



Education Resources Executive Director Tony McDaid Head Teacher Richard McGowan Lesmahagow High School



If calling ask for:Barbara LeePhone:01555 896010Date:07 February 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

S5 course choice 2019-20

S5 course choice forms have been issued to all S4 students today with their school reports. Pupil Support Teachers will meet with all S4 students over the next few weeks to discuss their options for 2019-20 and assist with career planning.

Students are asked to indicate on their course choice form if they are intending to return to school for S5. Those who are 16 before 30th September 2019 can choose to leave school after their exams in May 2019. Students who are 16 on or between 1st October 2019 and the end of February 2020 must return to school until at least Christmas 2019. Those who are considering leaving school in 2019 are encouraged to meet with our careers adviser, who can provide guidance with applications to college and job vacancies. Some school leavers may also benefit from the support of our Aspire team, who can provide a bespoke programme to support a young person into a positive post school destination. Further information on the Aspire programme can be found in 'My Brighter Future' at https://tinyurl.com/y87eba4b

Students who return to school for S5 are required to sign a 'Learner Agreement' as part of the S5 induction programme in May 2019. The Learner Agreement sets out our expectations of S5 students, and includes the following points:

- Students must maintain an attendance rate of over 90% and any individual periods where a student is absent must be accounted for. Significant health issues should be discussed with Pupil Support for individual arrangements.
- Students must maintain excellent timekeeping throughout the session. Students must not be late more than 10 times throughout the year.
- Students must be in full uniform at all times in school.
- Students must maintain high standards of behaviour and attitude throughout the session.
- Students must commit to improving their attainment throughout the session.

In returning to school for S5, all students must follow a full curriculum. Students are asked to choose between 5 and 7 subjects, (depending on the level of study and the outcome of our curriculum consultation), and should number these on their course choice form in order of preference, 1 being the subject that the student needs the most. Students are also asked for an additional choice in case one of their options is not available. The appropriate level of study should be identified in discussion with Pupil Support and subject departments. Higher courses are only available to those with a National 5 pass. Further information about the courses offered can be found in our S5/6 course choice booklet on the school website (Curriculum > Course Choice booklets > S5/6 course choice booklet).

S4-S6 students also have the opportunity to study a one-year college course on Mondays through the GradU8 programme. Alternatively, they may wish to consider studying a two-year Foundation Apprenticeship course on two afternoons in S5 and one day per week in S6. Students who are embarking on a Foundation Apprenticeship course should be planning to return to school for both

S5 and S6. Further information about the Foundation Apprenticeship and college courses can also be found in 'My Brighter Future' at the web address above or on the Skills Development Scotland Foundation Apprenticeship website at: https://www.apprenticeships.scot/about/

Information about S5 courses will be available at our Raising Attainment evening on Tuesday, 26^{th} February, from 6 pm - 7.30 pm in the Street Area. Parents of S4 students are also invited to attend the options presentation at 6.15 pm in the school library.

Course choice forms should be returned by Friday, 8th March 2019.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Barbara Lee

Depute Head Teacher

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b) applying to study a **Foundation Apprenticeship** for two half days per week for two years as part of my choices: **Yes/No**

| Signature of Parent/Carer: | |
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