

St. Patrick's Grammar School, Armagh.



Year 12 Options Outlining the Process

4pm

Wednesday 1st February 2023



Format of this process:

- ▶ Introduction by Mr P. McCormack:
Year Head for Year 12.
- ▶ Careers Information by Mr J. Lynch:
Head of Careers
- ▶ Year 12 Options Process by Mr D. McAlary:
Curriculum Vice-Principal

Introduction - Mr P. McCormack Year Head for Year 12



► **Welcome to all Year 12 Parents, Guardians & Carers.**

- By joining us today, you have made the first positive step in ensuring our boys make appropriate subject choices.

► **Pastoral link with Subject choices**

- Appropriate Subject choices will lead to happiness in School.
- Greater enthusiasm to complete subject tasks, homework and controlled assessment

► **Advice for Year 12 Parents, Guardians & Carers.**

- Have discussions with the boys about their subject choices.
- Focus on the boys skills and talents. Which subjects would best show case these.
- Watch the Subject options videos for an insight into A-level subjects.

Format of this process:

- Careers Information by Mr J. Lynch:
Head of Careers





as the **winds**
of **change**
blow

Y12 Options 2022
Mr J Lynch

do you
lean in and fight,
or **harness** the change
and **sail off** on an **adventure?**

Traditional academic route

3

A Levels





Northern Ireland Skills Barometer – Summary Report

Graduate level skills are in high demand

- Approximately 30% of demand from the education system is at graduate level – that is those people who go on and study a Degree at university.
- That means 1 out of every 3 jobs advertised is for people who have a degree.

A dark blue arrow points to the right from the left edge of the slide. Below it, several thin, curved lines in shades of blue and grey sweep across the left side of the slide.

Low demand for low skills

- Only 11% of the opportunities arising from education will be for those with less than 5 GCSEs Grades A*-C).
- That means **only** 1 out of every 10 jobs advertised is for people with less than 5 GCSEs.

Trend in job opportunities

In 2010

22% of the job opportunities arising would have been for those who achieved less than 5 GCSEs

In 2020

10% of the job opportunities arising would have been for those who achieved less than 5 GCSEs

Therefore achieving more qualifications is becoming increasingly important to obtaining employment.

Key growth sectors



Survey



Which pathway is best for You?



APPRENTICESHIPS
which one works for you?

Decisions





...and finally,...

Format of this process:

- ▶ Year 12 Options Process by Mr D. McAlary:
Curriculum Vice-Principal





St Patrick's Grammar School Armagh

INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE A-LEVEL STUDENTS

2023/2024

This booklet has been carefully prepared and updated by the staff of St. Patrick's and will be very important for you and your son as the process of picking A-Levels gets underway. It is also available on the school website: <https://www.stpatricksarmagh.org/>



- Prospectus
- Curriculum
- Google Classroom Codes
- Policies

Our curriculum consists of KS3 (key stage 3), KS4 (Key stage 4) and Post 16 (16+ years of age).

Select appropriate tab below to view each curriculum area individually.

- KS3
- KS4
- Post 16
- Year 10 Options
- Year 12 Options**

- Art And Design
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Construction
- Engineering
- English
- Environmental Technology

This is the St. Patrick's website which has 20 videos summarising the Post-16 Subjects that we have on offer. It is available on the school website: <https://www.stpatricksarmagh.org/>

Post-16 Options



- ▶ January - March: Students will be involved in choosing subjects for their two year Post-16 Course.
- ▶ Some general points worthy of note when choosing Post-16 choices:
 - Look at what you are likely to enjoy and be good at. If you enjoy a subject or have an ability in it already, you are more likely to do well.
 - Are there any particular subjects and/or grades you may need? If you have a particular career, job, or further study in mind, you may need to choose specific A levels in order to meet entry requirements.
 - Do not choose subjects for the wrong reason(s).
 - Try to keep your future career options open.
- ▶ There are an extensive range of academic & vocational subjects on offer in Year 13.

Post-16 Options



- ▶ However, the school will help students choose the Post-16 Options that:
 - Best suits their academic ability
 - Best suits their style of learning
 - Best suits their future career path
- ▶ This guidance will be based on the student's TRACK performance in Year 11 & 12 and on the completion of previously taken GCSE modules in Year 11.



Post-16 Options

– please see the last few pages of the Options Booklet

What are your son's options after GCSEs?

All 16 year olds must undertake further education until they are 18. This doesn't mean they have to stay on at school or go to college, they can get a job with a training element to it, but they cannot work full-time without some training. Their options are to take academic qualifications, such as A levels, BTECs, or take vocational qualifications, such as an apprenticeship or a job with training. If they've struggled to get good results at GCSE, they can do an internship or traineeships to get the experience to progress. If your son thinks they know what they want to do when they leave school at 18, this may influence their choices. For example, someone who hopes to train as a dentist will need to take the sciences at sixth form.

