



St. Ninian's HIGH SCHOOL

Scoil Ard Noo Ninian

Our Ref: JWH/GF

27th November 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: Year 9 Options Process

Year 9 is an important and busy year for your child. There is a focus on developing the essential skills and good habits throughout this year to give them the best chances of success as they move into year 10. They are also faced with the process of understanding and selecting their optional subjects for Key Stage 4.

Subject staff have already begun sharing information about optional subjects either in assemblies or using screen casts which students can watch at school or at home. It is vital that all students are therefore present in assemblies and the tutorial periods, Wednesday lesson 1 each week, where this information will be shared. They also need to regularly check their tutor group Google Classrooms for any updates.

Detailed information about our courses will be available in January 2025. We will communicate with you again to confirm when this has been uploaded to the school website, so you can look at it with your son or daughter. An information evening for students and parents is scheduled on Wednesday 12th February 2025 when we will share information about the options process as well as the types of qualifications and pathways on offer. Our main Options Evening on Tuesday 11th March 2025, when students have the chance to speak to individual subject staff.

It is important to be aware that several courses have specific entry criteria, designed to guide students on to the most appropriate pathway. This may include criteria around attendance and punctuality, or the attainment of a minimum assessment grade. Some UCM courses require an entrance assessment or an interview. The pastoral team will be working with the year group to ensure that they understand the importance of these criteria in helping to get students on courses they will be successful studying. We would be grateful if parents could also discuss this with their children so they are aware that their attitude, attendance, behaviour and attainment throughout this year will have a direct impact on what courses are available to them.

During the remainder of the Autumn term students in Year 9 will sit an assessment in each of their subjects. These assessments are designed to mirror the style of the GCSE exams they would face in Key Stage 4, giving them a valuable opportunity to understand what these future assessments will look like should they continue with the subject. The results of these assessments will be reported to parents in the January Interim Report and will also help staff to guide students as they consider their option subject choices for the next academic year.

Continued/.....

Live to Learn
Learn to Live

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Class teachers will explain to the students when their assessment will take place, how the assessment will be structured and how best to prepare. Each assessment will take place under formal test conditions, just like future exams; class teachers will also be clear on what it means to be 'on task', ensuring students are clear about expectations. These assessments are an excellent opportunity for your child to start developing and practicing independent study skills, revision techniques, and to experience working under exam conditions.

There will be several opportunities over the coming months for you to meet with us and ask any questions that you may have, but in the meantime, if you have any immediate queries please do not hesitate to contact myself or Mrs Gelling via the SNHS enquiries e-mail snhsenquiries@sch.im

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J White', with a small flourish at the end.

Miss J White
Deputy Head Teacher