

# St. Patrick's Grammar School, Armagh.

## Year 10 Options Outlining the Process

4pm

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024



## Format of this afternoon:

- Introduction by Mrs Carina Gallagher:  
Year Head for Year 10.
- Careers Information by Mrs Carla Scullion:  
Head of Careers
- Year 10 Options Process by Mr D. McAlary:  
Curriculum Vice-Principal
- Visit the Canteen to look at the GCSE  
subject stalls and speak to subject  
specialists.



# Introduction - Mrs C. Gallagher: Year Head for Year 10

## ► **Welcome to all Year 10 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 10 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 GCSE subjects.



# Careers Information

Careers Information by Mrs C. Scullion:  
Head of Careers



# Careers Information

**C**areers

**E**ducation

**A**dvice

**I**nformation

**G**uidance



# Careers Information



**Career Research**



**Career Planning**



**Guidance**



**Work Experience  
Opportunities**



**Labour Market  
Information**



# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Workforce

## Employability Skills:

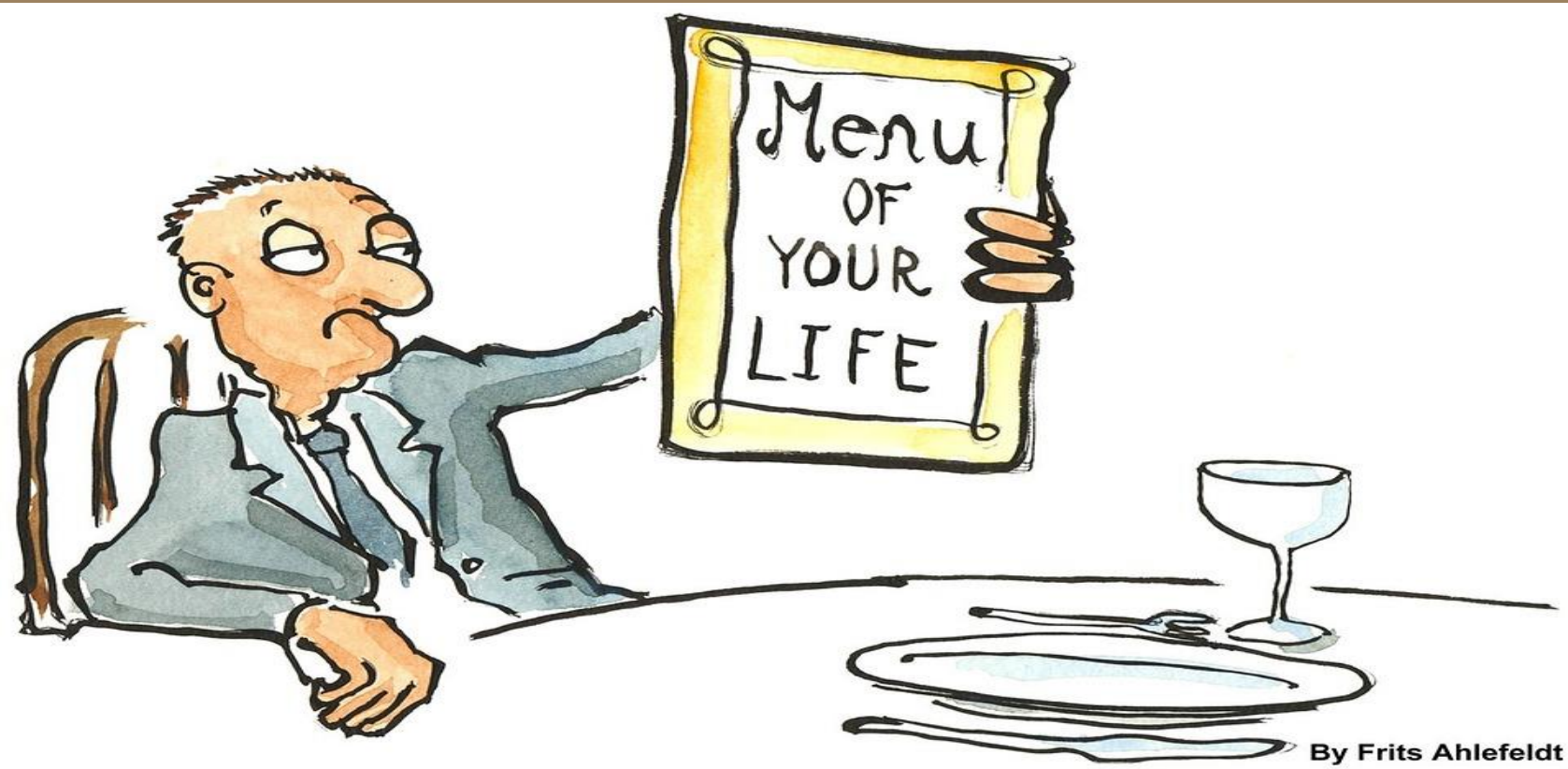
- Good communication
- Problem solving
- Critical thinking
- Team working
- People management
- Work Place Skills

Transferability is key!





