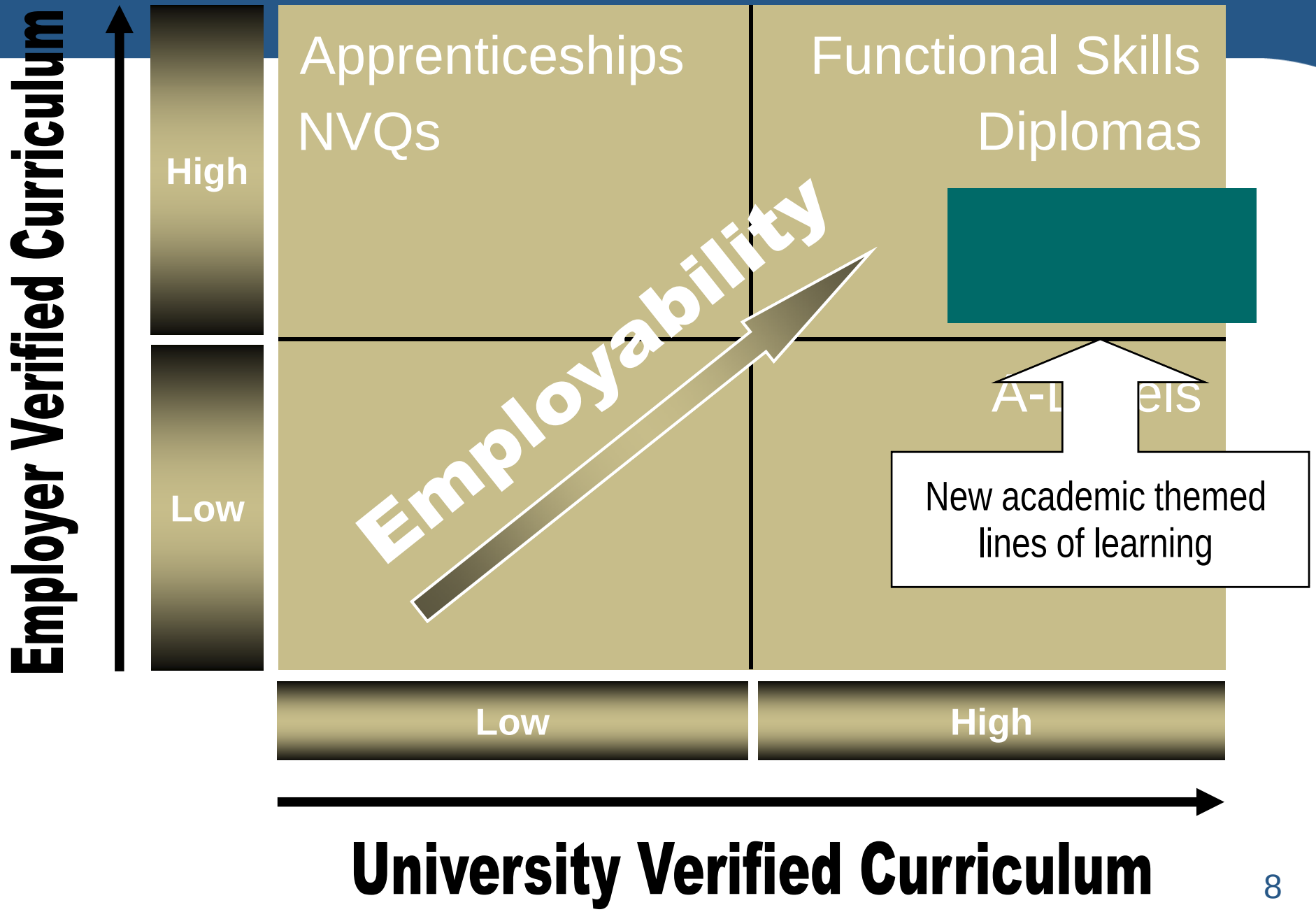

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The Diploma

Diploma Structure

Principal learning

based on the Line of Learning

mandatory

50% applied

newly developed, unitised qualifications

Generic learning

functional skills in English, maths and ICT

personal, learning and thinking skills

work experience (min. 10 days)

project

Additional and/or specialist learning

complementary learning, adding breadth/depth

progression pathways

choice and flexibility

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Foundation Learning Tier

- A coherent approach to learning below L2
- Progression pathways to identified destinations:
  - First full level 2
  - Independent living/supported employment
  - Skilled employment including Apprenticeship
  - Diploma/GCSE (for 14-19)

