



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

If calling ask for: Barbara Lee
Phone: 01555 896010
Date: 25 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

We hope that you and your family are keeping safe and well. Thank you for everything that you are doing to support your child whilst they are learning at home.

S5 course choice

Over the next three weeks, we would like to ask all S4 students to consider their intended learner and career pathway, including their course choices for S5. Advice will be given at assembly, by Pupil Support Teachers and in PSE classes to support course choice. Students are then asked to select their course choices by completing a Google form, which can be found at: <https://forms.gle/MWxzBQCriJxVdJiMA>. The questions contained on the Google form are shown on the S5 Course Choice form, which is enclosed as an attachment.

Students are asked to indicate on the Google form when they intend to leave school to help plan their learner and career pathway. Those who are 16 before 30th September 2021 can choose to leave school after SQA work is completed in May/June 2021. Students who are 16 on or between 1st October 2021 and the end of February 2022 must return to school until at least Christmas 2021. Those who are considering leaving school in 2021 or 2022 are encouraged to meet with our careers adviser, Adele Duffy, who can provide guidance with applications to college and job vacancies. Some school leavers may also benefit from the support of our Aspire team in their final term, 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/y56bsb6y>

All S5 students can study up to seven subjects of their choice, depending on the level of study selected. National subjects are timetabled for four periods per week; Higher subjects are timetabled for six periods per week; Short Courses are timetabled for two periods per week. Therefore, a student could select up to five Higher subjects, or up to seven National subjects and a Short Course (two periods per week), or a combination of Highers, Nationals and Short Courses. Further information on Short Courses will be provided once National and Higher options are selected. All subjects are offered subject to student uptake and staffing resources. Further information about the courses offered can be found in our S5 and S6 course choice booklet on the school website (Pupils> Course Choice booklets > S5 and S6 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. In S5 and S6, 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/>

Pupils are asked to complete the Google form indicating their course choices by **Friday, 12th February 2021**.

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

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara A. Lee".

Barbara Lee
Acting Head Teacher