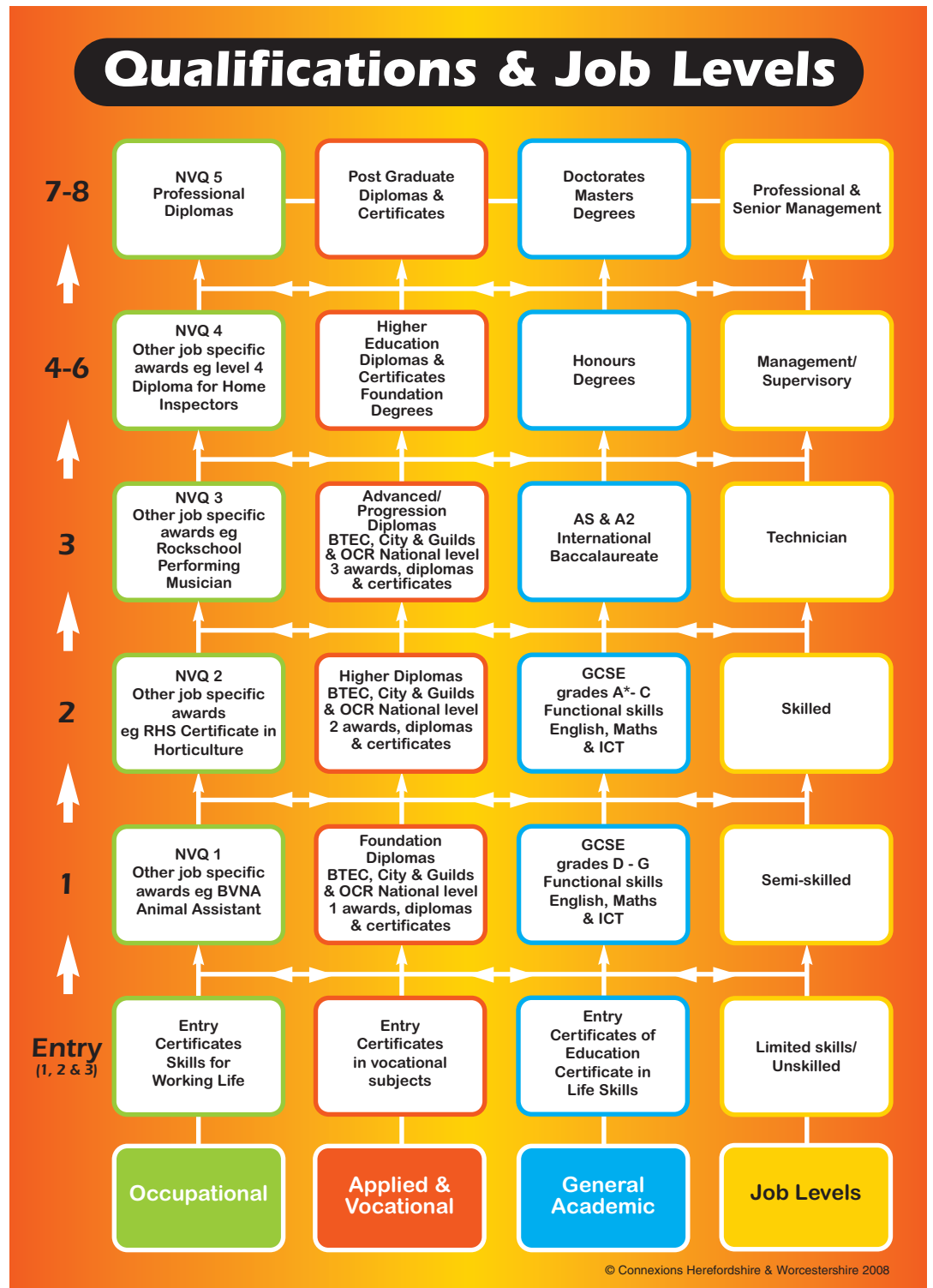


Learning Journeys

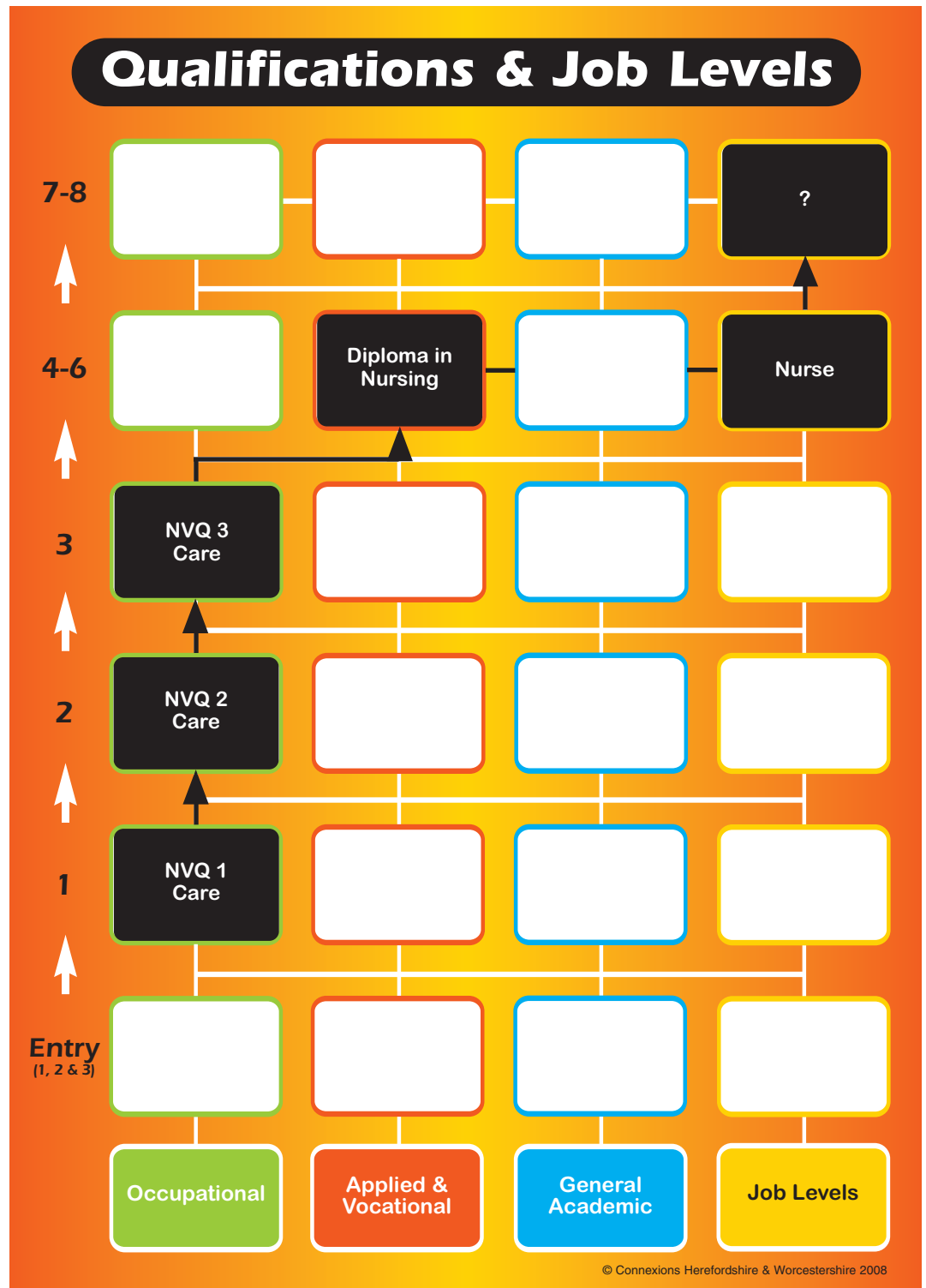
Nowadays, there are lots of ways to succeed, and opportunities at every stage to 'switch' to a different kind of course or training. No matter what your own interests, abilities and learning styles, you can find a pathway to suit you, and lead you into a satisfying career.