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FLT

- Pathways integrate 3 curriculum areas:
  - Personal/Social Development
  - Functional Skills
  - Vocational/subject learning

- Each Pathway is supported by a range of QCF qualifications

A new suite of qualifications

- English, Maths and ICT
  - Entry Levels 1,2 & 3
  - Level 1 and 2
  - Level 3 in development
- 14-19 pilots 07/08
- 14-19 and adult pilots 08/09-09/10
- 2010 full roll out

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Update on Functional Skills

- Second year of Pilot – qualifications shaping up
  - situational/contextualised
  - use legitimate 'real-life' scenarios and embedded mathematical information
  - purposeful and applied
  - task-based and problem-solving
- Consultation on Level 3 being analysed
- FS role across four national suites

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QCF

- Flexible, responsive framework
- 2 – dimensions: Level and credit
- Simple titling conventions
- Awards at qualification *and* unit level
- Credit accumulation and transfer (CAT)
- Articulates with FHEQ and EQF

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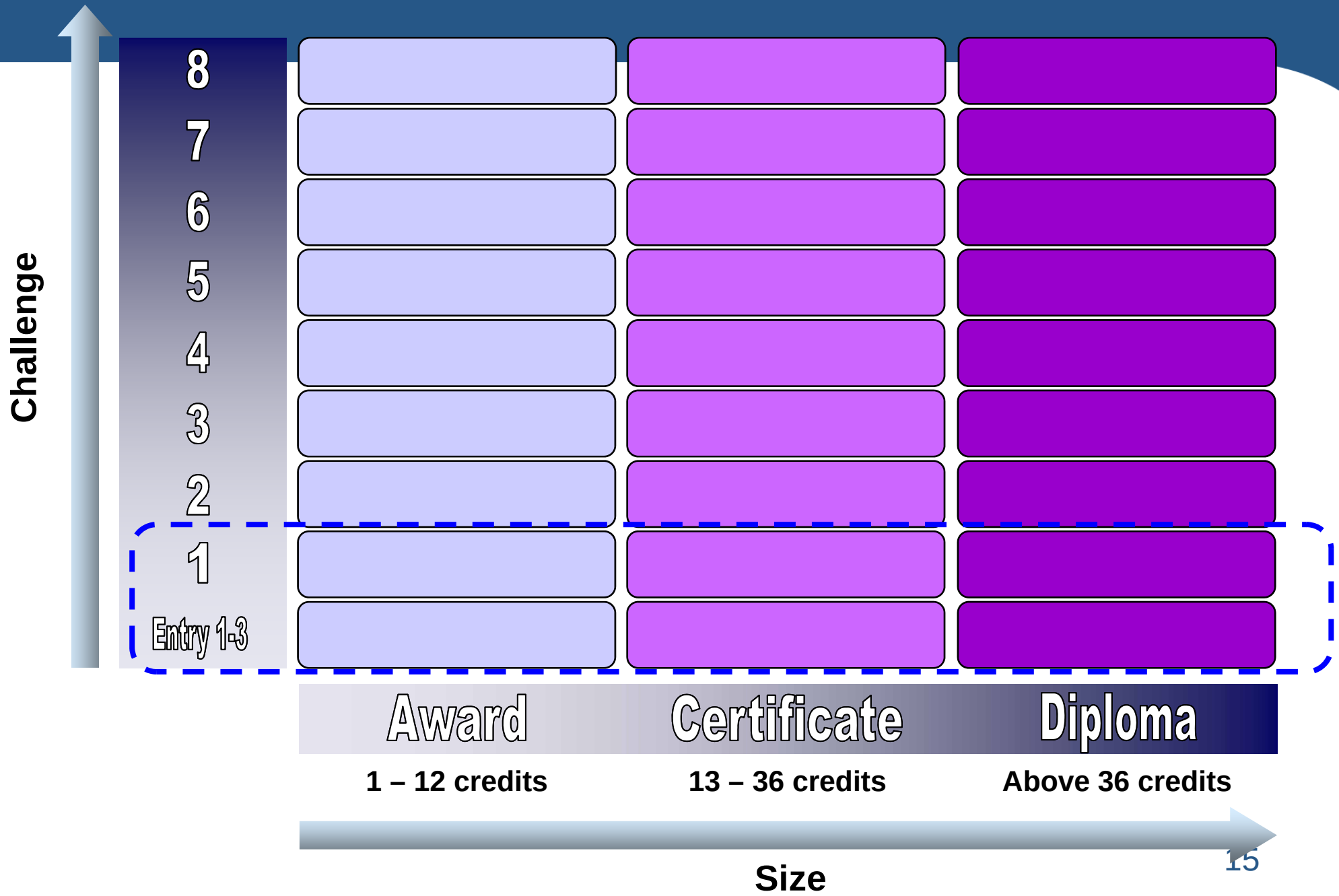
The Qualifications and Credit Framework



