



Dalriada School

**Year 12 Parents Information
Evening for Internal Applicants
to Dalriada**

POST GCSE OPTIONS

28th February 2023

Panel

- Mr. T. Skelton, Headmaster
- Mr. J. Devlin, Head of Year 12
- Mrs. C. Kelly, Head of Careers
- Mrs. A Williamson, Head of 6th Form

Are 'A' levels the right choice?

- Why am I interested in studying A levels?
- Would I benefit from A levels?
- Do I really understand what is involved in A level study?
- Do my teachers think I should proceed in this subject?
- Do I know which AS/A2 levels I could study?

Entry criteria for Sixth Form

- Pupils must demonstrate that they have the potential to succeed in their chosen courses
- Their academic potential is assessed by their GCSE results
- We also consider school reports and their record of behaviour/attendance
- Minimum requirement normally is five subjects – at least three A*-B and two Cs.
- Pupils should have at least a grade C in English and Maths

Change the culture away from every Year 13 student starting on 4 AS subjects.

- This academic year:
 - **116** started on 4 AS subjects this figure is now at **53**.
 - **38** students started Year 14 in Sept 2018 with 4 A2's – this figure is now at **4**.

Research

1. Most schools reserve 4 AS subjects for a minority of students applying for specific courses. They certainly do not ask all Year 13 entries to start on 4 AS subjects.
2. The vast majority of Universities no longer require a 4th AS subject when deciding if a student is suitable for a course.
3. 3 Good A-Levels supported by a good application are now the best indicator of a student's suitability for an undergraduate course.
4. On average those students, who this year have dropped to 3 AS subjects have spent over 115 hours in a class that they will not get credit for.

Way forward....

1. We would expect students to select 3 AS subjects.
2. If they feel the need to select 4 subjects their application will be considered by a newly formed 6th Form Entry Panel.
3. Build in the usual flexibility to change in the Autumn Term.
4. If we can achieve it, increase the amount of curricular time to each A-Level subject.

Subjects offered at Dalriada School

- Accounting
- Art & Design
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Classical Civilisation
- Computing
- Design & Technology
- Engineering Btec
- English Literature
- Further Mathematics
- Health and Social Care
- Journalism in the Media and Communications Industry
- Moving Image Arts
- Music
- Physics
- French
- Geography
- German
- History
- Home Economics
- ICT
- Mathematics
- Religious Studies
- Spanish
- Performing Arts
- Sport Btec

New subjects (not requiring prior study at GCSE)

- Computing
 - a challenging subject, will require a very good grade at GCSE Full Course ICT
 - a good mathematical background is also required
- Classical Civilisation
 - no specific GCSE required, however History & English Literature provide a good background
- Business Studies
- Moving Image
- Btec Sport

Careers Education

Careers Education Year 10

- **LESSON 1 – INTRODUCTION TO CAREERS**

EDUCATION

- **LESSON 2 – THIS IS ME TODAY**

- **LESSON 3 – LOOKING AHEAD**

- **LESSON 4 – UNDERSTANDING WORK**

- **LESSON 5 – JOB FAMILIES & EMPLOYABILITY**

- **LESSON 6 – CAREER EXPLORATION**

- **LESSON 7 – FACT FINDING**

- **LESSON 8 – DECISION-MAKING & INFLUENCES**

- **LESSON 9 – CHOOSING GCSE SUBJECTS**

- **LESSON 10 – CHOOSING GCSE SUBJECTS CONTD.**

Careers Education Year 11

- Introduction to Careers Education and Personal Career Planning
- This is Me Now – Skills Assessment
- Employability Skills
- Target Setting
- Subjects & Qualifications
- The Job Market & Labour Market Information
- STEM Careers
- Working Environments
- Post 16 Opportunities
- Careers Research
- Marketing Yourself
- Recruitment and Selection
- Health and Safety in the workplace
- Trade Unions
- Global Opportunities
- Entrepreneurship
- Personal Career Planning
- Personal Statement

Year 11 Presentations

- Royal Navy
- Medicine (past pupils Dr J. Sterne & Dr S. Collins)
- Languages (Dr C. Moran, QUB)
- Electrical Engineering (past pupils working for Sensata)
- Chemistry-related careers (Almac)
- Law (past pupils D. Stinson & S. Robinson)
- Sport (J. Wilson, Ulster University)
- History (K. Hughes, Ulster University)
- Journalism (L. O'Neill, Ulster University)
- Business careers (Christie's Direct)
- CAFRE (L. Simpson)

Careers Education Year 12

- Introduction to Year 12 Careers Education and recap on Personal Career Planning
- Entrance to Sixth Form in Dalriada
- Choosing A level subjects
- Further Education / Apprenticeships
- Going to University – how to apply
- Higher Level Apprenticeships
- Researching universities
- Researching a chosen career path
- How to write a Personal Statement
- Preparing for Careers Interviews
- How to write a Curriculum Vitae
- Preparing for the Interview Process
- Gap Year
- Progress File updates
- Personal Career Planning

