

Pathway planning and subject choice information evening

Questions and answers

Q1. How are Foundation Apprenticeships considered by universities in the rest of the UK?

Foundation Apprenticeships are part of the Scottish education system and as such, may not be considered by English universities. Universities differ in respect to entrance requirements so I would advise you to contact the university admissions department for advice.

Most English universities look for Advanced Highers (AH) as entrance requirements for applicants from Scotland.

For more information on foundation apprenticeships please see the following site:

<https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/what-we-do/apprenticeships/foundation-apprenticeships/>

Q2. Are any Universities concerned about how many years a student takes to obtain their "basket" of Highers? I.e. is it viewed more favourably if the Highers are all achieved in 1 year?

This varies, depending on the university; with some preferring the Highers to be sat in one year. A young person should do some research here, looking at university course requirements.

Q3. Higher English used to be a fairly "routine" Higher to do if one wanted to go to university, regardless, if aiming for science or arts. Has this changed over the years?

Not all university courses require Higher English as an entrance requirement. A young person should do some research here, looking at course requirements (university prospectuses are now all online).

Q4. If a pupil took a Higher in S4, are they allowed/advised to take an Advanced Higher in that subject in S5? And, if so, does this affect the number of subjects they can take in S5?

This is possible for certain subjects, and a learner should always discuss this option with their teacher. Future pathways (university entry requirements) need to be carefully considered before choosing an AH subject in S5. Contact university admissions departments for specific advice.

Q5. Can you provide more information on YASS courses?

Young Applicants in Schools Scheme, (YASS) is an online offer provided by Open University (OU) and is designed to bridge the gap between school and university, college or employment. It is an option in S6 and counts as one of the school courses. In addition to adding YASS to the Google option form young people will have to register with the OU; this additional application process will be done later in the year under the guidance of the school. Young people will deal directly with the OU when it comes to course work and assessments.

Please see the following site for more information:

<https://www.open.ac.uk/scotland/study/courses-schools-and-early-learning/young-applicants-schools-scheme>

Q6. What do you recommend for S6 for kids aiming at the likes of Edin/Glasgow Uni (non-medical)? would it be 2x AS plus 2x H or would that be seen as too heavy a workload - in which case what would you recommend?

All our S6 learners need to show progression from S5, and this development is what universities are looking for. 2 AH plus 2 H would not be seen as too heavy a workload for a bright student who has performed extremely well in S5. It is important that young people look at the entrance requirements for their courses they are applying for.

Q7. Our daughter wants to study vet medicine and needs Adv Higher Chem and Biology in S6 in addition to the highers she is currently studying. She's contacted universities and they've said relevant work experience would strengthen her application rather than a 3rd AH. Would two AH plus an additional Higher and relevant animal related work experience be consider

We expect most of our learners to be studying 4 subjects in S6, unless they are taking all AH subjects, where they would do a maximum of 3. Relevant work experience is an essential prerequisite for a number of university courses, and we would expect that this would be done in addition to their school subjects. Individual circumstances are always considered, and this is where a young person needs to discuss their situation with their pupil support pastoral teacher.

Q8. For a young person going in to S6 - is there an opportunity to change their course choices before the new school year starts (in the event they change their mind) or after final grades have been confirmed in the summer?

Young people should do their best, supported by staff and parents, to make the correct choices now; however, there are situations where changes need to be made. Whilst we do

our best to facilitate changes course availability can be a problem as classes in many subjects can be full.

Q9. Please explain Crash Highers meaning

A crash Higher is the term we use to describe a higher sat without any previous qualifications in the subject; for example, taking higher biology without having done N5 biology.