

Future Pathways Information Evening

*Question and Answer Report*

Our Future Pathways Information Evening took place virtually this year via Microsoft Teams. Thank you to all parents and pupils who attended and submitted questions. In this document we have included the link to the Future Pathways resources on our school website and have typed up written responses to all of the questions that were asked on the evening, organised into categories for your convenience.

If you have any questions at all please contact Mr Richardson- Principal Teacher of Skills and Achievement- gw12richardsonjack@glow.sch.uk

Resources link- <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/gc/hillheadhigh/2020/11/13/future-pathways-evening/>

**S6 Questions- Subject Choice, Part- Time College, Foundation Apprenticeship**

**Question**

How many Advanced Highers and Crash Highers are we allowed to take next year, and what is the recommended ratio?

**Answer**

S6 pupils at Hillhead High choose 4 subjects which can be a mixture of Advanced Highers, Highers, National 5s, Level 6 awards, part-time college courses and Foundation Apprenticeships. There is no set recommended ratio for how each pupil makes their selections as everyone’s individual needs are different. Any pupil who is unsure of what options to pick for S6 should speak to their Pastoral Care teacher, Mr Neil or Mr Richardson and they will help you to consider the best options for you.

**Question**

How many periods a week do you get for Advanced Highers?

**Answer**

All in school National Qualifications (Advanced Highers, Highers and National 5s) and NPAs (Level 5/6 Awards) are given 5 periods in S6.

Part time college courses take up 4 periods (Tuesday and Thursday afternoons).

Foundation Apprenticeships take 11 periods on Tuesdays and Thursdays (the Engineering Systems Foundation Apprenticeship takes 16 periods as it also includes all day on a Friday).

**Question**

If we want to apply to several different courses at uni does that mean picking more varied, or more than four, advanced higher subjects?

**Answer**

Any pupil who is unsure of what options to pick for S6 should speak to their Pastoral Care teacher, Mr Neil or Mr Richardson and they will help you to consider the best options for you.

**Question**

When do we pick our advanced higher subjects, and is there a deadline for changing your mind if you want to drop a subject or pick up a new one?

**Answer**

Prior to the S6 options process Mr Brown undertakes a scoping exercise using Microsoft Forms. He then uses software to take the results of this scoping exercise and create an options forms that suits the majority of pupils as much as possible. S6 pupils are then invited to make their subject choices for S6.

Of course, after exam results come out in August pupils sometime wish to make changes to their subject choices. After results come out Mr Neil, Mr Richardson and some Pastoral Care staff invite any pupils who wish to make changes to come into school to discuss their options.

**Question**

Is there a preview available of the S6 columns form so we can get an idea of what clashes there are?

**Answer**

Mr Brown uses a scoping exercise and specialist software to create columns that fit the needs of the vast majority of pupils. As a result this column structure changes from year to year. After the scoping exercise the options form will be shared with pupils.

If the columns do not fit perfectly with your desired courses there is an option to work at the Advanced Higher hub. In previous years we have also worked well with other schools in the area to allow pupils from our school to visit other establishments to achieve Highers or Advanced Highers. This is not currently possible under COVID-19 restrictions but it is hoped that this is something we will be able to resume in future.

**Question**

What is the Advanced Higher Hub?

**Answer**

The Advanced Higher Hub is operated by Glasgow Caledonian University and it offers pupils from schools all over Glasgow the opportunity to study a range of Advanced Higher options including English, Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology, Modern Studies, Business Management, History and Physics (available opportunities are subject to change). As the hub takes pupils from many different schools, places are limited.

More information available here- <https://www.gcu.ac.uk/outreach/advancedhigherhub/>

**University Applications- UCAS, Top Up, Widening Access**

**Question**

What is UCAS?

**Answer**

UCAS is the system that is used to apply to university. You input information to your application such as personal details and your personal statement. You then apply for up to 5 courses from universities all over the UK. More information is available here- <https://www.ucas.com/about-us/who-we-are>

**Question**

Do we get to pick who does our references for UCAS or are the pastoral care team doing those?

**Answer**

Your Pastoral Care teacher will collate your UCAS reference taking information from all of your class teachers.

**Question**

Does the school help complete applications or should the student do this?

**Answer**

All pupils are supported by their Pastoral Care teacher in making their UCAS applications including reading and providing feedback on personal statements. Pupils can also speak to their Pastoral Care teacher or book an appointment with a Careers Advisor if they would like more guidance on different course options for university.

**Question**

Do we get to see what’s written in our references?

**Answer**

Yes, your Pastoral Care teacher will share your completed reference with you.

**Question**

After we send out our applications for University. Around what month would we find out about our places?

