



Lourdes Secondary School
47 Kirriemuir Avenue
Cardonald
Glasgow G52 3DF
Phone 0141 582 0180
Fax 0141 582 0181

Head Teacher
Gerry McGuigan MA(Hons)

Dear Parent / Carer,

Given the current situation in response to the coronavirus there will inevitably be a delay to when S4 pupils will make final choices on their pathways beyond S4. Nonetheless it has been decided by the school to begin the process of working towards making this choice by asking all S4 pupils to complete and submit an electronic 'draft' pathways form.

This will be an early indicator as to which pathway your child, at this point, has an interest in pursuing at the end of this session. For those staying on for S5, it is an opportunity to identify the subjects they are interested in studying and at what levels.

The final choice, which may well be different, will be made at a later stage when additional information has been issued. This additional information will relate to performance and progress in each subject currently being studied in S4 with subsequent levels and grades likely to be achieved. The pathways beyond S4 ordinarily open to our young people are:

- Return for a Fifth Year
- Continue studies at college
- Secure employment; includes modern apprenticeships and other training schemes.

In deciding upon the reasons behind pursuing one of these pathways, it is important to consider the interests and circumstances of each individual young person.

For those returning for a fifth year, five subjects are to be chosen from those currently being studied in S4. The levels of study ordinarily open to S5 pupils are National 5 and Higher. Details of each of these levels are given by the SQA on page nine and ten of the following document available online:

https://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/Guide_to_Scottish_Qualifications.pdf

The rationale when choosing subjects for study in S5 is focused on progression and challenge. Progression meaning that young people continue to advance their study in subjects that they have already undertaken in S4; challenge meaning that young people opt for those subjects that will afford them the best opportunity to achieve at the highest levels open to them. For most pupils this means their strongest subjects.

The electronic form to be completed and submitted for this exercise will be posted on your child's relevant Teams on Wednesday 24th February and to be completed by Wednesday 3rd March.

Information concerning the timeline for making final choices will be shared as soon as it becomes available.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Carroll, DHT

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