



BANBRIDGE ACADEMY

YEAR 10

GCSE Options

2019

How can we make these decisions easier?

- Pupils are encouraged to make their choices by carefully considering:
 - their interest in and enjoyment of the subject
 - their ability in each subject
 - future subject requirements
 - possible career pathways

SOURCES OF CAREERS INFORMATION

- Employability classes
- Subject choice book & Careers library
- Google Classroom: code oug5wxp
- Subject teachers
- Parents & friends
- Employers
- www.nidirect.gov.uk – Choosing a career – Career ideas
14-19 year olds: matching interests, skills and values with career options

G.C.S.E

- Requires consistent effort, both in school and at home
- Most subjects include a Controlled Assessment component.
- Final grades very important: used by employers and some universities to select applicants

SUBJECT CHOICE

All students must study nine subjects to include:

- English language & Literature (2)
- Mathematics (1)
- Modern language (1)
- Science (Double Award or 3 separate)
- Free choice of 2/3 Additional subjects.

Science Options

- **Double Award - (2 grades)**
 - very good preparation for AS/A2 Level sciences
 - study of sciences at A Level still possible
 - Allows greater flexibility: 3 additional choices
- **Triple Award – (3 individual grades)**
 - excellent preparation for AS/A2 Level sciences
 - 2 additional GCSE choices

If in doubt

- **Select subjects which keep options open until after GCSE**
- **A balance of Science and Arts subjects can enable pupils to achieve this flexibility**
- **Check university entrance criteria:**

www.whatuni.com

Career exploration is an on-going process: future pathway choices may change many times

Points to remember

- **GCSE Further Mathematics** : desirable if wishing to study A Level Mathematics
- **Physical Education**: includes both written and practical work
- **Digital Technology**: more general; focused on end user IT skills
- **OR - Computer Science**: particularly suited to those who enjoy developing computer software problem solving & who have performed well in Python programming
- **Religious Studies**: - short course, with option of extending to full course in Year 12

New GCSE Grading

Current CCEA Structure

Phased out by 2019

A*
A
B
C
D
E
F
G

New CCEA Structure

First award from summer 2019

A*
A
B
C*
C
D
E
F
G

9-1 Structure

Awarded from 2017

9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1

New GCSE Grading

Numerical Grade (English Awarding Body)

9

8

7

6

5

4

3

2

1

CCEA equivalent grade

A*

A

A

B

C*

C

D

E

F,G

CHOOSING WISELY

**My friend John is doing.....,
so I'll do it too".**

**"I'm not doing..... as the teacher
makes us work too hard".**

**"I'm choosing as it is an easier
subject".**

GCSE choices are important

- **Form the basis for potential A Level choices**
- **Must be declared on all application forms**
- **Are considered a good indicator of future educational performance**
- **Used by employers as an indicator of employee potential**

Employment opportunities are changing

- New technologies replace the old, new occupations and jobs are created and others disappear
- Future (predicted) job opportunities in NI:
 - ICT/Programming
 - Creative and digital media
 - Agri -food sector
 - Business & financial services
 - Advanced manufacturing & engineering
 - Renewable energies and recycling
 - Health & life sciences

Equipping our children with the skills to prepare them for this changing landscape is crucially important

How has our economy changed?

Some examples:

- In 2001 - 2015 800,000 UK jobs lost to automation
- 3,500,00 UK jobs created by automation. By 2030 an estimated 5% of all UK jobs (1.9M) will be related to robotics
- By 2030, up to 9% (3.3M) of all labour demand could be in occupations created by automation that don't yet exist
- *(Knowledge Economy report 2018)*

Wider employability Skills are essential to securing employment

- Problem solving
 - Team working
 - Initiative
 - People management
 - Critical thinking
 - Good communication
 - Commercial awareness
 - Professional attitude
-
- Over half of graduate employers would be unlikely to recruit a candidate who had no work experience

Return of subject choice forms: Friday 22 March to Form teacher

- www.mycareer.org.uk
- www.nidirect.gov.uk GCSE subject choices advice (YouTube video)
- www.nidirect.gov.uk Options after Year 12
- www.wheretheworkis.org (NI statistics)
- www.whatuni.com