# Importance of Subject Choice Decisions





## Minimum qualifications for employment

### 5 GCSEs at Grade C or above

Most important

1. Maths

2. English

ICT will also be very valuable for a range of roles.

**N.E.E.T.**

**Not in Education, Employment or Training**



# 21st Century Workforce

## Labour Market Data



## Post-16 Destinations



## Parental Input



Format of this process:

Year 10 Options Process by Mr D.  
McAlary:  
Curriculum Vice-Principal





**St Patrick's  
Grammar School  
Armagh**

**YEAR 10**

**Programme of Study and  
Options for GCSE in 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 GCSEs gets underway. It is also available on the school website:  
<https://www.stpatrickssarmagh.org/>

# School Website:

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [stpatricksarmagh.org/curriculum/](https://stpatricksarmagh.org/curriculum/). The page features the school's logo and a navigation menu with links for Home, Resources, Pastoral Care, Events, About, and Contact. Below the navigation is a banner image of students in a classroom. The main content area contains the following text:

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.

A horizontal tab menu is displayed with the following options: KS3, KS4, Post 16, **Year 10 Options**, Year 10 Options Booklet, Year 12 Options, and Year 12 Options Booklet. The 'Year 10 Options' tab is currently selected.

Below the tabs, there is a green button labeled 'Parents Afternoon – Year 10 Options Introduction'. Underneath, there are eight video thumbnails, each with a play button icon and a subject name: Art And Design, Business Studies, Construction, Cope, Engineering, English, Geography, and History.

This is the St. Patrick's website which has 28 videos summarising the GCSE Subjects that we have on offer.

It is available on the school website:<https://www.stpatricksarmagh.org/>



# GCSE Options & Programme of Study

- ▶ Compulsory Subjects In St. Patrick's are Mathematics, English Language, English Literature, Science & Religious Education – these are **NOT** optional.
- ▶ January - June: Students will be involved in choosing their optional subjects for their 2 year GCSE Course. (Years 11 & 12)
- ▶ Some general points worthy of note:
  - Use **SUBJECT ABILITY & SUBJECT INTEREST** as guidelines when choosing subjects.
  - Do not choose subjects for the wrong reason(s).
  - Try to keep your future career options open.
- ▶ There are an extensive range of optional subjects on offer in Year 11.



## GCSE Options & Programme of Study

- ▶ However, the school will help to guide the programme of study which:
  - Best suits their academic ability.
  - Best suits their style of learning.
- ▶ This guidance will be based on the student's TRACK performance from Year 8 to Year 10 and on a CAT test taken previously. (**C**ognitive **A**bilities **T**est)



## GCSE Options & Programme of Study

- ▶ The majority of students will study at LEAST 9 GCSEs.
- ▶ Those who excel in Mathematics will have the opportunity to follow an ADDITIONAL GCSE course in Further Mathematics. (10 GCSEs)
- ▶ **The decision on the above will rest with the school.**



# Options Timeline

- ▶ **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> Jan** All **Year 10** Pupils introduced to the Options Process. **Timeline explained to pupils.**
- ▶ **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan** **Year 10** Options Booklet available on the St. Patrick's Grammar School Website along with short video links to all GCSE Subjects.
- ▶ **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan** **Year 10** Options booklet distributed to all Year 10s.
- ▶ **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> Jan** **Year 10** Options Afternoon – Parents and students have the options process outlined and then visit the subject stalls in the school canteen: 4pm start.
- ▶ **Fri 26<sup>th</sup> – Mon 29<sup>th</sup> Jan** **Year 10** Students make a **Free Choice** within some Areas of Study.
- ▶ **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb** Students make choices within the limitations of **timetable blocks.**



# Options Timeline

- ▶ **Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> – Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Feb** Academic Review Days (ARD) – Year 10 Parents have the opportunity to discuss Academic & Pastoral progress & GCSE choices with their son's Form Teacher.
- ▶ **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb** **Year 10 Parent Teacher Meeting.** (Via School Cloud) Another opportunity to discuss GCSE choices.
- ▶ **Thur 29<sup>th</sup> Feb-Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Mar** Students make amendments to choices following discussion at home.
- ▶ **Wed 4<sup>th</sup> March** The process ends for now.
- ▶ **Early June** Opportunity to make final amendments. (If approved)  
Year 10 Students informed of their Maths Class for September.



# Types of Qualifications offered by SPGS

## GCSEs

**GCSEs** (General Certificate of Secondary Education) are subject-based academic qualifications. Students study towards GCSEs at secondary school in Northern Ireland over a period of two years, usually in Year 11 and 12.