**Answer**

This will vary between different universities and different courses.

**Question**

Are there or when would the ucas support sessions be?

**Answer**

Yes, Mr Griffin will run UCAS support sessions, these usually take place during Friday period 5.

**Question**

Do you know how clearing works with university?

**Answer**

From - <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/results-confirmation-and-clearing/what-clearing>

Clearing is how unis and colleges fill any places they still have on their courses.

From 6 July – 20 October, you can apply for a course using Clearing if you’re not already holding an offer from a university or college, and the course still has places.

You can use Clearing if:

* you’re applying after 30 June
* you didn’t receive any offers (or none you wanted to accept)
* you didn’t meet the conditions of your offers
* you've paid the multiple choice application fee of £25
* you’ve declined your firm place using the ‘decline my place’ button in Track
1. How do I apply using Clearing?

Ask for advice

* Talk to an adviser at your school, college, centre, or careers office – they can talk you through alternative courses/subjects. If you’re applying independently, you’ll find everything you need to know about the Clearing process here, on ucas.com.
1. See what courses are available

Use our search tool to find courses – it's the only official vacancy list, so it’s the most up-to-date. If you can't find the course you're looking for:

* consider different subjects – you don't have to stick with your original idea. You could also look at joint honours courses, so you can study a mix of subjects
* keep checking – unis update their course information regularly. You might not find the exact unis/colleges/courses you were looking for – some might be full, but some might get vacancies later on
* check the course details – how is it structured each year? What modules make up each year? What are the entry requirements?
1. Talk to any unis or colleges you're interested in

Before you add a Clearing choice in Track, you need to call the uni and give them your Clearing number (you can find this in Track), and Personal ID, so they can look up your application.

* Ask if they'd accept you – they might reconsider you (maybe for the same course) even if you applied to them earlier in the year.
* Get informal offers over the phone – maybe from a variety of universities and colleges – then decide which one you want to accept.
* Ask about accommodation options – is there any on-campus?
* Take a look around the campus – if you have the time, it's the best way to see what a university/college is like – most will be happy to meet you and show you around. Alternatively, see if they have a virtual tour or a virtual open day.
1. Add your Clearing choice in Track

Only add a Clearing choice once you have permission from the university or college.

* Click 'Add Clearing choice', and fill in the course details by the date the university/college gave you on the phone.
* This counts as you definitely accepting the offer, so if they confirm, it'll show as an acceptance on your 'Choices' page in Track.
* You can only add one choice at a time, but if the university/college doesn't confirm your place, you'll be able to add another.

**Question**

Are UCAS applications all made in S6, nothing in needs to be done in S5?

**Answer**

UCAS applications are submitted in the year that you wish to apply, either S5 or S6. However, we recommend working on your UCAS application as soon as possible. Your personal statement should become a working document that you add to and perfect over time as you gain more skills, qualities and experiences. By starting early you will be able to produce a higher standard of personal statement and will avoid having to rush as the deadline approaches.

**Question**

Do we need to decide our first choice for the 15th January UCAS application?

**Answer**

No, this is the date you need to submit your application (unless applying to Oxford, Cambridge, Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary- 15th October)

From- <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/after-you-apply/types-offer/replying-your-ucas-undergraduate-offers>

* If you receive your last decision on or before 31 March 2021, your reply date is 5 May 2021.
* If you receive your last decision on or before 6 May 2021, your reply date is 3 June 2021.
* If you receive your last decision on or before 3 June 2021, your reply date is 17 June 2021 (except if you're using Extra to find a place).
* If you receive your last decision on or before 13 July 2021, your reply date is 14 July 2021 (including Extra choices)

**Question**

Once we complete all the UCAS form there’s an option to pay and send. Do we wait for our references to be done before then or does that get done after we’ve paid and sent it?

**Answer**

Your reference must be included in your application before you can submit it.

**Question**

After you submitted your UCAS application is there a chance of changing one of the courses you applied to?

**Answer**

From <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/after-you-apply/making-changes-your-ucas-undergraduate-application#:~:text=You%20can%20swap%20a%20choice,swap%20the%20choice%20in%20Track.&text=If%20you%20swap%20after%20the,it%20will%20be%20considered%20late>.

**Course, year, or point of entry**

If you're happy with the university or college but you'd like to change the course details, you'll need to get in touch with the university or college rather than us.

* Then if they agree to it, they'll let us know about the change.
* If you've already had an offer from them, we'll update Track to show the new details.

**University or college**

You can swap a choice for a different one within 14 days of the date on your welcome email. You can only swap each choice once.

