

# YEAR 12 OPTIONS

## OUTLINING THE PROCESS



**St. Patrick's  
Grammar School  
Armagh**

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**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February, 4pm**

# AGENDA



St. Patrick's  
Grammar School  
Armagh

- **Introduction:**

Mr C. Devlin, Head of Year 12

- **Careers Information:**

Mrs C. Scullion, Head of Careers

- **Year 12 Options Process:**

Mr D. McAlary, Curriculum Vice-Principal



# INTRODUCTION

## MR C. DEVLIN: HEAD OF YEAR 12



St. Patrick's  
Grammar School  
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## 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.



# CAREERS INFORMATION

## MRS C. SCULLION, HEAD OF CAREERS



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We want to ensure the best choice for **all students** so that our boys achieve to their fullest potential. We also want students to enjoy their studies as seniors, picking courses that offer suitable progression.

### We do this through:

- Identifying individual student skills and strengths
- Highlighting potential career pathways (career planning)
- Matching student skills with opportunities (career research)
- Providing personalised advice and guidance based on each student's own abilities and preferences
- Keeping students informed about the labour market



# ROUTES

- A range of pathways and subject combinations are available to suit all students.
- We have a very good balance of academic subjects and coursework-based options.



# DECISIONS AFTER SCHOOL.....

- Keeping options open: All students should have a range of opportunities for progression.....
- Development of transferable skills, to meet changing labour market needs.



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**“QUALIFICATIONS  
ARE EASILY CARRIED  
SON”**

# THE PROCESS.....

**Mr D. McAlary**

**Curriculum Vice-Principal**



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# OPTIONS BOOKLET:



**St Patrick's  
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**INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE  
A-LEVEL STUDENTS**

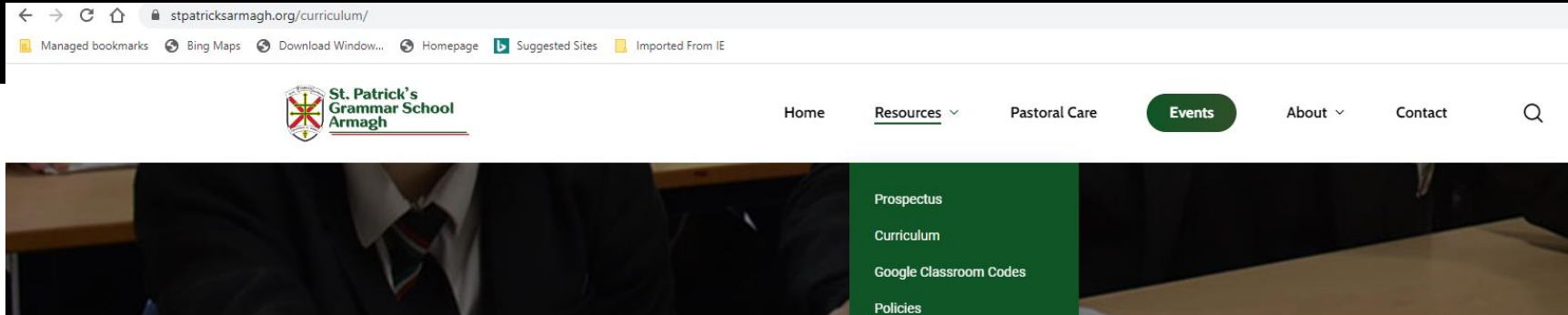
**2023/2024**

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:

