

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
- 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.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
 - 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

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

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

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

www.informedchoices.ac.uk

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