

BANBRIDGE ACADEMY



Year 12

A Level Option Choices

2019

OPTIONS AT THE END OF YEAR 12

- A Levels: the majority of our pupils take this route and proceed to Higher Education at end of Year 14
- Minimum of 4 B and 3 C grades to return
- At least grade B in the subjects they wish to study.

Additional pathways

- Vocational courses (FE) HND, Foundation Degree (can lead to Degree level)
- Apprenticeship programme – must have an employer; see www.nidirect.gov.uk
- Higher Level Apprenticeship – post A Level

CHOOSING SUBJECTS FOR A/AS LEVEL

Subjects they ENJOY.

- more inclined to work hard over the two year period

Subjects they have an APTITUDE for

- January results should be used to inform choices

Subjects which MUST be studied to keep career pathways open

www.whatuni.com

www.ucas.com

www.opendays.com

www.prospects.ac.uk

Pupil comments - choosing A-Levels

- 'Taking different A-Level subjects may have widened my university choices.'
- 'I should have chosen different A-Level subjects for the degree I want to study – research carefully.'
- 'I wish I had known that some universities have 'preferred' and 'non-preferred' A-Level subject combinations.'
- 'Choose subjects in which you can get the grades – not just because you need it.'
- Choose subjects you enjoy – not because others tell you to choose them



GCE A LEVEL

- For CEA examinations the course still consists of 2 sets of examinations
 - AS (Advanced Subsidiary) supports progression & encourage breadth
 - 40 % of final A Level grade
 - A2 - tests higher level skills
 - 60% of final A level grade
 - AS + A2 = A LEVEL
 - attainment in AS grades lays foundation for A2 grades



OPTIONS

- 3 A LEVELS
 - (3 AS + 3 A2)
- 3 A LEVELS + 1 AS
 - (4 AS + 3 A2) - desirable for some high demand courses
- 4 A LEVELS (4 AS + 4 A2)
 - for those who are very able; chosen by a minority of pupils
- A levels required for those wishing to pursue a Higher Level Apprenticeship

Subject Choices



- Choose three or four subjects
- Pupils should select a reserve choice – in the unlikely event of a timetable clash.
- Must choose a minimum of three subjects
- Enrichment programme: important for development of Employability Skills

CAREERS GUIDANCE



- careers teachers / subject teachers / parents & friends / employers
- University visits/presentations
- Banbridge Academy Higher Education & Careers Fair
- Work Shadowing: February Year 13
- Google Classroom code: k6s47wr
- UCAS Workshops – end of June Year 13

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

Take an active interest in:

- academic progress, extra-curricular activities & Work Shadowing
- be positive in your support
- enquire about Careers information posted on Google Classroom
- subject choices form to their Form teacher by **Friday 22 March**

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

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

Useful websites

- www.nidirect.gov.uk How to choose your A-Levels (u tube)
- www.nidirect.gov.uk Career ideas 14-19 year olds
- www.nidirect.gov.uk Connect to Success NI
- www.university.which.co.uk : where could A-Levels take you?
- www.wheretheworkis.org (NI statistics)
- www.whatuni.com