## Occupational Studies

**Occupational Studies** allows learners to learn for work, through work and about work, and it provides the potential for this learning to take place in out-of-class contexts. This hands-on approach is ideal for those who prefer to develop their skills in a more practical, **occupational** environment.

## BTECs

**BTEC** stands for the Business and Technology Education Council. BTECs are specialist work-related qualifications. They combine practical learning with subject and theory content.



# Types of Qualifications offered by SPGS

## Personal & Social Effectiveness

**Personal & Social Effectiveness (PSE)** is key for inspiring confidence and equipping learners with the skills and qualities they will need for the complexities of learning, work and life. This qualification covers three skills-based units: • Developing myself and my performance • Working with others • Problem solving

Learners can achieve a certificate by completing a fourth unit, Delivering a project, linked to a topic the learner has covered in one of the three skills-based units.

## Prince's Trust

Personal Development and Employability Skills Qualifications The **Prince's Trust Award**, Certificate and Diploma in Personal Development and Employability Skills (PDE) recognises a breadth of personal skills, qualities and attitudes required by employers across a range of sectors.





# Options:

## GCSE OPTIONS - 2024

SUBJECT	MY CHOICES
Maths	1. Maths
English Language English Literature	2. English Language 3. English Literature
RE	4. RE
Language ( <i>Highly Recommended</i> ) (French / Irish)	5. _____
<b>Choose one:</b> Double Award Science (If DA Science is chosen it must be choice 7 also) Single Award Science Applied Science OCN	6. _____
Art & Design Business Studies Business Communication Systems Construction PSE (formally CoPE) Digital Tech – Programming Double Award PDE (Prince's Trust) Double Award Science Engineering Geography Government & Politics History Home Economics: Food & Nutrition ICT (OCN) Learning for Life & Work MVRUS Moving Image Arts Music <i>*Occupational Studies (see list below)</i> Physical Education Preparation for Adult Life (PAL) Technology & Design Travel & Tourism BTEC	7. _____ 8. _____ 9. _____
PE (non-exam)	PE

### \* Occupational Studies:

1. Carpentry & Joinery / Bench Joinery (*Construction*)
2. Manufacturing Techniques – Sheet Metal / Hand Fitting (*Engineering*)
3. Patisserie & Baking / Contemporary Cuisine (*Home Economics*)
4. Sports Leadership / Running a Leisure Event (*PE*)
5. Plumbing and Tiling (*Technology & Design*)



This is the initial options sheet that will be given to all Year 10 students to make their provisional GCSE Subject Choices

# GCSE Options

- please see the last few pages of the Options Booklet



## Choosing GCSE Subjects

Your GCSE subject options will be firmly in your sight now you're in Year 10.

We all struggle with choices. So what should you think about when choosing GCSE Subjects?

Here's a few pointers:

### 1. Let the choices be yours

You may have already found that many people will have opinions about your choices. You'll receive advice from parents and teachers - do listen but in the end go for what you'd like to do.

You may also have friends suggesting you do the same subjects as them - choose for yourself.

Ultimately we suggest you choose subjects that you will enjoy. Remember - you will be studying it for the next two years!

Further down the line when workload is heavy you'll appreciate enjoying a subject and looking forward to rather than dreading lessons. It also means you will probably work harder in it and get a higher grade.

It's very easy to then talk yourself out of taking a subject you love.

Instead ask "Why not?".

Look at both the content of the course and the skills required, and decide if you're interested in the things you will be learning about and whether you can build on the skills you will use.

### 2. Work out what GCSE subjects are compulsory

In some subject areas there is no choice at all.

**This provides useful general pointers to follow when choosing GCSE Subjects with your son.**

## In summary:

Please help your son using the following:

1. Advice given by teachers – Careers, Subject & Form
2. Track reports Year 8-10
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 GCSE choices will be the best choices and will propel them through Year 11 & 12 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:

Mrs C. Gallagher: Head of Year 10

Mr C. Scullion: Head of Careers

Mr McAlary: Curriculum Vice-Principal



# Evaluation:

## EVALUATION

### Year 10 Options Afternoon

As part of a curriculum review process at St. Patrick's Grammar School we would like to gauge parent/guardian views on student's transition from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4. We would appreciate if you could take a few minutes to fill in the following questionnaire. Please leave the completed questionnaire in the boxes provided – **one at the door of each hall and one at the main door of the school** or **alternatively return to a member of staff.**

Thank you in advance.

Tick as appropriate

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
Year 10 Options evening was worthwhile and informative					
I am aware of the GCSE subject options available for my son at St Patrick's Grammar School					
I am aware of the timeline for choosing GCSE subjects					
St Patrick's has met the curricular needs of my son as he enters KS4 and starts GCSEs					

**Many thanks for taking the time to fill in the questionnaire.**

Signed (optional)

.....

Student Name & Class (Optional)

.....



Please detach & complete the evaluation of this afternoon's Options Event after you have visited the subject stalls.

Please give to a member of staff upon completion.