

Senior Phase Option Choice 2021

Whilst young people are focused on the work of the current session, now is also the time to consider option choices for session 2021-2022. At the time of writing, it is unclear what the pattern of school attendance is going to be over the coming weeks. Therefore, option choice processes must differ from those of previous years.

Young people are requested to submit choices in one of three ways:

1. On the option form enclosed with this communication underline choices and note levels, then email a photograph of the form to dalkeith.hs@midlothian.gov.uk.
2. On the option form enclosed with this communication underline choices and note levels, then post the form to Dalkeith High School, 2 Cousland Road, Dalkeith EH22 2PS.
3. Complete the option summary form that will arrive by email and return the summary form to dalkeith.hs@midlothian.gov.uk.

Various supports are in place to ensure young people make appropriate coursing decisions. Within the reports, teaching staff have made recommendations as to the appropriate level of study for each of the subjects currently undertaken. This information demonstrates the areas in which each young person is most likely to achieve at the highest possible level. These levels are advisory at present and may change in accordance with pupil progress during the remainder of S4 and S5, and into S5 and S6. The mathematics department has provided a table outlining likely progression routes.

Within the senior phase, there are several different types of course on offer. Parents and young people are directed to the school's video presentation, which explains the qualification system and outlines matters to be considered when making option decisions. A link to this presentation is posted on Show My Homework and will be emailed to all homes.

Also emailed home and made available on Show My Homework is the Senior Phase Option Choice Booklet. The introductory pages form essential reading and summaries of every subject are offered.

Many things are different this year but, as always, courses can only be deemed viable if there are sufficient numbers for them to run.

In order to be able to make informed choices, it is important that young people have an understanding of the employment and education opportunities that exist. To this end, the school normally hosts a careers fair and pupil support leaders would explore opportunities within special school events and personal and social education lessons. As a replacement, young people, parents, and carers are encouraged to view Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce careers event videos. These videos are mostly focused on opportunities within the Lothians and, importantly, they are newly recorded and up-to-date. The link is posted on Show My Homework and in the email communication.

Young people who wish to talk to their PSL about course choice should send a brief text message to 07795354432, and include their name, class and the number on which they prefer to be phoned. Subject teachers can be reached through Show My Homework. Support is also available from the school's careers advisor, Barbara Moir, who can be contacted by young people and parents at barbara.moir@sds.co.uk or 07887 831027.

Clearly young people need time to make important option choices. A return as soon as decisions are made is requested and is required by Friday 26 February.

Yours sincerely

J. Bones

Depute Headteacher