



BEBINGTON HIGH SPORTS COLLEGE

Year 8 Options & Information Evening

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May 10th 2010

Some Basic Information

- Level 1, Level 2, Level 3...
- Thresholds
- GCSEs and BTECs
- Age versus Ability





Level 1, Level 2, Level 3...

- These describe increasingly higher qualifications

Level 1	GCSE grades D, E, F and G About NC levels 3 to 7
Level 2	GCSE grades A*, A, B and C About NC levels 7+
Level 3	A levels and similar exams beyond GCSE level



Thresholds

- Students are expected to work (mostly) at one level.
- There is a big overlap between levels 1 and 2.
- To move from one level to the next, students are expected to cross a **THRESHOLD**.



Thresholds explained

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Level 1 Threshold	5 or more GCSEs at grades G and above. (Including English & Mathematics)
Level 2 Threshold	5 or more GCSEs at grades C and above. (Including English & Mathematics)



GCSEs and BTECs

+	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•All GCSEs cover Levels 1 and 2.•They are similar to the courses you already do in key stage 3.•They have a mix of exams and coursework.
-	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•They rely on learning for exams.•They are slightly more difficult to pass at level 2 than BTECs.



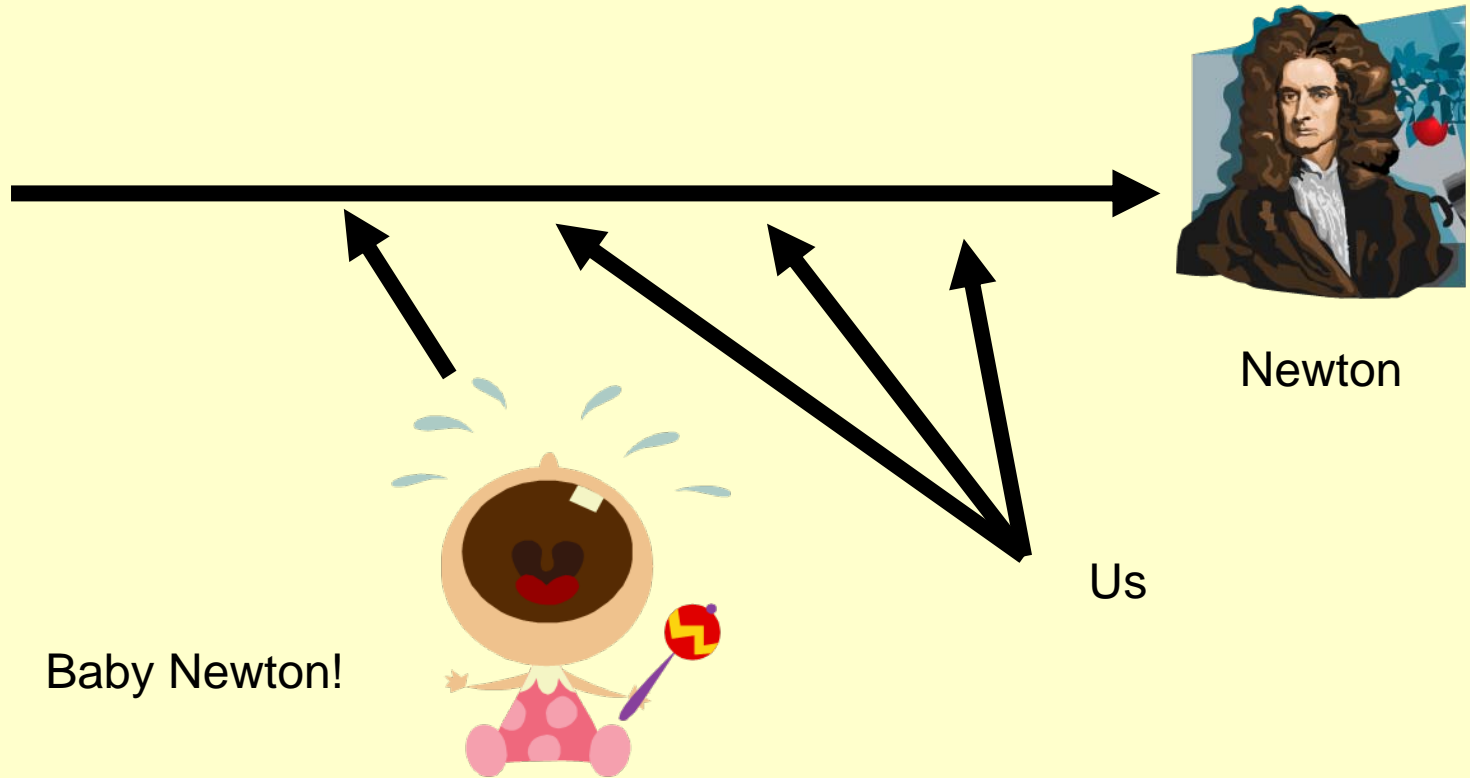
GCSEs and BTECs

+	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• They are slightly easier to pass at level 2 than GCSEs.• They are assessed by coursework.• They link to the world of work.• It is easy to move on from level 1 to level 2 to level 3.
-	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You have to study a BTEC at either level 1 or level 2.



