



BANBRIDGE ACADEMY

YEAR 10
GCSE Options
2020

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 wi4xkve
- Subject teachers
- Parents & friends
- Employers
- www.nidirect.gov.uk – Education – 11-19: your learning and career options

G.C.S.E

- Requires consistent effort, both in school and at home
- Most subjects include a Controlled Assessment component.
- Final grades are 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 sciences)
- 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 and university prospectus
- Career exploration is an on-going process: future pathway choices may change many times – build in flexibility through choices

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

GCSE Grading

Numerical Grade (English Awarding Body)	CCEA equivalent grade
9	A*
8	A
7	A
6	B
5	C*
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	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

- GCSE grades will determine A Level choices at the end of Year 12
- 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

Top growth sectors NI (2018-2028)

- New technologies replace the old, new occupations and jobs are created and others disappear
 - **Professional, scientific & technical**
 - **Science & technology** – will provide most job opportunities over the coming decade
 - Information & communication
 - Health & social work
 - Manufacturing
- Currently the largest supply gaps are recorded in Computer Science, Civil Engineering & Information Systems**
- There will be growth opportunities for all skill levels across a range of sectors – the focus will be predominately on higher level skills**

Top 10 disciplines in demand
(NI Skills Barometer 2018-28)

• **More graduates needed with degrees in:**

- Engineering & Technology
- Mathematical & Computer Sciences
- Physics & Environmental Sciences
- Historical & Philosophical Studies
- Languages
- Creative Arts & Design
- Business & Financial Studies
- Mass communication & documentation
- Agricultural Sciences
- Biological Sciences

Wider employability Skills are essential to
securing employment

- Problem solving
 - Critical thinking
 - Leadership
 - Team working
 - Initiative
 - People management
 - Relevant Work experience – one of the most important factors looked for by employers
- Time management
 - Organisation
 - Good communication
 - Leadership
 - Commercial awareness
 - Professional attitude

**Return of subject choice forms:
Friday 20 March to Form teacher**

▪ www.whatuni.com

▪ www.ucas.com

▪ www.nidirect.gov.uk GCSE subject choices advice (YouTube video)

▪ www.economy-ni.gov.uk -search for NI Skills Barometer 2019