



BEBINGTON HIGH SPORTS COLLEGE

Year 9 Key Stage 4 Options 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

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



GCSEs and BTECs

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- 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.

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- They rely on learning for exams.
- They are slightly more difficult to pass at level 2 than BTECs.



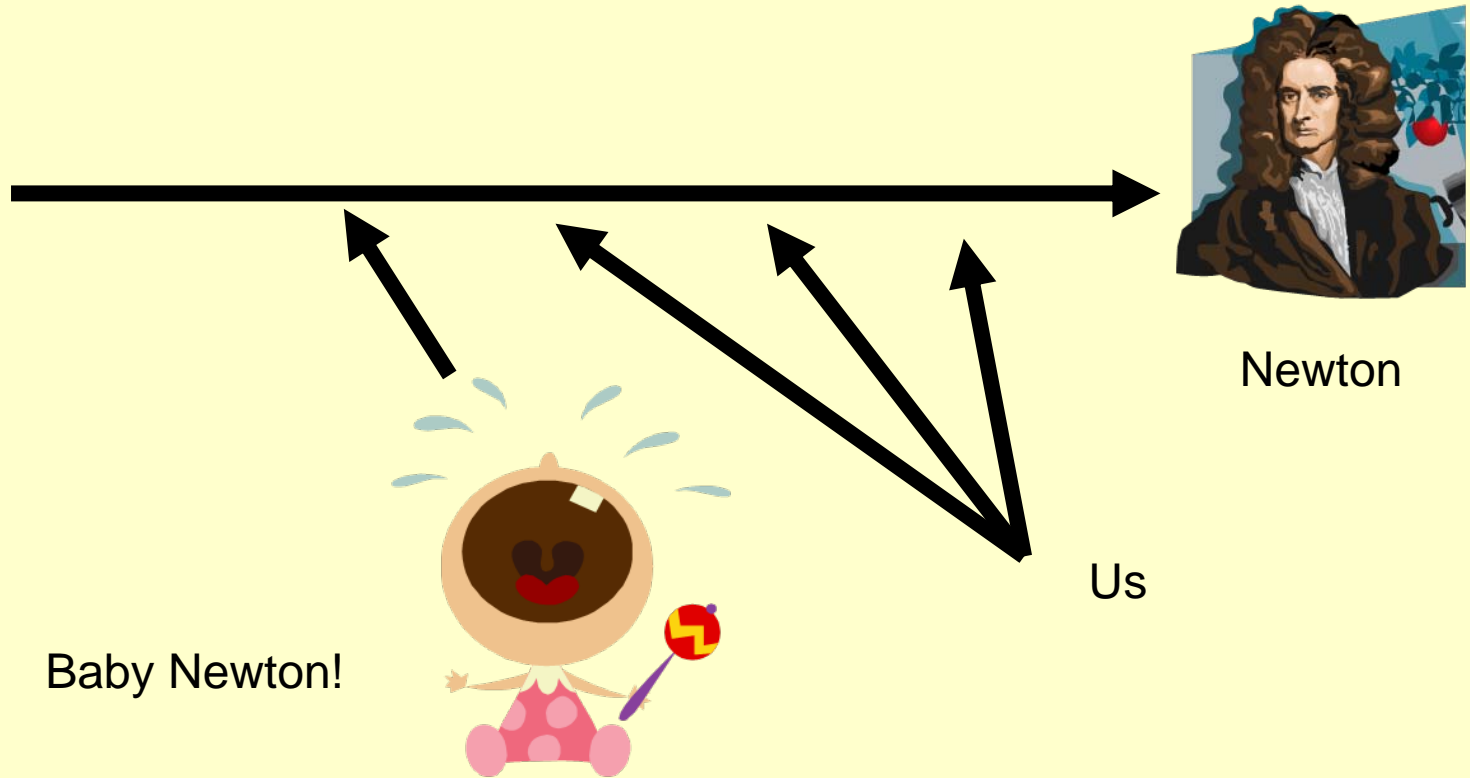
GCSEs and BTECs

+	<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.