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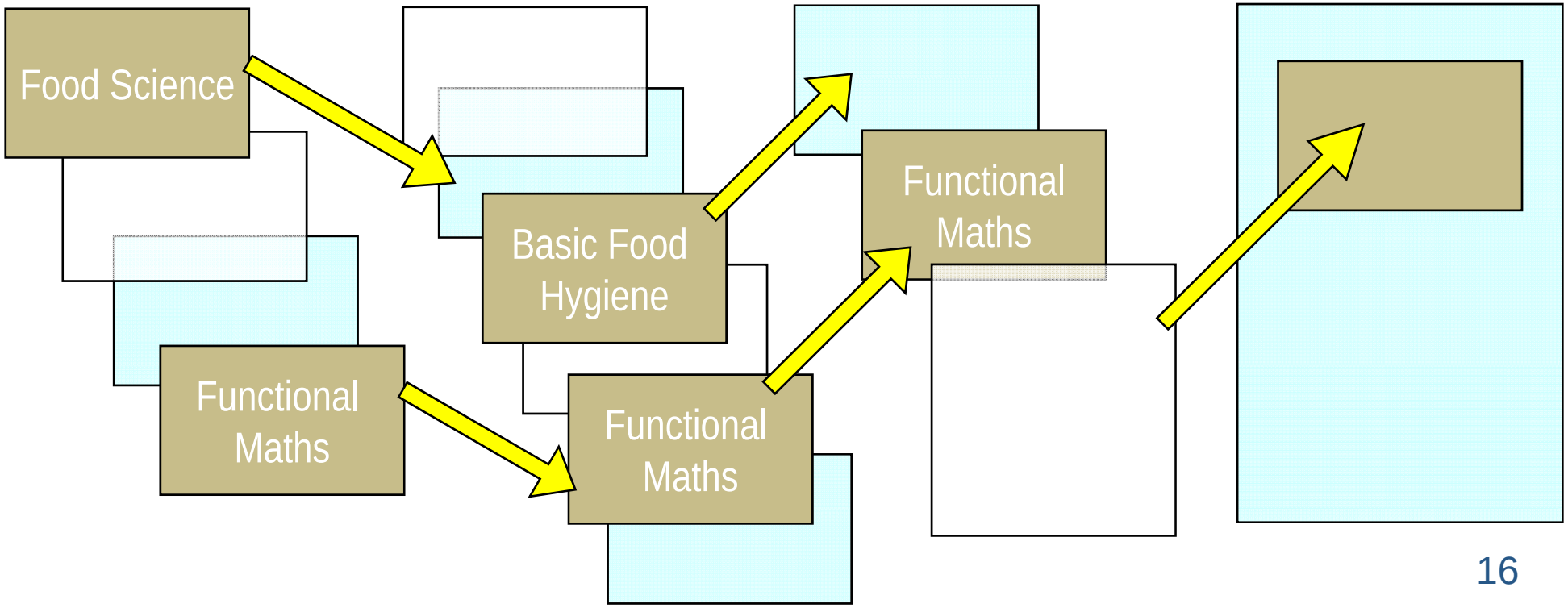
A New World !

