

## BANBRIDGE ACADEMY



Year 12  
A Level Option Choices  
2020

### 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
- Increases pathway choices open to pupils
- 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](http://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](http://www.whatuni.com) [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

[www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)

Year 12 Careers Google Classroom: q5jxg2o

### 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’ A-Level subject combinations.’
- ‘Choose subjects in which you can get high grades – not just because you need them.’
- Choose subjects you enjoy – not because others tell you to choose them



### GCE A LEVEL

- For CCEA examinations the course 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 and thus play a significant part future career options



### 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
- Must choose a minimum of three subjects
- Pupils should select a reserve choice – in the event of a timetable clash.
- 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: Wednesday 16 September 1.00-4.30pm
- Work Shadowing: February Year 13
- Google Classroom
- UCAS Workshops – end of June Year 13

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

## 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 20 March**

## Useful websites

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/>

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/education-14-19-year-olds>

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/options-after-year-12>

[www.whatuni.com](http://www.whatuni.com)

<https://www.qub.ac.uk/Study/Undergraduate/>

<https://www.ulster.ac.uk/study/undergraduate>

[www.informedchoices.ac.uk](http://www.informedchoices.ac.uk)

<https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-skills-barometer-2019->

[update](#)