

OUR VISION
OUR VALUES
OUR SCHOOL



S4 Assembly – Friday 29th January – period 2



An introduction to the S5 Options Process



Home learning update

- All parents have now been contacted to discuss concerns regarding non-engagement in the first two weeks of home learning.
- We will be tracking engagement again next week so please ensure you are uploading and submitting all tasks as requested by your teachers.



We are looking for full engagement from S4

What does full engagement mean?

- Attending ALL on-line lessons – even if first period!
- Submit ALL work that is set following on-line lessons
- Attend drop-in sessions that your teachers organise
- Attend S4 year group assemblies when requested
- Attend Maths support if you have been asked to



SQA update

- Mrs Hayes is going to provide families with an update of all of the most recent changes to SQA assessment and courses.
- At present your priority is working to complete your N4 and N5 courses.
- As soon as we are permitted to have students in school we will prioritise S4-S6 for prelim assessments so the best advice is to keep preparing as much as you can!



Tech support with iPads

- Please remember to avoid contacting Pastoral Care if you have any difficulties with your iPad, Showbie, Teams or Glow.
- The first point of contact is attending the tech drop-in sessions on Tuesdays 1-2pm and Thursdays 10-11am in room L027.
- Mrs Forrester may be able to help but the tech support sessions are probably better to attend!

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Supporting you with the options process

- 4K1 and 4K2
- 4L1 and 4L2
- 4R
- 4T

Mr Squire

Mrs Pollock

Mrs Mills

Mr Carstairs





Supporting you with the options process

- Within the next two weeks you will receive a digital copy of our Senior Phase Options Booklet.
- Over the next two weeks, we will post a series of presentations by Principal Teachers for you to watch – these will detail the subjects offered in each department in S5.
- Mrs Hayes and Mrs Forrester will lead a S5 Options Evening online for students and families to attend.
- You will then select the FIVE subjects you will study in S5.
- All students who have any wish to come back to school next session **MUST** complete a Mock Options form by the deadline given by Mrs Forrester and Mrs Hayes (approx end February).



Key Advice

- You must select your “Best Five”.
- Don’t feel that you **MUST** take subjects you are less good at.
- Be willing to commit to **ALL** subjects you select for the whole of S5.
- Do your research – check with colleges / universities / our school careers advisor.
- If you don’t have any idea what you want to do when you leave school keep your options open with a good broad selection of courses for S5.



Selecting your 'best five'

- You should select your **“Best Five”** in S5
 - Your **“Best Five”** are the 5 best qualifications you are on track to achieve in S4
 - Selecting your “Best Five” gives the **best opportunity to achieve 5 strong awards in S5**
 - If necessary we can **review your options in August after you receive your results**, so you can ensure that you are picking your “Best Five” for S5



Key Advice

- For your option form, use your most recent tracking report to help you pick your **“Best Five”**.
- Also think about how you are performing in each subject now – are you engaging with it at home? If the answer is no then it may not be the best subject to select in S5!



But don't I have to pick particular subjects in S5?