Year 12 Presentations

- Experience of work (Sentinus)
- Armed Forces careers
- PwC
- Engineering (NIE)
- Higher Level Apprenticeships
- A level choices
- Labour Market Information (Ulster University)
- NRC courses – post 16, post 18
- Ulster University

Preparation for Decision-Making

- Careers Education lessons Years 10, 11, 12
- Year 12 interviews with Vicky McCook from Careers Office
- Year 12 Careers Week (information from staff)
- Careers Presentation on A level choices and alternatives
- Year 12 Careers Fair – Ulster University – Fri. 10th March 2023
- Year 12 Parents Information evening tonight
- Year 12 Individual Guidance Interviews – Tues. 7th March 2023
- Year 12 Interview, Recruitment & Selection Workshop day – March 2023 (TBC)

Making Decisions

- Individual Careers Interviews – Tuesday 7th March 2023
- Indicate preferred pathway for next year
- Grade / subject requirement – GCSE achievement is very important
- Career Progression
- Consider:
 - The subjects you are interested in
 - Your abilities, aptitudes & skills
 - How open you want to keep your career options
 - Which A level / Btec subjects are open to you

Where will my qualifications take me?

- Whether you select A levels or a Btec next year, following GCSEs, there is a wide range of qualifications available.
- Some have specific requirements, some do not:

Semi-vocational Degrees

- Accountancy – English & a B in GCSE Maths; no specific A levels although Maths useful – also Business Studies.
- Actuarial Science – English & a B in GCSE Maths; A level Maths required.
- Architecture – Art GCSE preferred; Art and either Maths or Physics A level preferred.
- Law – no specific subjects.

Vocational Degrees

- Allied Health careers – one or two sciences required – check individual courses.
- Dentistry/Medicine/Veterinary Science – 3 sciences at GCSE; A level Chemistry plus at least one other from Biology, Maths or Physics (usually Biology).
- Nursing/Midwifery – Biology or Chemistry preferred at A level but not a requirement.
- Pharmacy – Chemistry plus at least one other from Biology, Physics or Maths.
- Social work – no specific subjects but relevant experience required.

Non Subject-specific Degrees

- Archaeology
- Business
- Criminology
- Drama
- Economics
- Environmental Planning
- Film Studies
- Finance
- History
- International Studies
- Philosophy
- Politics
- Sociology
- Theology

Subject-specific Degrees

- Biochemistry – Biology & Chemistry at A level
- Biological/Biomedical Science – Biology & Chemistry at A level
- Computer Science – Maths or Computing at A level (sometimes Physics)
- Engineering – Maths and normally either Physics or Technology A level
- Food Quality, Safety & Nutrition – Biology or Chemistry A level (preferably both)
- Genetics – Biology and Chemistry A level
- Marine Biology – Biology and preferably Chemistry A level
- Medicinal Chemistry – Chemistry A level
- Physics – Physics and Maths A level
- Product Design – Normally Maths and one of Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Technology A level
- Zoology – Biology and preferably Chemistry A level

Higher Level Apprenticeship

- Following A levels (or equivalent) – usually not very specific requirements but the interview is important.
- Offers the opportunity to gain quality training and a recognised higher qualification while in paid employment.
- Higher Level Apprenticeships (HLAs) currently offer you qualifications from Level 4 to Level 6 (Honours degree). The majority are at Level 5 (Foundation degree).

- The length of a Higher Level Apprenticeship will vary depending on the programme you choose, but will be a minimum of two years.
- Apply through companies who advertise HLAs they have available (well advertised, publicised through school where possible) – training provided usually one day per week.
- See <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/higher-level-apprenticeships>

Careers Guidance in the Sixth Form

- Careers Library
- Individual Careers Interviews
- Support throughout the university application process (UCAS/CAO/Oxbridge)
- Careers lessons through Tutorial programme
- Work Experience in Year 13
- Talks / presentations on a range of careers
- Mock Interview Evening & Interview workshops
- Careers Officers from Careers Service Ballymoney (Dept. for the Economy) available

What is Sixth Form like?

- New registration group & tutor – meet every morning.
- 3 or 4 subjects – 24 or 32 periods of contact time for taught AS subjects and additional study periods depending on timetable
- Tutorial – 1 period per week. Mental health, Study skills, Finance, University applications, Safe Driving, Interview skills, healthy eating.
- Games – 2 periods per week (range of options)
- Enrichment – approx. 2 periods per week (range of options which can add to CV/UCAS) – Mandarin, Wellbeing ambassadors, Volunteer Now, Call Push Rescue, Sign Language, ICDL.

What is Sixth Form like?

- Independent study in school – supervised study rooms, Sixth Form subject specific areas, library, Careers library
- Independent study at home – must be committed (20 extra hours)
- Extracurricular activities
- Duties & helping with school activities

Regular Review

- Class teachers will use a tracking system to ensure there is regular review in all subjects. This is reviewed by Head of Year.
- October – first review of all subjects. Contact with home if need be.
- Parents' Meeting - to meet all class teachers.
- January – internal exams – results reviewed and contact with home.
- Reports – to review all subjects
- February half term – review for pupils who underachieved in January examinations.
- Easter – final review across all subjects. Contact with home.