Maths / Science GCSE

Level 2 Diploma Hospitality

Apprenticeship

Foundation Degree Travel & Tourism



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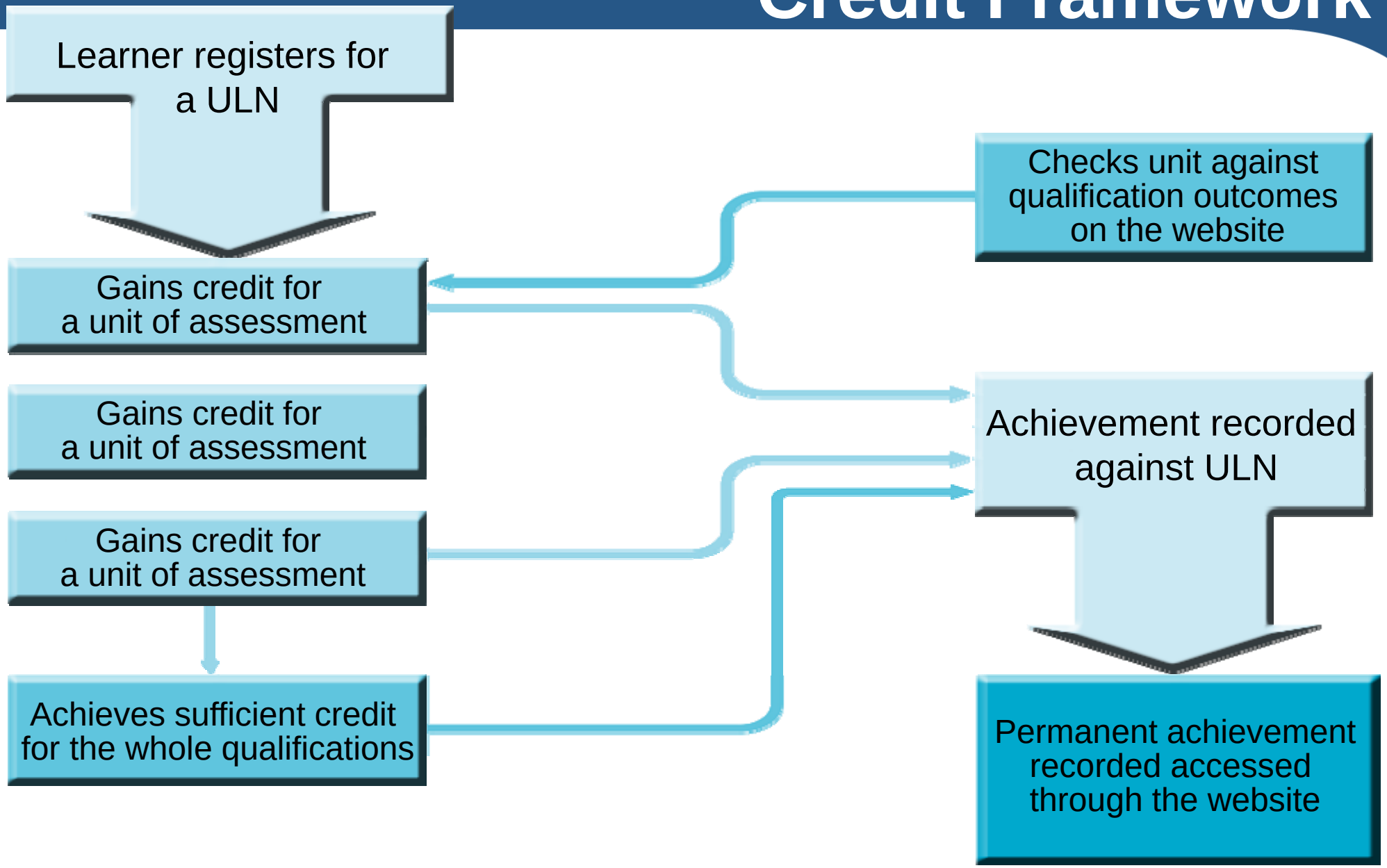
Using the Qualifications and Credit Framework



