



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

If calling ask for: Barbara Lee
Phone: 01555 896010
Date: 07 February 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

S5 course choice 2020-21

S5 course choice forms have been issued to all S4 students today. Pupil Support Teachers will meet with all S4 students over the next few weeks to discuss their options for 2020-21 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 2020 can choose to leave school after their exams in May 2020. Students who are 16 on or between 1st October 2020 and the end of February 2021 must return to school until at least Christmas 2020. Those who are considering leaving school in 2020 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 June 2020. 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 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. Higher courses are timetabled for six periods per week; National courses are timetabled for four periods per week. 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).

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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/>

Course choice forms should be returned by **Friday, 6th March 2020**.

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

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Barbara A. Lee

Barbara Lee
Depute Head Teacher

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