

# **Hermitage Academy**

## **S4 and S5 Senior Phase Course Choice Presentations**

**Wednesday 17 February 2021**

### **FAQ**

**Q** If your child is doing Advanced Highers do they really need to do 4 can they not choose 3?

**Q** I am aware that last year if taking 3 advanced highers there was no need for a 4th choice, is there a reason this has changed?

**A** We would ask that all pupils select 4 courses for S6 at this stage. Once we have confirmation of attainment in S5 that supports a pathway to 3 Advanced Highers it is possible to drop one course.

**Q** Can you advise on 'crash' highers ie without Nat 5?

**A** We would advise against this for pupils moving from S4 into S5 however if you wish to discuss your individual circumstances please indicate the you would like an interview with your Guidance teacher in the Google Option Form. Pupils moving into S6 have often selected a 'crash' higher and we would then consider prior attainment in related subjects. Anyone considering a 'crash' course should request an interview with their Guidance teacher.

**Q** Have any decisions been made on this year's prelims?

There will be no prelim diet this session as SQA exams have been cancelled. The SQA have advised that during online learning our focus should be on teaching and learning and that on return to school there should be a period of consolidation before any assessment is carried out. We would intend to proceed with assessments when pupils return to the building. At present the approach has not changed from that communicated in January which is that assessments will take place in classrooms, in class time to the schedule previously issued ie over a 3 week period. This will be dependent on further Scottish Government announcements on return to school and any further SQA advice.

**Q** How dependent are accessing the courses wanted on grades achieved this year? And how flexible will you be on resits to allow progression in college if kids have failed a course they enjoy?

**Q** If you think you need to resit a subject do you choose it as a subject for S6?

**A** We would advise that you make your course choices positively ie assuming you attain the National Qualifications you are currently working towards. There will be an opportunity to recourse if your results do not support your original course choice. If you have any individual concerns please request an interview with your Guidance teacher.

**Q** I understand choosing Biology and Maths at Advanced Higher level has not been possible in the past. Can you confirm if this would be possible this year?

**A** We won't be able to confirm this, at this stage. The Free Choice approach we use enables us to create a timetable that maximises the number of pupils who get their first choice. Unfortunately, it is not possible to achieve a 100% match but we endeavour to get as close to this as possible. Once options are entered into the system we will have a better idea of where courses will be placed in the timetable.