# **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 <a href="www.nidirect.gov.uk">www.nidirect.gov.uk</a>
- 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)

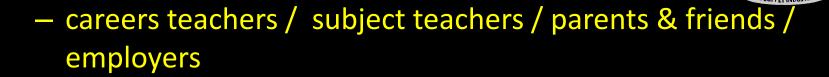
- 3 A LEVELS + 1 AS
  - (4 AS + 3 A2) desirable for some high demand courses
- 4 A LEVELS (4 AS + 4 A2)
  - for those who are very able; chosen by a minority of pupils
- A levels required for those wishing to pursue a Higher Level Apprenticeship

# **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**



- 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 <u>Friday 22 March</u>

## 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 Critical thinking

Team working Good communication

Initiative
 Commercial awareness

People management
 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