The grid alongside shows some of the main qualifications open to you, and the level of jobs they lead to. Read on to see the four very different pathways followed by Luke, Jayne, Lynne and Jack. Would you like to follow in their footsteps - or is a completely different route the one for you?



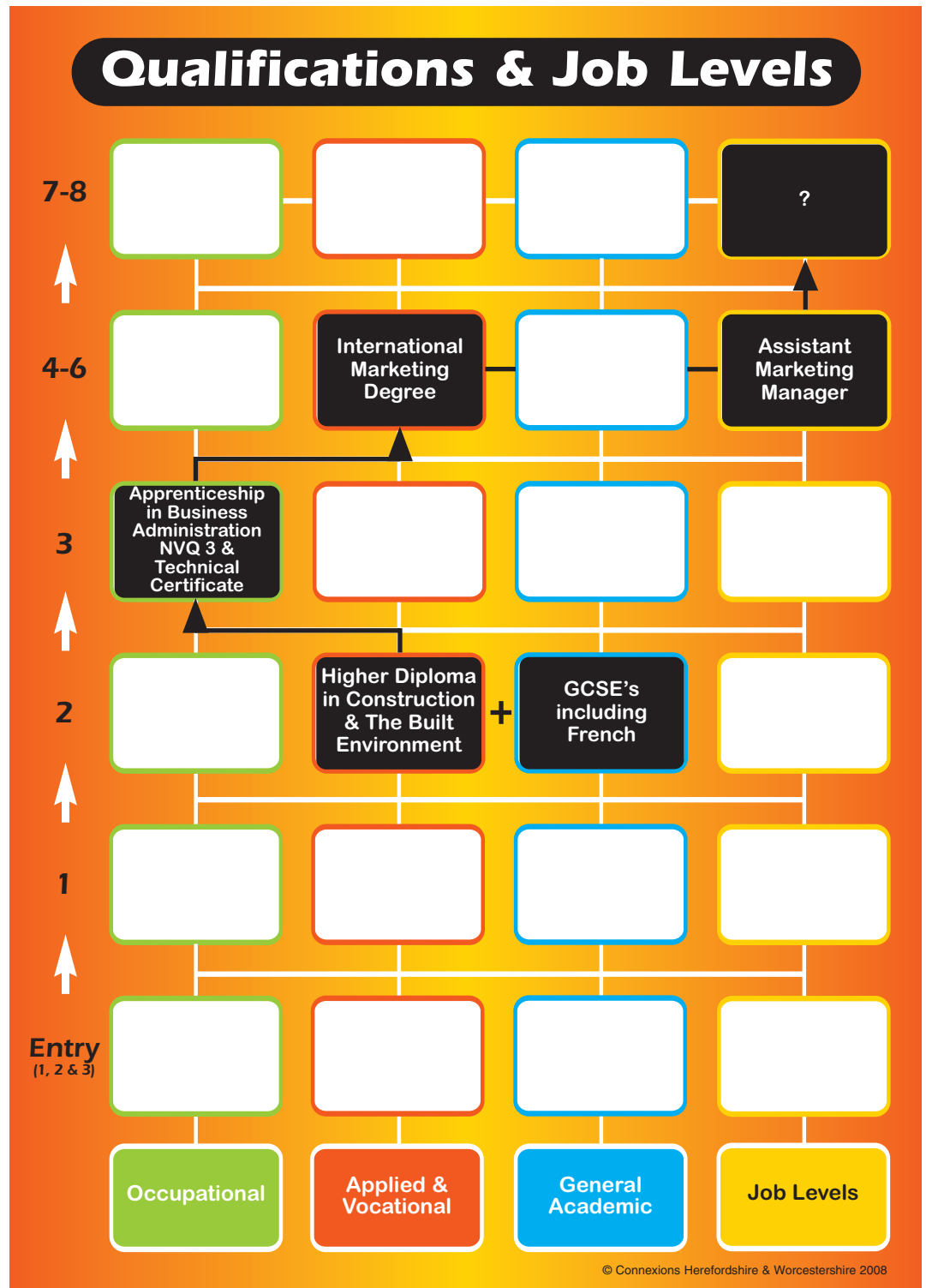
Luke's Learning Journey

Luke dropped out of school without taking any GCSEs. Eventually, after getting some basic English and Maths qualifications through a work-based training provider, he got a part-time job as a care assistant, and started taking his NVQs in Care. Once he'd got his NVQ Level 3, he was able to go to university to do a Nursing Diploma - and was given a National Health Service Bursary while studying, so he was earning as well as learning. Now a qualified nurse, Luke can go even further if he wants to - taking extra modules to get an honours degree in Nursing, specialist courses in mental health nursing or midwifery, for example - or advanced training so he can progress into senior management.



