



Ballyclare Secondary School

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Principal: Mrs K O Bell BA Adv Cert Ed PQH

10th January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

It is a pivotal time for our young people as they work towards completing their Key Stage 4 studies and consider their future options. As you are aware our 6th Form Options Process has already commenced; this was outlined at our Year 12 Parent Information Evening on 16th November. Following this event, pupils completed an initial subject survey, which we have used to start our curriculum planning for next year. As highlighted on that evening, some subjects may become unviable if there is insufficient interest.

As a result of the data collated from the initial pupil survey, unfortunately we are unable to offer the following courses next year: Performing Arts, Digital Technology, Food & Nutrition, Mathematics, Double Award Travel & Tourism and Chemistry. We understand that this will bring disappointment for some of our pupils. However, we would emphasise that there is usually more than one pathway to the career your child has chosen.

We have a number of processes in place to help guide your child as they decide on their next steps. Firstly, we would strongly encourage you and your child to attend the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Careers' Convention on 6th February at Mossley Mill. We have hosted this event, with Ballyclare High School, for many years and have worked with the council to open the event up to include other local schools. It is an informative and highly beneficial evening as you can chat to representatives from a wide range of Further and Higher Education establishments as well as many employers. Secondly, if your child is affected by the loss of one of these subjects and you would like some guidance, please call the school and we can arrange for your child to talk through their options with a member of the careers team.

In September 2024 we are pleased to be able to offer the courses listed below to Year 13 students.

Art & Design (GCE)

Biology (GCE)

English Literature (GCE)

French (GCE)

Geography (GCE)

Government & Politics (GCE)

Health & Social Care Single Award (GCE)

Health & Social Care Double Award (GCE)

History (GCE)

Life & Health Science (GCE)

Moving Image Arts (GCE)

Media Studies (GCE)

Music (GCE)

Professional Business Services (GCE)

Psychology (GCE)

Religious Studies (GCE)

Technology & Design (GCE)

Children's Play, Learning & Development (BTEC)

Sport Single Award (BTEC)

Sport Double Award (BTEC)

Travel & Tourism Single Award (BTEC)



A second pupil survey will take place in mid-February which will allow us to group these subjects into blocks. This survey will also provide the data needed for us to provide tailored careers guidance. Your child will be invited to attend a Pathways Interview in due course.

Finally, can we take this opportunity to wish your child well in the coming weeks as they complete Controlled Assessment and prepare for their important examinations.

Yours Sincerely



Mr J Rea (Vice Principal, Curriculum)



Dr H Flint (Senior Teacher, Learning & Teaching)