* Within 14 days of the date on your welcome email you can swap the choice in Track. The 14 day period starts from the day you receive your email.
* However, you can't swap a choice after 30 June.
* If you swap after the [relevant deadline](https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/ucas-undergraduate-when-apply) for your new course choice, it will be considered late. Contact your chosen uni or college first to check they'd consider your application.
* In the very rare case of your university/college discontinuing the course you've applied for, please contact us to discuss your options.

**Changed your mind about your replies?**

Here’s what to do if you change your mind:

* If you accepted your offers in the last 14 days, contact one of our advisers to make any changes to your replies.
* If it’s been more than 14 days since you replied to your offers, there is a more detailed process you need to follow. As you’ve agreed to a contract with your chosen unis, it may be possible, but we are unable to guarantee you can change them. You’ll need to speak to them about changing your replies, and then call us, to let us know what you want to do.
* No reply swaps are possible after 23 July 2020.

**Adding more choices**

[Extra](https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/after-you-apply/types-offer/extra-choices) is our free service – available for you to apply to one course at a time between 25 February and early July.

**If you didn't use all five choices**, you can add more in Track:

* as long as it's before 30 June and you've not accepted or declined your offers
* if you only originally applied to one choice (so paid at the reduced fee). All you have to do is pay the extra £5 in Track to allow you to add more

If you accepted an offer and are made unsuccessful by the uni/college before 30 June, if you have not used all five choices, you can contact our [Customer Experience Centre](https://www.ucas.com/contact-us) to add more.

**If you've used all five choices**, you may be able to use Extra if:

* you've received decisions from all five course providers
* you weren't accepted or you decided to decline any offers you received

**Question**

How does the college application differ from UCAS?

**Answer**

College applications differ from UCAS applications in a few different ways.

* The personal statement is 2000 characters, instead of 4000 characters.
* You apply to each individual college, rather than to a central system like UCAS.
* You can apply for 2 courses in each college

We recommend that **ALL** pupils make an application to college, even if they intend to leave school to go to university or straight to employment. Things can change and it is always a good idea to have a back up option. For those applying to university, they should simply adapt their UCAS personal statement and look for college courses like HNDs that allow them direct entry into year 2 or year 3 of university.

**Question**

Is Hillhead part of University of Strathclyde’s target school for minimum entry requirements? (Something similar to Top-up at University of Glasgow)

**Answer**

No, however The University of Strathclyde (and several others) have multiple criteria to be eligible for Minimum Entry Requirements. Your SIMD (post code) and if you are care experienced can also allow you to be considered for a Minimum Entry Requirement rather than Standard Entry Requirements

More information-

<https://www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/wideningaccess/>

**Question**

How many courses do you apply to on a UCAS form?

**Answer**

You can apply for a maximum of 5 courses.

**Question**

I completed the top up program last year, do I need to add this into my UCAS application and where

**Answer**

You may wish to include this in your personal statement as an example of work you have undertaken, however Glasgow University will be aware of your completion of the programme in order to give you an adapted offer.

**Other Questions**

**Question**

If we go into tier 4 in Glasgow do you think there will be blended learning?

**Answer**

Following the First Minister’s announcement today we know that we will enter Tier 4 for 3 weeks beginning on Friday. Current guidance is that schools will remain open in Tier 4 which means that learning for all pupils will continue to be delivered in the school setting.

If this guidance was to change our work on digital learning, the introduction of iPads and the use of Teams means that we would be in a strong position to react to any potential changes.

**Question**

Are there any online careers events coming up (in past there have been careers fairs at the SEC)?

**Answer**

Yes, there have been and will continue to be online careers events in place of events that would usually be in person. These will be advertised via Teams and Twitter.

**Question**

The first two of the presentations that you’ve given us links for are blocked on my iPad, how do I access these and is there more information about work experience?

**Answer**

Apologies about this and thank you for bringing it to our attention. The videos are uploaded to the Hillhead High YouTube account, which is accessible from personal devices here- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGGLSsvH065TkKC8e4bnByg>

We have also now uploaded the videos to the S4, S5 and S6 Teams pages which means pupils/ parents will be able to view them using their iPads.

There is information about work experience included in the presentation. Work experience at the moment should be completed virtually. This presents a great opportunity to learn more about the work of work, build skills and develop qualities. You will also have an opportunity to network and make contacts.

Virtual work experience opportunities are regularly shared via year group Teams pages. Glasgow City Council shares opportunities on this website- <https://wakelet.com/wake/alRJK2TOeg29YfVXMRYVl>

If you, or someone you know, can offer a virtual work experience opportunity to our pupils please contact Mr Richardson- gw12richardsonjack@glow.sch.uk