

Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock

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29 January 2018

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

YEAR 10 GCSE OPTIONS DAY Monday 19 February 2018 (9.00 am – 12.00 noon)

This September, our current Year 10 students will begin their GCSE studies. Before doing so they must make some important decisions regarding their choice of GCSE courses; decisions which may have significant effects on their career paths, in particular, on what they can or cannot study two years hence at A-level and beyond.

You are invited to take part in the decision-making process and to talk matters over with our teachers on our GCSE Options Day. To help you make your decisions you should access our **GCSE Options Booklet** which will soon be available on the College website (www.knock.co.uk). Please take some time to discuss its contents with your son/daughter. You may also wish to bring your son/daughter's **End of Term 1 Assessments Report** to the Options Day as a basis for discussion.

Our GCSE Options Day is for parents and Year 10 students and is scheduled to begin with presentations at **9.00 am sharp** in the College Hall. After the presentations, Subject staff, Careers staff and Tutors will be available in the Sports Hall until 12.00 noon, to discuss your son/daughter's progress in Year 10 and to give guidance on GCSE course choice.

Enclosed with this letter is the programme for the Options Day and an Options Form. **The GCSE Options Form should be completed and returned to the College by Monday 26 February. It may also be returned to the College Reception on the Options Day.**

Please note that all Year 10 students are expected to attend. If your son/daughter cannot attend I would be grateful if you would indicate this in writing to the Head of Junior School, Mrs Sloan, and include the reason for non-attendance. The College attendance register will be marked accordingly.

We look forward to seeing you on the Options Day.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Yours sincerely

Paul McCormick

Paul McCormick
Vice Principal

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Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock

GCSE Options Day for Parents and Year 10 Students
Monday 19 February 2018

Presentations in College Hall

9.00 am - 9.30 am	Mr Dermot Mullan (Principal)	Introduction
	Mr Paul McCormick (Vice Principal)	Key Stage 4 curriculum
	Mr James Davey (Head of Careers)	Subject choice

Meetings with Teachers in Sports Hall

9.30 am - 12.00 noon	Parents and students meet with Year 10 teachers and Careers staff to discuss:	Subject progress reports
		Choice of GCSE courses

YEAR 11 GCSE OPTIONS FORM - 2018/19

- Year 11 students can study 10, 11 or 12 GCSE examination courses.
- All students must study a **core of five GCSE courses**: English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Learning for Life & Work and Religious Studies.
- Year 10 students will sit an internally marked Mathematics exam in late May. The highest ranked students in this examination will be offered the opportunity to fast track through GCSE Mathematics in Year 11 and take GCSE Further Mathematics in Year 12. All other students will study GCSE Mathematics over two years, Year 11 and 12.
- In addition to GCSE examination courses, non-examination Careers Education, Physical Education and the College Personal Development Programme are compulsory for all students.

OPTIONAL GCSE COURSES

1. Choose **five GCSE courses** from Groups 1, 2 and 3 (Science Double Award is equivalent to two courses).
2. It is strongly recommended that you **choose at least one science course from Group 1**. Any combination of the separate sciences can be chosen. If you choose Science Double Award you cannot choose the separate sciences. If you choose Science Double Award you have three choices left from Groups 2 and/or 3.
3. It is strongly recommended that you **choose a modern language from Group 2**. You may choose more than one modern language.
4. **Group 3** contains the other **optional courses**.
5. **Music** may be taken as a **one-year** course during three **lunch periods** in Year 11 **in addition** to your five other course choices. Students must consult with the Head of Music, Mrs McCanny, before selecting this option. Music students can only mark one Music box, either the one-year or the two-year course.
6. You can select either **Digital Technology** or **Computer Science** but not both.
7. Students proposing **not** to study a **science or language** course **must** consult with their subject teachers and Careers staff.

Place an X in the box before the GCSE course you wish to choose:

Group 1			Group 3	
	Science Double Award (equivalent of two choices)			Art & Design
	Biology			Business Studies
	Chemistry			Computer Science
	Physics			Digital Technology
Group 2				Drama
	French			Engineering
	German			Food and Nutrition
	Irish			Geography
	Spanish			History
Additional Course				Journalism
	Music (one-year course)			Music (two-year course)
				Physical Education
				Technology and Design

Every effort will be made to accommodate your choice of courses after taking account of the demand for the courses and timetable arrangements. We require a minimum of 10 students for a class to be viable.

If a course is oversubscribed, students will be selected according to their attainment in the relevant Year 10 course.

Student's Name (BLOCK CAPITALS) _____ Tutor Group _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature _____ Date _____ Tel. _____

*** Please return this form to your Tutor on or before Monday 26 February 2018.**

*** If you require further information, please contact Mr McCormick (Vice Principal) or your Careers Teacher.**