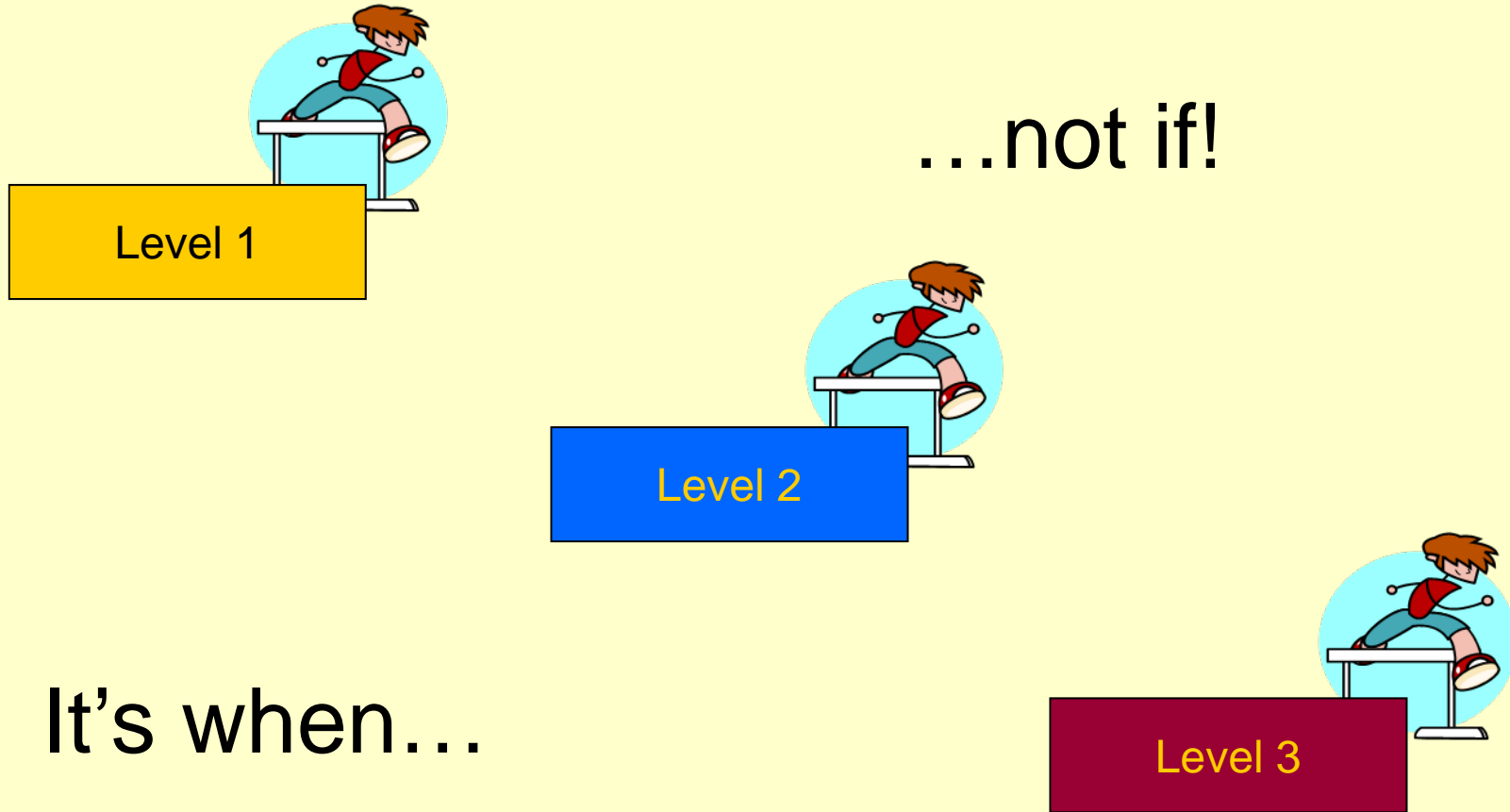
Age versus Ability

- Where are we on the ability scale?





Clearing the Thresholds





So what are we suggesting?

- We want to recognise and develop the academic potential of students.
- We want our students to have the highest possible expectations of exam success.



Aim High?

- We have identified students in year 8 who potentially could be successful at level 3 (A levels) and go on to university.
- We want to start now on a pathway that will give students these opportunities later in life, should they choose them.



Expectations

- We expect these students to pass the level 2 threshold by the end of year 10. This means they will get GCSE results at grade C or better in..
- English Language
- Mathematics
- At least 3 other courses



To what end?

- So that in year 11 we can provide courses to support them into A levels or equivalent vocational courses.
- It also means that they will not be under so much examination pressure in year 11.

How can we do this?

- Over the next 2 years students will continue with the compulsory courses and take exams at the end of year 10 in...
- English, Maths, Science, IT, RE.

BHSC



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Balance

- We still need to ensure that students have a balanced curriculum. So we are also going to get them to continue with a modern language, and travel and tourism. (this is a suitable humanities based course that is accessible for students at this age)



Option

- Additionally we are able to offer students one further choice. This will be for a course that you will study and be examined next year.
- Because students will only be 14 we have chosen courses that we feel are suitable for you to pass at this stage, and these are a subset of the courses being chosen by year 9 students.



More Options

- Students will be able to pick another course next year from a much wider list.
- They will then have at least 2 further choices in year 11 – maybe more depending on what has been achieved.



What next...

- Look at the instructions on the option form.
- Talk to the various subject teachers about the courses on your form.
- Fill in the form and return it by Friday.