What is Sixth Form like?

- School leaders...

“The work of the Sixth Form leaders will allow them to learn how to effect positive change and take on roles of responsibility to prepare them for life beyond school.”

“Being a good role model is an important part of being a Sixth Form pupil. Our pupils are given the opportunity to develop their leadership skills and embody our school and Sixth Form values. Alongside their academic studies, students can become involved in activities which help to develop their creativity, communication and teamwork skills, as well as helping to embed resilience, excellence and independence.”

Leadership opportunities...

Peer Mentors

Sports' Captains

Science Leaders

Wellbeing Ambassadors

Library Leaders

Charity Leaders

Rotary Leaders

Year 8 Leaders

English/Maths Mentors

Student Council Leaders

CU Leaders

Pupil supervision leaders

Business Leaders

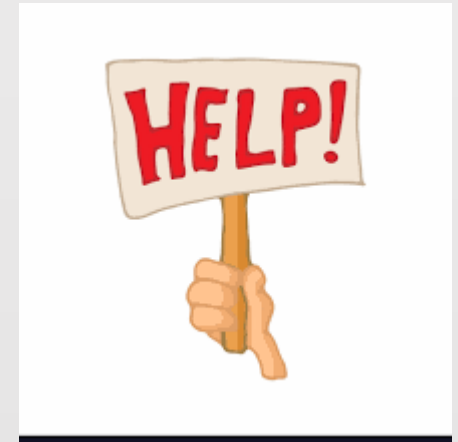
Art Club Leaders

Privileges

- Sixth Form do have a number of privileges – but with this comes greater responsibility
 - Uniform
 - Attendance
 - Punctuality
 - Behaviour
 - An example for the younger pupils
- Car parking

Who is there to help me?

- **Form teacher - every pupil is assigned a new Form Class**
- **Mrs Williamson - Head of Year**
- **Mrs Bolster Supervisor (B rooms)**
- **Mrs Kearney Supervisor (Gillan Centre)**
- **Ms Crawford (Pastoral VP)**
- **School Counsellor**
- **Wellbeing ambassadors**
- **Each other**



Resources

- Gillan Centre and B rooms
- Subject specific areas for Sixth Form independent study
- Private Study area with staff supervision
- ICT resources
- Social Area for use at lunch
- Careers area
- Library

Gillan Centre



B Rooms



Educational Maintenance Allowance

- EMA – means tested against household income
- Could receive up to £30 per week & £100 bonus twice a year
- Forms given out in May of Year 12 – your responsibility to complete ASAP
- Will receive letter confirming EMA & amount – must be brought into school

What needs to be done between now and the GCSEs

- Review of Mock exams, compare with targets set earlier in the year and evidence from tracking using Assessment Manager
- Have they discussed their target for each subject with you?
- Controlled Assessments – how have they done so far, what is left to do?
- A plan for the road ahead, 9 weeks to study leave, (FRIDAY 3RD May) 7 weeks of school.

GCSEs HAVE STARTED

2022-03-01	Tues	9.10am 10.20pm	Yr 12	39	GCSE Business Studies CA visit of Outside Speaker
2022-03-14	Mon	9.15am 3.30pm	Yr 12	14	GCSE Drama Visit of the Ext Moderator Venue : B5
2021-11-26	Fri	9.15am 11am	All Yr 12	129	GCSE English Exam Unit 1
2021-12-01	Tue	9.15am 11am	All Yr 12	129	GCSE English Exam Unit 4
2021-10-08	Fri	10.40am 12.55pm	All Yr 12	126	GCSE English Language Mock Examination: Unit 4 1hour and 45 minutes (Exam in Nov)
2022-02-24	Thu	10.40am 12.55pm	Yr 12	18	GCSE English Language Speaking and Listening Internal Moderation
2021-11-29	Mon	9.15am 11am	Yr 12 not (Yr12 FM)	79	GCSE Maths Exam
2022-02-08	Tue	9.10am 2.20pm	Yr 12	31	GCSE PE Activity Analysis Recordings:

What needs to be done between now and the GCSEs

- Parents can feel at a loss in this period up to exams. Be aware your active involvement can make an enormous difference.
- One of the biggest challenges is communicating the importance of these exams.
- At times it may be necessary to put a hold on short term fun in the interest of long term benefit.
- Need to curtail certain activities like part time work and love life!

What pupils need to consider

- Pupils should never say 'I have no work to do'.
- They should be completing an average of 2.5 hours per night.
- The key to exam success: 1. Learn content. 2. Revision. 3. Exam technique
- Pupils should know the exam, how long, number of papers, value of each.
- Deadlines.

What pupils need to consider

- At home, make sure pupils have a place to work, agree 'check ins' with your children to discuss where they are with their work.
- Know their learning style.
- Which revision strategy works best for them?
- Learn from past experience.
- Take advice.

In Conclusion

- Strike a balance.
- Aim High.
- Be aware of the support available.
- No substitute for hard work.
- Good luck!