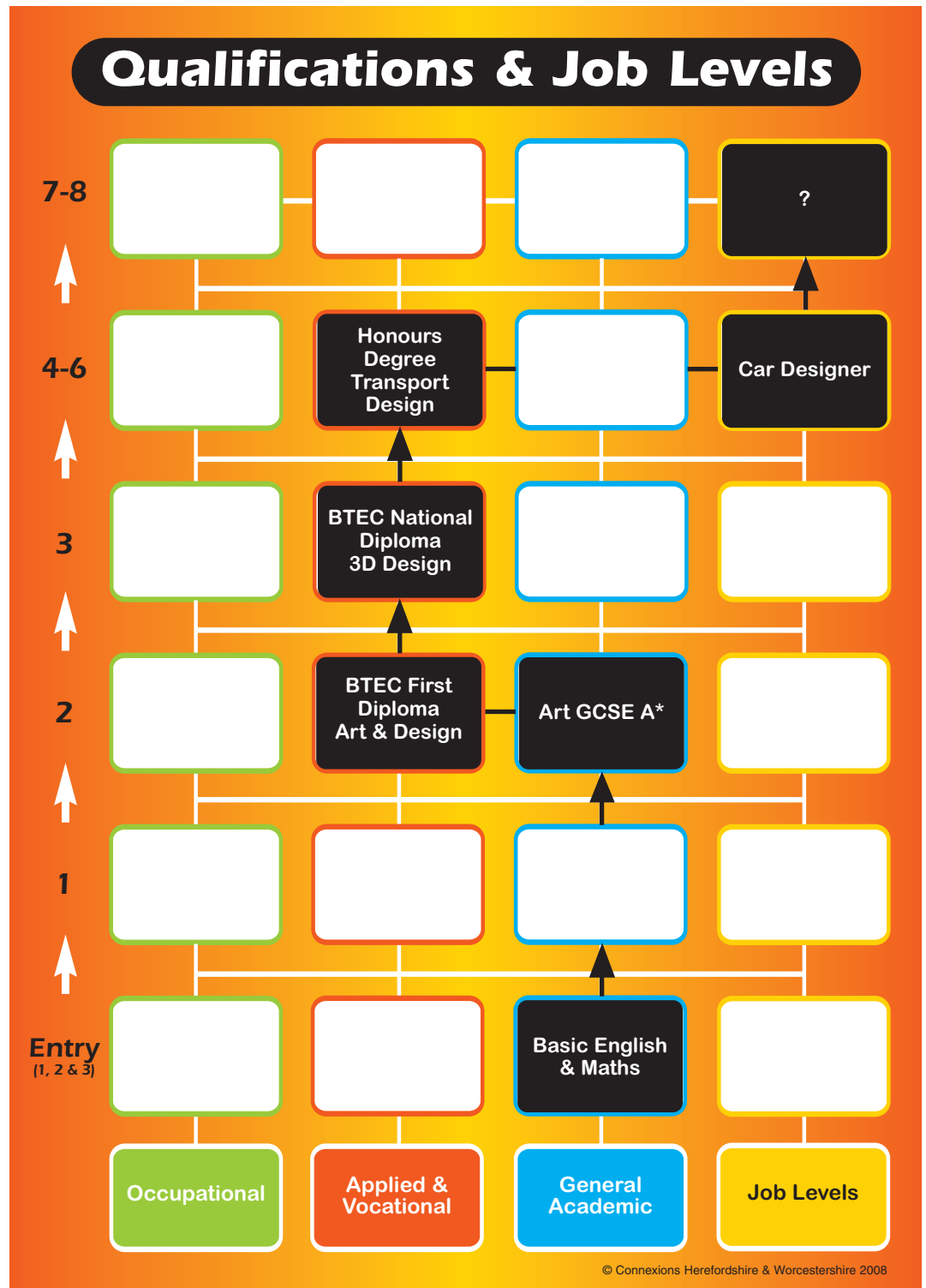
Jayne's Learning Journey

Jayne wanted to mix some practical, work-related learning with her GCSEs. So she took a Higher Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment, while making sure she continued with GCSEs she liked and was good at, such as French. Jayne really enjoyed her course, and got great results - but by the end of year 11, she knew she didn't want a career in construction. Instead, she opted for an Apprenticeship in Business Administration, with a large international Civil Engineering company (even though she wasn't working in the operational part of the business, her industrial knowledge gained from her Diploma had really impressed her employers, and helped her get the job). After completing her apprenticeship, with a NVQ3 and Technical Certificate under her belt, Jayne was sponsored by her employer to do a part-time degree in International Marketing. Soon, Jayne was assistant marketing manager in the company's European division, with good prospects for further promotion.