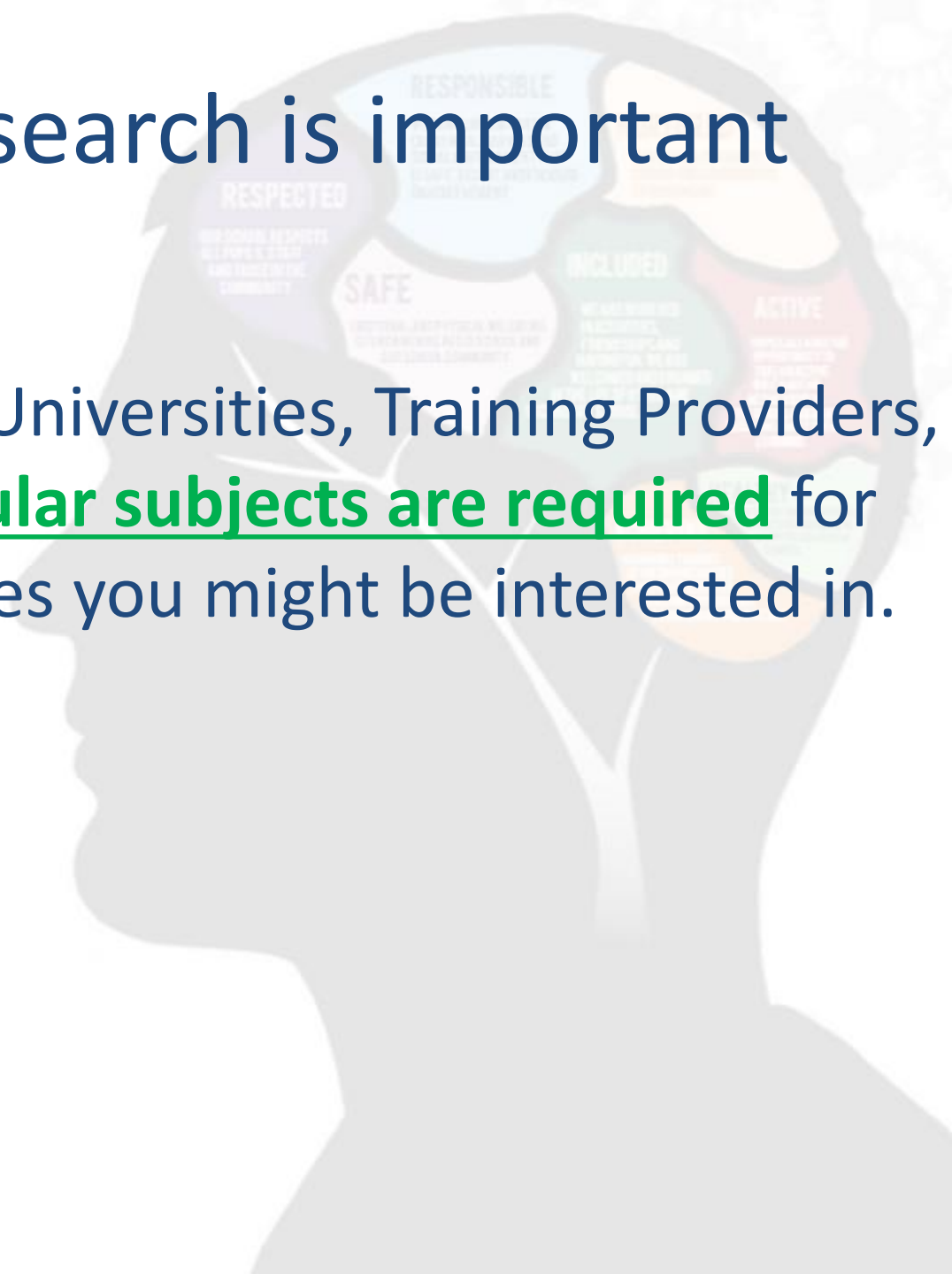
- You **don't have to** take any subject that isn't amongst your "Best 5"
 - Is **Higher Maths*** (in S5) a necessity?
 - Higher Prelim v N5 Course Award
 - » Of 25 A passes in S5 Higher prelim, 25 had achieved an A in National 5;
 - » Of 11 B passes in S5 Higher prelim, 9 had achieved an A in National 5, 1 grade B and 1 grade C;
 - » Of 8 C passes in S5 Higher prelim, 5 had achieved an A in National 5, 2 grade B and 1 grade C;
 - » **13 out of 15 pupils who had achieved grade C in National 5 did not pass the Higher prelim at grade A-C.**
 - Are **three Sciences** (in S5) really required?
 - » Will you be happy with such a narrow curriculum?
 - » Can one of these be picked up in S6?
 - » Which destinations require this?
- Check University/College/Apprenticeship/Other requirements and decide accordingly

** It is worth checking whether preferred destinations require a National 5 Mathematics qualification (often required at grade B)*



Research is important

- Check with Colleges, Universities, Training Providers, etc. to see if particular subjects are required for courses/opportunities you might be interested in.





What can and can't I do in S5?

- You are unable to select new subjects in S5 for Higher level – this is because you are selecting your 'best five'.
- The only exception is Sciences – if you choose N5 Science in S5 you select Lab Skills or Health Sector OR the part-time college option which Mr Mullin will provide more info about.
- You **MUST** have FIVE subjects to study.
- You are unable to change your initial choices as this is what we will be next year's timetable on (except in extreme circumstances) – there is **NO** 'practice' option form to be completed.



Next steps....

- Do your research now!
- Think about your options carefully. Higher qualifications are called ‘the gold standard’ by universities – these are what will get you an offer from an institution so pick what you are best at and enjoy – this will more likely bring success.
- Keep an eye on the S4 team for links to presentations to watch.
- Further information will be given via PSE and S4 online assemblies.