

Welcome to Year 10 Pathways Day

15 February 2019

St. Patrick's

Grammar School



A De La Salle School



Year 10 GCSE Pathways Day

Important Choices

- It is time to make important choices that will impact on your future
- Today is part of a process designed to enable you to make informed choices about your future learning
- The choices you make now will influence your future pathway, so they need to be well thought out
- We carried out an initial trawl to get an idea of student thinking
- Subject teachers have talked about the nature and demands of their subject
- You should talk to universities and employers





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Information for Parents

- There is considerable change in education at present: A Level specifications have been re-drafted and began in September 2016 – our Year 10 will be the sixth cohort of the revised specifications in September 2021 – by then there could be more change!
- Similar changes are occurring at GCSE – Year 10 will be the third cohort of the revised specifications – the current Year 12 will be the first cohort awarded grades
- The changes at GCSE are less dramatic, but CCEA have said there will be fewer A* grades – more details at our Year 11 Induction Evening in September
- English Awarding Bodies will report GCSEs in grades 9-1
- English specifications are linear – all exams at the end
- NI and Wales have retained A*-G (9 grades) as the grading system, with C* introduced in 2019 to line up the different systems
- To avoid confusion most NI schools offer CCEA courses, where CCEA offer a course, with minor exceptions e.g. Computer Science
- CCEA courses are unitised – exams can be taken at the end of the first year of study with one resit opportunity – SPGS students take 6-9 modules depending on subject choices at the end of Year 11
- Some units will be available in January of Year 12 (January 2021)



Our GCSE Curriculum – September 2019

There are 4 compulsory GCSE subjects:

- English
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Religious Studies



Our GCSE Curriculum – September 2019

Students will select a minimum of 5 additional subjects from the list of optional subjects.

This is different from previous years and students will have greater choice in choosing their GCSE options.

Our aim is to match the curriculum to the pupil strengths, abilities and career aspirations.

To keep options open it is recommended that pupils follow a broad and balanced curriculum, especially if they do not know what they want to do in the future.

It is important that pathways are not blocked at this early stage

The viability of classes in any subject is subject to sufficient numbers opting for it.



Our GCSE Curriculum – September 2019

An Accelerated Pathway in Maths will be available as a 10th GCSE for those suitable for this pathway based on the criteria laid out by the Maths department earlier in the year – this pathway means that pupils have one less teaching period in both English and RE and these subjects are also taught at a faster pace.

Additional accelerated subjects will also be offered to ensure that our most able students are stretched and challenged

We will meet with each student and his parent(s) on to finalise the curriculum for September on 27 & 28 February and 1 March 2019 – Please make an appointment with Mrs Magorrian

We have provided a summary of KS3 results to help inform future discussions and pupils have been working on subject choices in Employability lessons.



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What Should I Ask my Teachers?

- On past performance, am I capable of getting a good GCSE grade in the subject?
- What is the subject about and what type of work is involved?
- How and when does assessment take place? More subjects now have modules at the end of Year 11. These contribute significantly towards the overall GCSE.
- What skills and attributes do I need to be successful?



Year 10 GCSE Options Day

Frequently Asked Questions

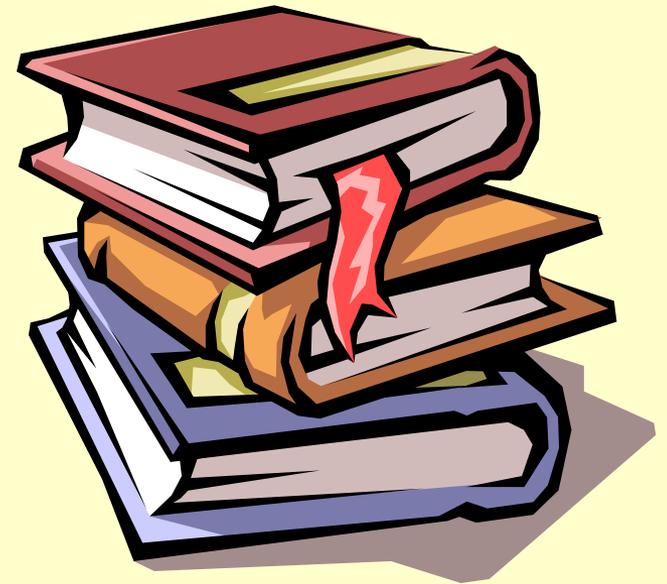
- Can I study two languages?
- Can I take two social sciences?
- Do I have to study all 3 sciences?
- What if I make a wrong choice?
- How much Controlled Assessment is there and when will I complete it?



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Qualities are needed for success

- Excellent attendance
- Positive attitude to work
- Commitment to study
- Interest in your subjects
- Excellent presentation skills
- Effective research skills
- 2 ½ hours of homework each night





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Making the Choice

At the Options Meeting, you will receive the final Options Form. These must be returned to Mrs Savage no later than

Friday 8 March 2019

Every effort will be made to accommodate your choice of subject after taking into account the demand for the subject, class sizes, timetable constraints and resource limitations.



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Finally...

- Year 10 students must successfully complete the Year 10 curriculum as determined by the Summer 2018 examinations.
- Pupils failing to do so will repeat exams in late June before proceeding into Year 11.
- The remainder of the session is an opportunity to talk to the many experts, both from our own staff and the wider educational and industrial communities to ask questions about careers and subject choices.