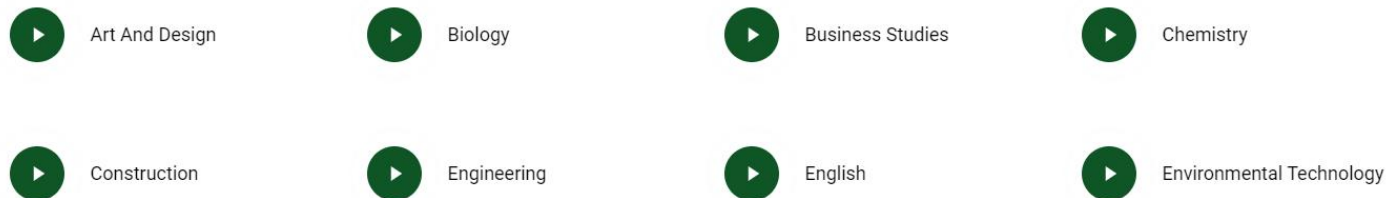
[www.stpatricksarmagh.org](http://www.stpatricksarmagh.org)

# SCHOOL WEBSITE:



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.



This is the St. Patrick's website which has 20 videos summarising Post-16 Subjects on offer.

It is available on the school website:

[www.stpatricksarmagh.org](http://www.stpatricksarmagh.org)

# POST-16 OPTIONS



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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 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 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



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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



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## 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



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- The 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 is based around consultation with the student and parent/guardian.**



# OPTIONS TIMELINE



St. Patrick's  
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- **Friday 19th Jan**                      **Year 12** Options booklet updated.
- **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan**                      **Year 12** Options booklet & Post-16 Subject videos available on the school website.
- **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> Jan**                        **Year 12** Options Booklet distributed & Options timeline explained.
- **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> 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



St. Patrick's  
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- **Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> – Fri 9<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> – Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb** Students make a **Free Choice** within various areas of study.
- **Mon 26<sup>th</sup> – Fri 28<sup>th</sup> Feb** Students make choices within the limitations of **timetable blocks**.
- **Mon 4<sup>th</sup> – Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Mar** Students make amendments to choices following discussion at home.
- **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> Mar** The process ends for now.
- **Summer 2022** Opportunity to make final amendments after GCSE results. (If approved)





# TYPES OF POST-16 QUALIFICATIONS OFFERED



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## **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.

## **BTECs:**

Examination and coursework-based specialist work-related qualifications.

## **Cambridge Technical:**

Designed with the workplace in mind. These provide a high-quality alternative to A-Levels, supporting progression to higher education. Examination and Coursework based.

# AS LEVEL OPTIONS & CHOICES 2024

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

The following AS subjects will be offered from September 2024:

• Applied Business	• Health & Social Care
• Art & Design	• History
• Biology	• Irish**
• Business Studies	• IT Cambridge Technical Award Level 3
• Chemistry	• Mathematics
• Construction (BTEC)	• Moving Image Arts*
• Creative Media Production (BTEC)	• Music
• Digital Technology	• Physics
• Drama & Theatre Studies*	• RE*
• Engineering (BTEC)	• Software Systems Development
• English Literature	• Sports Science
• Environmental Technology	• Technology & Design
• French*	• Travel & Tourism
• Geography	
• Government & Politics	

\*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:

1<sup>st</sup> Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

3<sup>rd</sup> Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE SELECT A FOURTH AS SUBJECT FROM THE ABOVE LIST:

4<sup>th</sup> Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

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

# OPTION FORM



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# OPTION FORM

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

1<sup>st</sup> Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

3<sup>rd</sup> Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE SELECT A FOURTH AS SUBJECT FROM THE ABOVE LIST:

4<sup>th</sup> Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

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



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# IN SUMMARY:



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Please help your son using the following:

- Advice given by teachers – Careers, Subject & Form
- Track reports Year 11-12
- The Options Booklet – Hard copy & On-Line
- 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.**



# EVALUATION

## EVALUATION

### Year 12 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 4 to Post-16. 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 12 Options evening was worthwhile and informative					
I am aware of the Post-16 subject options available for my son at St Patrick's Grammar School					
I am aware of the timeline for choosing Post-16 subjects					
St Patrick's has met the curricular needs of my son as he completes his GCSE course.					

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

Signed (optional)

.....

Student Name & Class (Optional)

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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.

# THANKYOU!



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

- Mr Devlin: Head of Year 12
- Mrs Scullion: Head of Careers
- Mr McAlary: Curriculum Vice-Principal