**FAQ’s and important information that we normally get/give in class discussions prior to options interviews**

**S4 into S5**

* The option form is developed from the free choice exercise that took place in Skills for Life two weeks prior to the option process starting. At this time all pupils are given the opportunity to detail the five subjects they would like to undertake. The option form is then designed to accommodate the majority of pupil’s choices. Unfortunately, it is impossible for it to fit the requests of every single pupil across S5/6. However, if this is the case further discussion will take place during the Pupil Support led option Interview to come to a suitable solution.
* The curriculum narrows to five subjects in S5 to accommodate 6 periods for each and in turn elicit a greater depth of understanding, knowledge and skill development across each subject area.
* The level at which you undertake your chosen course in S5 will be based on the level you achieved within that course in S4
* There is only availability for pupils to choose subjects in S5 that they already undertook in S4 and as a result already have prior learning and a qualification in that subject area. It is very important to the chances of success, in a very demanding year, that pupils are given the opportunity to build on previous knowledge and that teachers deliver a subject knowing that there are no gaps in prior learning that underpin the delivery of the course .
* Should a pupil wish to undertake a brand new subject then they may have the opportunity in S6, based on their qualifications in S5 and after a further discussion with Pupil Support.
* All Pupils must pick five subjects in S5
* Pupils are advised that pupils that they should not select more than 2 subjects per curricular area – ie, 2 sciences, 2 social subjects, 2 arts (max) etc. Common example is the myth that Medicine needs all three Sciences
* If you are considering university then the pupils should be looking at university websites and thinking about what subjects and levels are needed.
* It is generally not advised to consider Higher unless you have an A/B at N5. If you gain a C at N5 then a further discussion needs to take place regarding the suitability of the course.
* It is not essential to do five Highers as this is very demanding. For some pupils it can be worth considering one less higher, do a Nat 5 instead, and improve the chances of remaining Highers.