



Banchory Academy

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February 2024

Course Choice for Session 2024/25

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Rector: Judith Wight

Pupils are now asked to choose their subjects for study in S5&6. Pupils will be covering 'Post 16 Options' with their Guidance Teacher in PSHE lessons, and will receive information about the subject choice process. Subject staff will be outlining courses available in their departments and answering questions about course content. Pupils will be issued a paper form where they can discuss their choices with subject staff and staff will indicate agreement with their signature. You will be receiving your son/ daughter's progress report at the end of this month.

You are invited to attend a presentation on the choice process and the new asymmetric week on **Tuesday 20th February at 4.45pm in the Learning Plaza**. We are delighted to welcome colleagues from RGU hub to speak to us. The S5/6 Curriculum Guides will be available on the Learner Pathways website and in year group Teams, the site details each course available 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 S4. We now offer 4 **Foundation Apprenticeships** which offer teaching in school alongside work based learning in a weekly work placement. Parents are also invited to attend a joint webinar from SDS & National Parent Forum Scotland to learn more about how their child can get a head-start on their career with a Foundation Apprenticeship. This online event is on Thursday 22 February, 18.30 – 19.30. You can register for the event webinar with [this link](#).

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. Further information on Foundation Apprenticeships, College and University entrance can be found via the Learner Pathways website. The online choice form will be made available for students to make their choices for S5&6, securely via Year Group Team and Glow desktop, week beginning 26th February.

Choices should be submitted on the online Microsoft Form by Friday 1st March. Students with transition meetings arranged with Guidance staff and Mrs Ilska (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.

This year we have launched our [Learner Pathways website](#), which will be fully updated for S5/6 curriculum in the coming week. If your son/daughter requires further support you can contact your child's Guidance teacher or myself for additional advice.

Yours faithfully,

Gill Bruce
Depute Rector – Curriculum