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14-19 progression pathways

	A level/ GCSE	Diploma/ Extended Diploma	Apprentice	Foundation learning Tier
Lower ability learners				
Average learn				
High Achiev				
Progressio focus				

Stretch and challenge for all learners

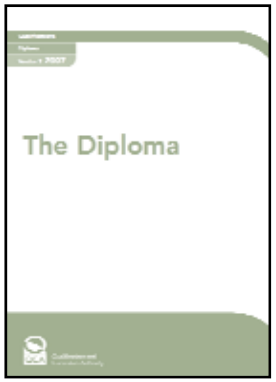
Suitable for pre-16 and post-16?

Additional Specialist Learning

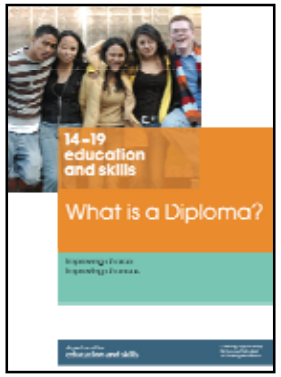
English, mathematic s & ICT

www.qca.org.uk/diploma

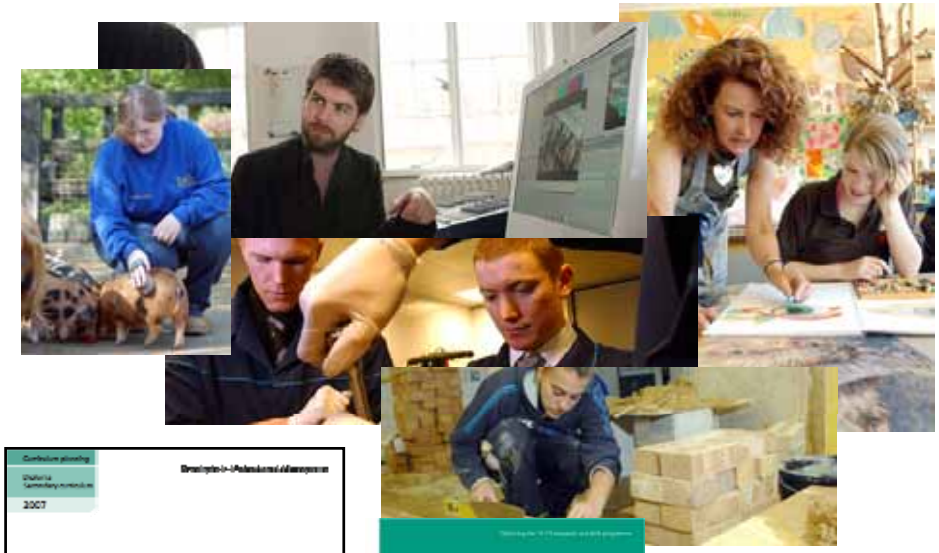
structures and standards



general information



curriculum resources



Diploma catalogues

and more...

National Assessment Agency
www.naa.org.uk/14-19

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority

Address and Useful Links

- curnockcookm@qca.org.uk

- http://www.qca.org.uk

- Diploma: www.qca.org.uk/diploma

- 14 – 19: www.qca.org.uk/14-19