



Banchory Academy

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January 2024

S3→S4 Course Choice for Session 2024/25

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Dear S3 Parent/Carer,

Rector: Judith Wight

S3 Pupils are now asked to choose their subjects for study in S4. The subject choice information has been shared with pupils via assembly, and with those parents able to attend our Pathways Evening. Pupils have been covering the choice process with their Guidance Teacher in PSHE lessons. Stuart Clark from Skills Development Scotland has presented to pupils, met with individuals and is available for advice. Subject staff will be outlining courses available in their departments and answering questions about course content. Due to our change in curricular structure pupils now have the opportunity to gain qualifications in seven subjects in fourth year at National level including English and Mathematics/ Applications of Mathematics.

You will receive your son/daughters report via Parents Portal on January 26th which will outline progress to date. All the information from the Pathways evening will be available via the school website. [Banchory Academy Learner Pathways website](#) contains all the details about each course offered and useful information regarding course content and progression. A wide variety of courses are available, including some wider achievement courses which are not currently taught in third year.

It is important that you discuss with your young person the course content before making final decisions about subject choice. We ask that pupils take time to consider their options and use the **My Word of Work** website to support their planning. Parents can use the website's Parents and Carers section, full of useful information and advice. A paper version of the choice form has been issued to pupils with FAQs. The online choice form will be made available for pupils to make their choices for S4, securely via Year Group Teams and the Pathways website. The online form itself can be used as a resource as it contains many helpful links.

Choices should be submitted on the online Microsoft Form by Thursday 1st February 2024. Pupils with transition meetings arranged with Guidance staff and ASL do not need to submit until after their meeting. Processing of options takes time, once all year groups have submitted their choice, I will be able to give information regarding classes to the Guidance Team.

Please take time to go through the available options and discuss with your son/daughter, if they require further support you can contact your child's Guidance teacher or myself for additional advice.

Yours faithfully,

Gill Bruce
Depute Rector – Curriculum