

# BANBRIDGE ACADEMY



**Year 13 Parents' Information Evening  
2017**

## **Year 13: a year to set a solid foundation for A2 grades.**

- **AS grades secured in Year 13 contribute 40% of A2 grade**
- **AS modules can be repeated but only in June of A2 year**
- **Some high demand university courses ask for all A2 grades to be achieved in same academic year**
- **Challenging but realistic aspirations**
- **Monitor progress in each of their subjects**

# Year 14 Entry Criteria

- Pupils must have achieved in AS examinations during Year 13 **at least 3 D Grades OR scored a minimum of 7 points in GCE AS subjects only** (A = 5, B = 4, C = 3, D = 2, E = 1);
- Pupils must satisfy the Headmaster with regard to attitude behaviour and attendance (a satisfactory attendance rate would be 90%).

## **Note also that:**

- If a pupil achieves less than an E grade in a particular subject they may be precluded from studying the subject in Year 14;
- Late and Absence figures will be published to Employers!!!

# Options post A level

- University – traditional pathway; UK, CAO, EU, USA, Australia
- Further Education - HNC, HND, Foundation Degree
- Higher Level Apprenticeship – targeted qualification
- Seek employment

# Higher Level Apprenticeships

- **FE colleges and University of Ulster** [www.nidirect.gov.uk](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk)
- **Business & Professional Services (UU)**
- **Construction Engineering (Civil Engineering UU)**
- **ICT, Hospitality & Tourism ( FE & UU)**
- **Engineering**
- **Financial Services,**
- **Life Sciences**
- **Digital Marketing**
- **Childcare**
- **QUB: working with PWC to develop an HLA in Software Engineering with Digital Technology (2018 entry)**
  - **Apprenticeships of 4 year duration**
  - **Apprentices study for a *BEng* degree alongside employment**

# **PWC: School Leaver opportunities: Headstart Programme**

- 2 year HLA in: Assurance, Tax, Finance & Accounting
- **Client and internal project experience**
  - Nationally recognised professional qualification
  - Opportunity to reach same level as a graduate

## **Online assessments**

- Complete numerical, logical reasoning or verbal reasoning tests depending on the business area chosen. Tests sat again at the assessment day on paper and under supervision

## **Assessment day**

- Usually tests to measure numerical and logical reasoning or verbal reasoning skills; a written communication exercise and a group or individual exercise

## **Final interview**

- One-to-one interview with a partner or director from the business area selected. Opportunity to demonstrate passion, enthusiasm and empathy.

# PWC Headstart programme:

- Application and online test deadline for 2018 school leaver vacancies: **Friday 20th October 2017.**  
<https://www.pwc.co.uk/careers/school-jobs.html>
- **Open evenings:**  
Dungannon - 10 October  
Belfast - 12 October  
Both 6 pm – 8pm      Register on PWC website
- **Belfast Career Open Day:** 16 October, 10am-4pm  
Learn about the company, meet recent recruits, prepare for recruitment process. **Register on website.**
- **Learn more about PWC opportunities at:**  
<https://www.pwc.co.uk/careers/schools/ptzone.html>
- **Try out their Business Insight Week: summer of Year 13**
- **3<sup>rd</sup> October – Banbridge Academy**

## Higher Level Apprenticeships (continued)

- **KAINOS** – software company
  - Earn as you Learn scheme
- **Deloitte Brighstart Apprenticeship programme:**
  - Hands-on experience, mentoring, salary, training contract up to 5 years
  - Professional or business qualification
  - Audit, restructuring services, tax consulting, technology consulting [www.bdoni.com](http://www.bdoni.com)
  - **Norbroke Laboratories** – Applied Industrial Science in conjunction with SRC:
    - **Equivalent to Foundation Degree** [www.src.ac.uk/i3](http://www.src.ac.uk/i3)

**Individual windows for application: check dates online**



## Value added University pathways e.g.

- **PWC Flying Start Degree programme:**
- **Through QUB Management School: Business, Finance, Accounting and Economics courses**
- £5,000 bursary to selected students + 3 paid placements with PWC
  - **Also at** Newcastle, Nottingham & Reading Universities
  - Chartered Accountant qualification and job security
- **BDO Scholar programme**
  - BSc Hons Accounting at **QUB or UU**
  - Bursary awarded to 2 accountancy students for duration of degree (+ mentoring and placements at BDO)
  - (Higher Level Apprenticeship –via SRC or BMC)

# Why Higher Education?

- Chance to study a subject they are passionate about.
- Achieve a qualification that will lead to their chosen career.
- Gain confidence, independence, and important life skills that will widen their prospects.
- Experience life away from home
- Making lifelong friends.
- Many employers target graduates
- Higher earning potential

# UCAS application

- Research university courses and locations
- Possibility of a placement? – employer contact
- Check Entry profile – on track for this?
- Prerequisite subject(s) ?
- Select up to 5 courses and await offers/rejections
- Conditional firm (preferred choice)
- Conditional insurance (back up course)

# UCAS grades and tariff points

A2 Grade	Tariff points
A*	56
A	48
B	40
C	32
D	24
E	16

- AAA= 144 UCAS tariff points
- ABB = 128 UCAS tariff points

## Preparation for UCAS application

### February/March 2018

- Consideration of all options which match their career aspirations – keep options open
- Annotated copies of personal statements
- Annotated copies of completed UCAS application forms – **Google Classroom**
- Individual guidance to assist with career pathway
- **June 2018** – UCAS workshops to complete most of the application form

# UCAS application deadlines

- Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Oxbridge: School deadline **mid September**
- Remaining applications - school deadline **mid October**
- Application forms must be completed with the utmost care
- Competitive applications – Personal statement

# Personal Statement – begin in Year 13

- A pen portrait of the applicant
- Courses and reasons for choice
- Opportunity to show enthusiasm for courses and knowledge of chosen profession
- Activities in and outside school used to illustrate personal skills & qualities – employability skills applicable to chosen career pathway
- Can make them ‘stand out form the crowd’

# Work Shadowing

- **12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> February 2018**
- **Pupil's opportunity to research a career pathway which they are considering**
- **Start the search early – places fill up quickly**
- **Make use of personal contacts and school data base**
- **May need to 'book' a placement with Charter**
- **Indemnity and parental permission must be completed and returned to school before the end of December**



## **Graduate prospects [www.highfliers.co.uk](http://www.highfliers.co.uk)**

- **The number of graduates hired by the top 100 graduate employers rose by 1.6 % in 2016 (3.3% in 2015)**
- **Top employers to expand graduate recruitment by a further 4.3% in 2017, for fifth consecutive year**
- **6 out of 13 employers in key industries – expecting to take on more new graduates than in 2016**
- **Just 8 of UK's leading employers have opted to reduce graduate recruitment in 2017 due to uncertainty of Brexit**
- **Employers actively marketing their 2017 graduate vacancies at an average of 20 UK universities**