

## **Option Choices 2022-2023**

Dear Parent/Carer,

The option choice process, along with the collation of pupil choices, creation of classes and development of a new school timetable is a long and complex process. Last session we successfully moved the option choice process online and I wished to take some time to outline this process to you.

Option choice dates for each year group are outlined below and it is important that each of our young people adhere to these dates and **submit their forms in-line with their year groups closing date**. We understand that option choices are an important decision for each of our young people and they will be supported in making their choices in a number of ways:

- Discussions with Guidance Teacher through PSE
- Information sharing through year group assemblies
- Principal Teachers will be asked to share course information through their online channels (Satchel, TEAMS, GLOW etc)
- A list of useful websites can be found below to allow young people and adults to read about National Qualifications, course outlines and assessment structures.

### ***Dates for option choice completion***

Year group	Process to begin	Forms returned for
S3 moving into S4	07/01/22	14/01/22
S4 moving into S5	17/01/22	24/01/22
S5 moving into S6	25/01/22	01/02/22
S2 moving into S3	02/03/22	09/03/22

### ***Discussing options your child***

It is important that you spend time with your child/children to discuss their options and support them to make informed choices. The websites listed below will allow you to look at the course contents of each subject so they know what they will be learning in their chosen course. In addition to this, here are a few useful tips to support the option choice process:

### **Good reasons for making a choice**

- The young person has a natural ability in the subject. This doesn't necessarily mean it is their favourite (that's a bonus!) but they understand it and are successful studying it.
- Enjoyment plays a big part, if a young person is enthused and wants to study the subject then this can help as the subject becomes more challenging and complex.
- The young person should spend time thinking about what they may wish to study in the future and look at the qualifications needed to access a particular course. University and College websites can help with this.
- The same applies if they wish to move straight into a vocational course or employment.



### Poor reasons for making a choice

- Friendship is important in a young person's life but it is not a good reason to choose a subject. Classes with friends are not guaranteed, even if a subject is chosen in the same column.
- It is important that you have a say in your child's options but the choice must remain with them. Do not tell them they can or can't choose a subject, instead engage in a conversation with them and ask them to explain their choice(s) to you and how they reflect their future plans. Education is ever changing and the traditional notion of "Important" and "Less important" subjects is long gone.
- Young people can be drawn to a subject because it sounds exciting, however research is key!

### Useful external links for researching course choices

- The National Parent Forum of Scotland: This is a useful website which provides an overview of course content and assessment criteria. <https://www.npfs.org.uk/downloads/category/in-a-nutshell-series/highers-in-a-nutshell/>
- Scottish Qualifications Authority: Provides detailed overview of course specification, coursework, past papers etc. <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45777.html>
- Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework: Provides support to help you make sense of qualifications and plan the next move in your learning journey. <https://scqf.org.uk/support/support-for-individuals/support-for-secondary-school-learners/>

### Completion of the online form

A Microsoft form will be used as each year group's option choice form and will be issued to pupils on the "process to begin" dates given on the table previously. A link to the form will be shared on Satchel and TEAMS, pupils will click on the link and be redirected to the form. **The instructions at the top of each form must be read carefully** before a young person makes and submits their choices.

Other important points to note:

- The link will **only work when a pupil is logged in through their GLOW account**, this is to ensure the link cannot be used from people outside of Bishopbriggs Academy.
- **The form can only be submitted once** so it is vital that each young person takes time to read over the instructions and speaks with both their Guidance Teacher and an adult at home before submitting their form
- Each pupil has at least a week to complete their form so they should take time to:
  - Visit the websites listed previously
  - Look at the subject specific information shared by Principal Teachers online
  - Speak with an adult about their proposed choices
  - Speak with their Guidance Teacher if they have any questions or require further clarity

The submission of option forms to collation and creation of classes does take time and staff will be working hard to complete this process in a timely fashion. If there is an issue with a young person's option choices then the school will be in touch with pupils/parents/carers however if you do have a question in the interim then as always, you can contact your child's Guidance Teacher.

Kind regards,

Ian Donaghey  
Head Teacher