



ST. AIDAN'S

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

October 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian,

After October half term the Careers Department will begin individual career guidance interviews for Year 11 students during which they will receive information, advice and guidance on their options after Year 11. The document below entitled "What are my Post-16 Options?" has been produced to give you and your son or daughter a clearer idea about what will be discussed at these appointments.

We anticipate all students will have had at least one interview before February half term with one of our team of Careers Advisers; Mrs D. Bennett, Mrs L. Bones and Mrs S. Richmond. A representative from the Careers Department will also be present at the forthcoming Year 11 Parents' Evenings on **Tuesday 7th November 2017** and the Associated Sixth Form Information Evening on Thursday 22nd February 2018 and will be happy to discuss your son or daughter's career plans with you on these evenings.

Year 11 students are encouraged to use the Careers Department, where we have a comprehensive range of careers information and resources available. The Department is open daily from 8.30am to 5.00pm and students are welcome to use this resource during their break, at lunchtimes or after school. Our website www.staidans.co.uk/departments/careers/ has links to other relevant websites and resources that may be of interest to you and them.

We look forward to working with your son or daughter and helping them make a successful transition from Year 11. Should you require any further information about the Careers Department or would like to discuss your son or daughter's future plans please contact us on 01423 818534 or email s.richmond@staidans.co.uk.

Yours Sincerely

Denise Bennett
Head of Careers

Phil Alker
Head of Year 11

Headteacher: Mr J Wood

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What are my Post-16 Options?

After Year 11 you are legally obliged to remain in education or training until you are 18 years of age. This means that you must be enrolled with one of the following:

1. The Associated Sixth Form
2. A Further Education College
3. An Apprenticeship

Although the focus of Year 11 is on preparing for your GCSE's it is also important to take some time to consider the above options and decide which one will be most appropriate for you and your future plans.

The Associated Sixth Form

The Associated Sixth Form offers a broad range of courses to suit students of different abilities and aspirations. To ensure that each student has the best opportunity to succeed in his or her chosen curriculum there are general entry criteria which are laid out below. However, flexibility is available in some cases, for example where a student with strengths in the creative arts evidenced at GCSE but with lower grades in other areas would not be excluded from appropriate A Level courses. Students will also be expected to study Mathematics and English for GCSE re-sits in Year 12 if they have not attained at grade 4 or higher in Year 11. These issues would be explored at interview following applications and again at enrolment after the issue of GCSE results.

OVERALL REQUIREMENTS FOR SIXTH FORM ENTRY	
A Level courses	A minimum of five GCSE subjects at grade 5 including Mathematics and English Language depending on individual course requirements. *
Combination of A Level courses and Applied courses	From two GCSE subjects at grade 5 plus three subjects at grade 4, to five subjects at grade 4 including Mathematics and English Language depending on individual course requirements. *
Applied courses	Four GCSE subjects at grade 4 including Mathematics and English Language.

* In Media, Business, IT and the Technology subjects, grade B will be required for grade 5, grade C for grade 4.

NB: Individual subjects will have their own specific requirements for each course. Please refer to the Associated Sixth Form prospectus for more information.

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Things to consider if you are planning to apply to Sixth Form:

- Will I meet the entry requirements?
- Which subjects are right for me? Will they complement each other and keep my future options open?
- What subjects do I need for particular universities and/or courses?

Further Education Colleges

Colleges offer a range of vocational and practical courses which can offer you the opportunity to train for a specific career and gain relevant qualifications. Most courses are either 1 or 2 years in length.

Things to consider if you are planning to apply to College:

- You need to visit the individual colleges websites and research all the courses
- You should attend college open days and relevant taster courses

Our local colleges are:

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| • Harrogate College | www.harrogate-college.ac.uk/ |
| • York College | www.yorkcollege.ac.uk/ |
| • Askham Bryan College | www.askham-bryan.ac.uk/ |
| • Leeds City College | www.leedscitycollege.ac.uk |
| • Leeds Arts University | www.leeds-art.ac.uk/ |
| • Leeds College of Music | www.lcm.ac.uk/ |
| • Leeds College of Building | www.lcb.ac.uk/ |

Apprenticeships

As an apprentice you will work for an employer and earn as you study for nationally recognised qualifications which are relevant to your job such as NVQs. Training can take between 1 and 2 years before you are fully qualified. You will receive a salary which will start at approximately £100 per week. Things to consider if you are planning to apply to for an apprenticeship:

- Career Advisers have up to date information on apprenticeship opportunities
- Visit www.apprenticeships.org.uk for more details of apprenticeships and register to receive notifications of all future vacancies
- You can contact employers directly before the end of Year 11 to see if they will offer you an apprenticeship

The Careers Department
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