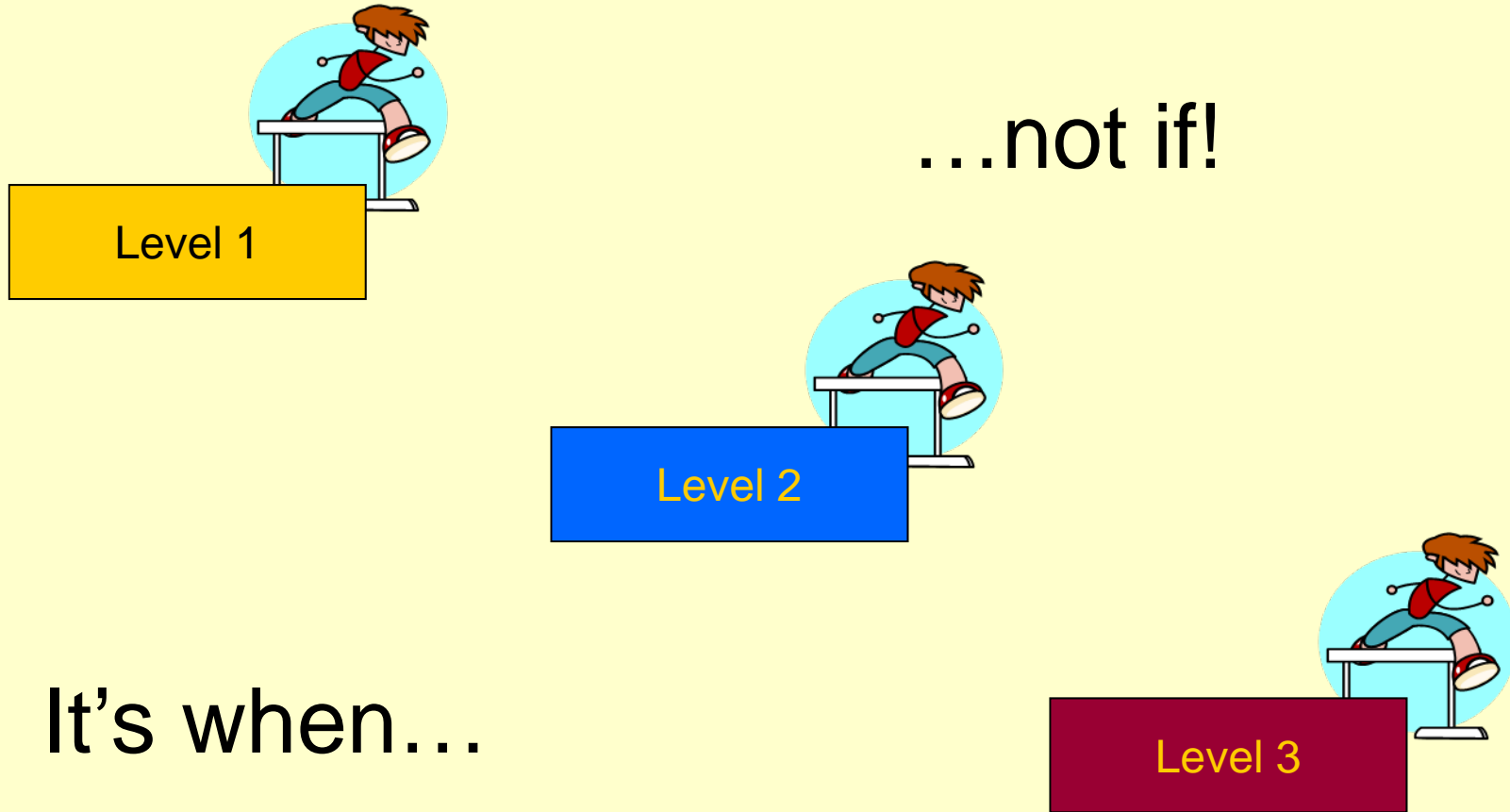
Age versus Ability

- Where are we on the ability scale?





Clearing the Thresholds





How do we help?

- We try to provide a wide range of courses.
- We provide courses of different types and levels to meet the needs of different students.

Options for year 10

- Last year we changed the way students select options for key stage 4.
- Instead of picking courses to study for 2 years, students will pick 2 courses to study and complete in year 10.
- Next year you will get 2 further choices.





A Few Practicalities

- If a course does not have enough interest to run this year it may actually run next year.
- To make up a bit of extra time the courses will start after Whitsun.
- Each course will have 5 hours a week



The advantages?

- It enables students to have 4 choices rather than 3 as before.
- Students may change their minds about what they want to study by the time they reach year 11.
- Students can concentrate on passing some of their options in year 10 rather than having all the pressure in year 11.



Can I do something else?

- There are 22 different courses listed and there are only 128 students in the year.
- An average class in KS4 should be about 16 to 18 students.
- Unfortunately we reach a limit of what we can offer, and that is what we put onto the forms.



Can I do something else?

- The courses we offer reflect the interest shown by students.
- It is possible that once students have completed year 10 that the range of preferences will change and that other courses may be offered next year.



Why do BTECs?

- The vast majority of students in year 9 expressed a preference for courses with project work rather than exams.
- Last year students who took BTEC courses did over half a grade better in those than in GCSEs. Normally the difference between grades D and C.



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.