



## Information for Parents

### Welcome

Dear Parent / Guardian,

Over the next few weeks your son / daughter will be meeting with their Pastoral Teacher to discuss their options at the end of Fourth Year. I would like to take the opportunity in this letter to outline the various pathways available to your son / daughter at the end of S4.

I am hopeful that you will receive a wealth of information from your child, our school website and at our careers evening on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February. However, if you wish to speak to me directly regarding the options process please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

Yours sincerely,

P. Marshall  
Depute Head Teacher

Skills For  
Learning Life  
and Work  
DYW

### Staying on in School

The majority of pupils will want to continue their education into a fifth year within St. Ninian's High School. There are many pathways open to pupils who make this decision which will be highlighted in this letter. Please follow the advice within this letter and speak to your son / daughter's Pastoral Support Teacher should you wish any further information. **Please return the white options form to your son / daughter's Pastoral Teacher as soon as you have completed it.**

### What to study in S5?

With a wide range of subjects on offer it is easy to get confused. That is why it is important to be fully informed during the options process. Following the guidelines over the page will help students make fully informed choices about their future which, in turn, will lead to a more productive fifth year in school.

Employability



Thinking





### Staying on in School Continued...

Before choosing any options it is important that the young people speak to their parents about potential choices. They should also speak to any siblings who have been through this process and arrange some time to meet subject specialist teachers. This will allow pupils the opportunity to discuss potential pathways in S6 as well as links to employability.

St Ninian's High School works very closely with Skills Development Scotland (SDS). Should you feel a meeting with an SDS worker would be suitable during the options process we can arrange this via the Pastoral Support Teacher.

Our School website offers up-to-date information about the courses on offer within departments; please spend time looking at the individual sub-sites with your son / daughter before they meet with their Pastoral Support Teacher:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/StNinians>

When choosing options for Fifth Year please also consider the following:

- Young people should choose their 'five best' subjects which will act as a platform for success at the end of fifth year.
- It is important to bear in mind the demands that a Fifth Year curriculum can bring. Therefore please consider the **level of the course when making options**. Pupils will have results from their preliminary examinations by the time they are completing the options; these will be used during discussions with the Pastoral Teacher.
- It is important to consider future career pathways. As mentioned previously there is a vast store of knowledge via the school website, SDS and school staff as well as our Careers Evening which will be held on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February**.

### Skills For Learning Life and Work DYW

Employability



Leadership



Digital Learning



Creativity





## Information for Parents

### Staying on in School - Courses

The majority of pupils will follow five school-based subjects in Fifth Year. Some pupils may want to consider a Vocational Option in S5. The vocational courses offered by our College Partners and East Renfrewshire Council allow pupils to continue to add to their qualifications as well as develop the skills necessary for future employment.

All vocational options are subject to an application by the young person. There are set entry requirements and some courses do not start until later in the term. If your son / daughter wishes to study a vocational option in Fifth Year they should still **choose five school based subjects** as well as identifying which vocational course they would like to apply for in August 2019. The 2019-20 Vocational Booklet can be accessed here:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/vocational/>

### Leaving School at the end of Fourth Year

If your son / daughter is 16 on , or before, the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 they may eligible to leave school at the end of Fourth Year. If their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday is after this date they may be eligible to leave at the Christmas of S5.

If your son / daughter is intending on leaving school they should make their Pastoral Teacher aware of this as a **matter of urgency**. We will work with each young person to ensure they are best equipped to make a positive post school transition into College or Employment.

Please continue to follow our Developing Scotland's Young Workforce Website for up to date information about employment opportunities in the local area.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/snhscareers/>

## Skills For Learning Life and Work DYW

Thinking



Employability



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### Useful Information

I hope that you have found the information in this letter to be of use for the upcoming S4 into S5 Options Programme. As mentioned previously, if you wish to discuss any matter relating to your son / daughter please do not hesitate to contact myself at the school.

Please continue to check our website and social media platforms for daily updates about events happening in the school and local community.

To access SQA Information (Study leave / Exam Timetable):

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/StNinians/information/sqa/>

S4 Website:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/s4website/>

School Calendar:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/StNinians/school-calendar-2018-19-3/>

School Plan (Year 3)

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/StNinians/files/2018/10/School-Plan-16-19-Year-3-18-19-pdf.pdf>

Pupil Standards and Quality Report

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/StNinians/2018/10/25/pupil-standards-and-quality-overview/>

Yours sincerely,

P. Marshall  
Depute Head Teacher

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Creativity



Employability



HWB