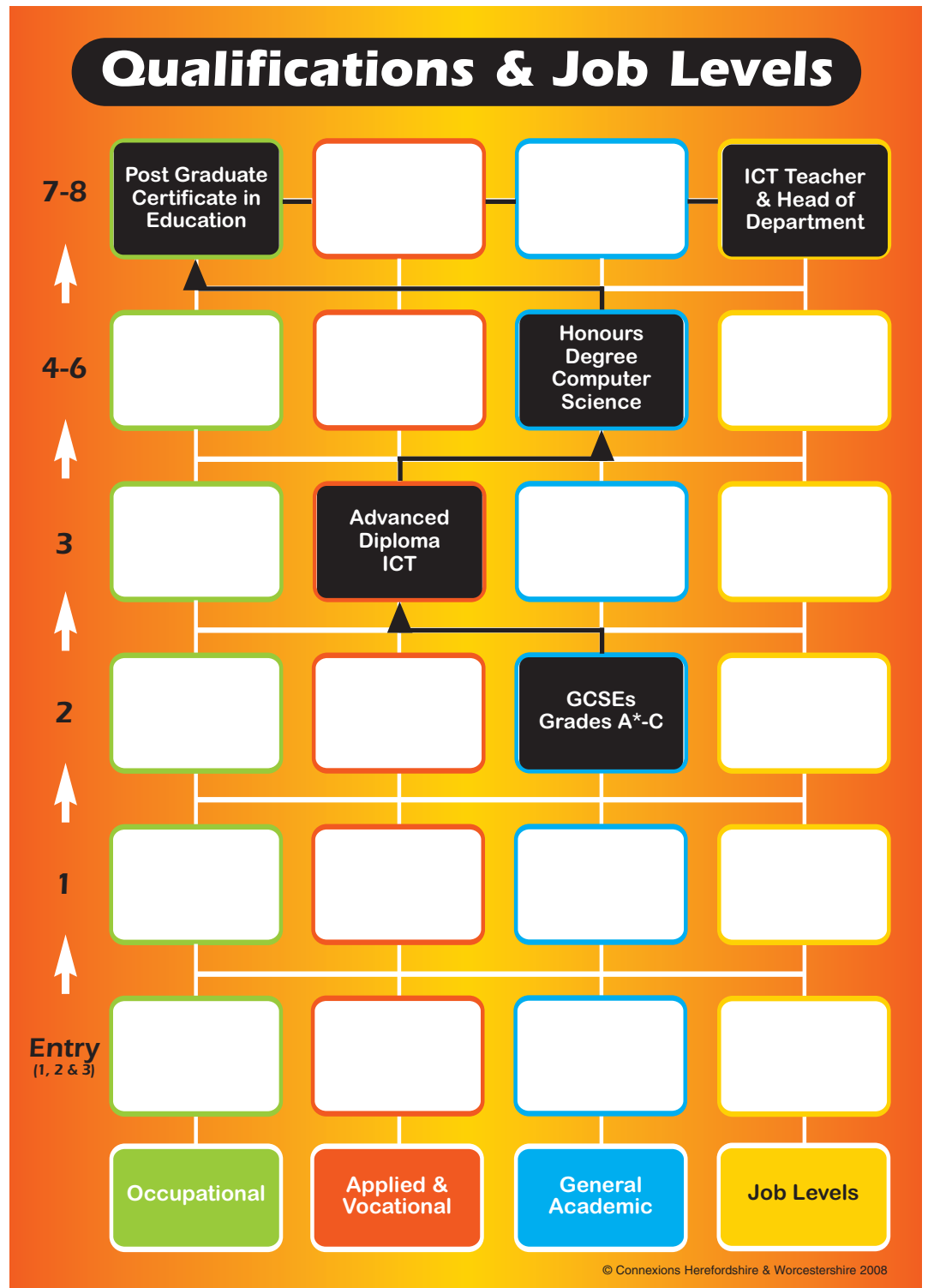
Jack's Learning Journey

Jack's Learning Journey
 Jack didn't do very well at school - except in Art, where he got an A* at GCSE! His dyslexia wasn't diagnosed until he was well into year 10, so he didn't get the extra help he needed. His artistic ability was clear to see in his portfolio, though, and he was accepted onto a BTEC First Diploma course in Art & Design at the local college. After that, he progressed onto the BTEC National Diploma in 3D Design. He did so well that he won a place on a very prestigious Transport Design degree course, even though he didn't have the English and Maths GCSEs normally required; the university gave him some non-written tests that let him show he had the level of ability needed, so they were satisfied he could cope with the course. In fact, he did better than 'cope' - after getting his degree, he landed a car design job with the company where he had done his work experience placement! Jack now has good prospects for promotion and career development.



Lynne's Learning Journey

After doing really well at GCSE, Lynne wasn't sure about her next steps. She had no career ideas, apart from knowing she wanted to use her ICT, at which she excelled. Plus, she also thought she'd like to go to University. So Lynne took an Advanced Diploma in ICT. Having gained top marks (worth more than three grade A 'A' Levels), still interested in everything to do with computers, and still with no firm career ideas, Lynne then went on to take a Computer Science degree, which she really enjoyed. Eventually, Lynne realised that her genuine interest in all aspects of computer studies, and her ability to communicate that enthusiasm to other people, were leading her towards an obvious career choice - teaching! She took a one year postgraduate teacher training course, and embarked with enthusiasm on a successful careerfirst as an ICT teacher....then a head of department..... Maybe next it will be a Deputy Headship, or an Advisory Teacher role. Lynne is well qualified and has lots of options.



Qualifications & Job Levels