However, in most cases, they won't have a firm idea of what they want to do (and may not even know whether they hope to progress to further education once they're 18). In such instances, it may be a good idea for your son to make choices which give them some experience in lots of areas so they can find out more about what they do like rather than limiting their options by taking similar subjects. Another driver in choosing what to study at sixth form will be the way in which they prefer to learn. Those who like course-work and prefer "doing" will enjoy taking BTECs. Students that prefer listening and exams will enjoy the traditional A level.

Helping choose what to study after their GCSEs:

For some students the decision on what to study after their GCSEs will be fairly straightforward. For others, narrowing their subject choices may prove trickier. If your son needs some extra guidance on what to do after their GCSEs, it's important to consider the following:

1. What your son is good at and enjoys

Almost all of us tend to be better at things we enjoy than things we don't. If your son has a natural passion for certain subjects, they will likely make good sixth form choices. Additionally, your son will need to spend a lot of time on each sixth form option they select, so it's a good idea that they have an interest in the subjects they study. GCSE results can be a good indicator of their aptitude, but if

Post-16 Options



- ▶ The vast majority of students will study 3 A-levels / Vocational subjects.
- ▶ Those who **excel** in their GCSEs will have the opportunity to follow an ADDITIONAL A-Level / Vocational Subject.
- ▶ **The decision on the above will rest with the school and with consultation with the student and parent/guardian.**

Options Timeline



- **Friday 13th Jan** All **Year 12** Pupils introduced to the Options Process.
- **Tuesday 17th Jan** **Year 12** Options booklet updated.
- **Wednesday 18th Jan** **Year 12** Options Booklet & Post-16 Subject videos available on the school website.
- **Monday 23rd Jan** **Year 12** Options Booklet completed & distributed.
- **Wednesday 1st Feb** **Year 12** Options Afternoon – Parents and students have the options process outlined and then visit subject stalls in the school canteen: 4pm start.

Options Timeline



- **Thurs 2nd – Fri 3rd Feb** Academic Review Days – Year 12 Parents will have the opportunity to discuss Academic & Pastoral progress & Post-16 choices with their son's Form Teacher.
- **Mon 6th – Thurs 9th Feb** Students make a Free Choice within various areas of study.
- **Mon 20th – Fri 24th Feb** Students make choices within the limitations of timetable blocks.
- **Mon 6th – Wed 8th Mar** Students make amendments to choices following discussion at home.
- **Wednesday 8th Mar** The process ends for now.
- **Summer 2022** Opportunity to make final amendments after GCSE results.

Types of Post-16 Qualifications offered by SPGS



- ▶ **A-Levels (AS / A2)** Examination subject based academic qualifications.
- ▶ **Applied A-Levels** Combines the theoretical components of traditional studies with an approach that focuses on giving students real-world skills and concepts that are geared toward their chosen career path.
- ▶ **BTECs** Examination and coursework based specialist work-related qualifications.
- ▶ **Cambridge Technical** Designed with the workplace in mind and provide a high quality alternative to A-Levels, supporting progression to higher education. Examination & Coursework based.

AS LEVEL OPTIONS & CHOICES 2023

Student Name: _____ Class: _____

The following AS subjects will be offered from September 2023:

- Applied Business
- Art & Design
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Construction (BTEC)
- Creative Media Production (BTEC)
- Digital Technology
- Drama & Theatre Studies*
- Engineering (BTEC)
- English Literature
- Environmental Technology
- French*
- Geography
- Government & Politics
- Health & Social Care
- History
- Irish**
- IT- Single Award Cambridge Extended Technical Cert
- IT- Double Award Cambridge Technical Diploma
- Mathematics
- Moving Image Arts*
- Music
- Physics
- RE*
- Software Systems Development
- Sports Science
- Technology & Design
- Travel & Tourism

**Consortium subjects taught entirely in another school.*

***Subjects shared with St Catherine's College.*

PLEASE SELECT IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE THE THREE AS SUBJECTS YOU ANTICIPATE YOU WILL TAKE TO A2 LEVEL IN YEAR 14:

1st Choice: _____

2nd Choice: _____

3rd Choice: _____

PLEASE SELECT A FOURTH AS SUBJECT FROM THE ABOVE LIST:

4th Choice: _____

*Please tick if you intend not returning to St. Patrick's Grammar School





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In summary:



Please help your son using the following:

1. Advice given by teachers – Careers, Subject & Form
2. Track reports Year 11-12
3. The Options Booklet – Hard copy & On-Line
4. Subject Specific Videos – School Website

Then help your son choose subjects that are right for their interests, academic ability & career ambitions while recognising their strengths and weaknesses.

Hopefully, these Post-16 choices will be the best choices and will propel them through Year 13 & 14 onto the next stage of their educational journey.



Thank you very much for your attention

If you have any specific queries about **the options process** please ring 028 37522018 and speak to either:

Mr P. McCormack: Head of Year 12

Mr Lynch: Head of Careers

Mr McAlary: Curriculum Vice-Principal