

GLENLOLA COLLEGIATE SCHOOL



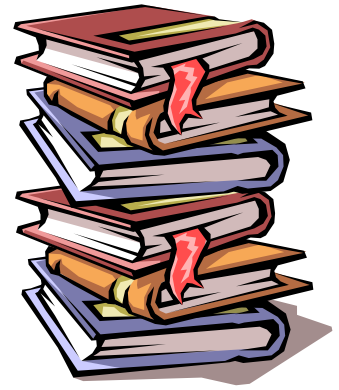
A/AS Level Subjects

Year 13 Entry Booklet

2010

Subject Nomination

At the end of Year 12 your daughter will have completed the GCSE Courses and reached the limit of compulsory school age. She will then have three possible lines of action:-



- 1 To remain at school and study selected subjects at AS level in Year 13 and progress to complete her 'A' levels by taking A2 examinations in Year 14.
- 2 To transfer to a College of Further Education or Training Organisation.
- 3 To enter full-time employment.

Since places in higher/further education and business/industry tend to go to those who are best qualified, it cannot be stressed too much that performance in GCSE is of the utmost importance. Pupils must aim to achieve the best grades they can in as wide a range of subjects as possible, so it is essential to perform well in the subjects which are being selected for A/AS level study.

With this in mind, your attention is drawn to the '**Criteria for Entry to Senior School**', which are printed on page 5 of this booklet.

The Employability modules in LLW, individual aptitudes evaluations arising from the School Careers Questionnaire, the careers interview, the booklet 'It's Your Choice' and the Labour Market Information Leaflet have already been used as the starting point for serious consideration of the next two years' programme of work. We expect you have already discussed these with your daughter. Since the mock examinations members of staff have been talking to her about the advisability of continuing formal education and the connection between subjects and career opportunities.

Although your daughter may wish to delay her nomination of AS level subjects until after the publication of the GCSE results, she is being asked to make her nominations quite soon so that timetabling arrangements may be made for September.

Two important dates for your diary are:-

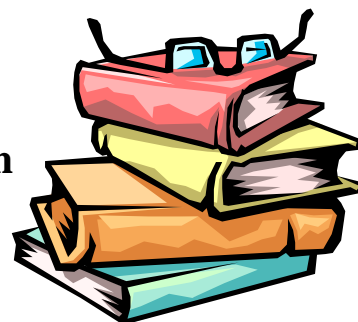
**Thursday 18 March 2010 -
Parents' Consultation Afternoon**

**Monday 22 March 2010 -
Final day for handing in Subject Nomination Forms**

In the centre of this booklet a Subject Nomination Form may be found. **We are asking for it to be returned to your daughter's Form Teacher as soon as her subject nominations are known or by the above date at the latest.** For those still in doubt, there will be opportunities for further consultation with Middle and Senior School Staff.

The Curriculum in Year 13 and 14

Students will study three or four subjects at AS level in Year 13. Ideally the fourth subject should be a contrasting/ broadening one.



For some higher education courses additional breadth is a positive benefit; for others, it will still be necessary to show considerable specialist knowledge. From a specific career viewpoint and from a broader educational perspective, it is important that arts graduates can think logically and are reasonably numerate and that science graduates can communicate and are perhaps fluent in a foreign language.

Year 13 timetable allocations are: (45 periods)

3 or 4 AS Subjects	Private Study Key Skills (IT) General Studies
27/36 periods	9+ periods

General Studies

As well as studying their AS and A2 subjects pupils will take part in the General Studies and Key Skills (IT) programmes. All pupils complete modules in Study Skills and Careers in Senior School.

The aim of these programmes over the two year period, is to provide students with a range of formal classes, lectures and practical experience. These will complement the AS and A2 studies and help develop a wide range of personal skills and interests, such as initiative and adaptability, which are necessary for the world of work and recreation.

Private Study

Private Study demands considerable self-discipline; time is precious and if squandered it cannot be recalled. Pupils are advised to take advantage of the facilities offered to Senior School pupils.

At the beginning of Year 13 guidance will be given on the use of private study.

Work Experience

Pupils will be expected to take part in the programme of work experience during Year 13. Relevant work experience can be a requirement for certain University Courses and it is a valuable preparation for the world of work.

Entitlement Framework

As part of progress towards the Government's 'Entitlement Framework' we have introduced a number of 'applied' courses. These courses are work related and may be more appropriate to the less academic pupil or to those pupils who intend to pursue a related career. [It should be noted that some universities may give preference for high demand academic courses to applicants who have not studied applied subjects.]

As part of the Department of Education's collaboration initiative through the Bangor Learning Partnership a number of additional subjects will be delivered by other local schools: *Travel & Tourism, *Engineering, *Hospitality, Sociology and *Moving Image. **Psychology will also be offered in Glenlola Collegiate.**

* Applied subjects

Criteria for Entry into Senior School

The demands of Years 13 and 14 are best met by pupils who have gained good grades in a wide range of GCSE subjects. The essential minimum criteria for return to School are listed below.

Entry to Year 13

1. Applicants to Senior School must have achieved a minimum of 12 points at GCSE level. (Points are calculated as follows: Grade C = 1 point; Grade B = 2 points; Grade A = 3 points; Grade A* = 4 points). English and Mathematics should be included in these pass grades. For any subject they wish to take to A Level, pupils will be expected to have achieved at least a Grade B in GCSE, except where prior study is not a prerequisite to taking the subject in Senior School. This includes a number of subjects which are offered only at A Level.
2. In some subjects, it is advisable that an A grade be achieved before embarking on A level study. Information regarding these subjects is available on request.
3. Each applicant must have demonstrated a positive attitude to the School and to her work, and must also have achieved a minimum overall attendance of 90% (in normal circumstances) up to the start of Study Leave in Year 12.
4. Where subjects are oversubscribed, selection will be based on marks achieved at GCSE Level in that subject and/or a pupil's overall performance.
5. In the case of applicants from other post-primary schools, in addition to the criteria set out above, a general report may be requested.

Entry to Year 14

1. Applicants to Year 14 must attain a minimum of 90 AS points (based on the UCAS tariff system: A=60, B=50, C=40, D=30, E=20). For example the following grade combinations would be worth 90 points – DDD, CDE, BC.
2. To continue a subject to A2 level, a pupil must have achieved at least an E grade at AS level.
3. A pupil must also have displayed an acceptable attitude and commitment to Year 13 studies. High levels of attendance as indicated above for Year 13 Entry form part of a pupil's commitment to her work.

AS and A2 Levels

All subjects will be offered on a modular basis. Pupils will study up to four subjects in Year 13 at AS level and at the end of the year take modular examinations in all of them, having the opportunity of gaining an AS level qualification in each. To enable a much wider university choice of courses it is strongly recommended that three of these subjects will be continued into Year 14, taking further examination to A2 level. The final 'A' level grades (A to E for pass standard, with U (unclassified) for fail) will be based on the sum of AS and A2 module marks in each subject.

The points system used by the Universities and Colleges Admission Service (UCAS) is as follows:- 'A' level grades A*, A, B, C, D and E are worth 140, 120, 100, 80, 60 and 40 points respectively. An AS level is equal to half the equivalent A level points score eg grade A at AS will be 60 points.

A Key Skills qualification, taken alongside AS levels in Year 13, may also qualify for UCAS points.

Most universities are likely to continue to offer places on the basis of a student's grades, irrespective of how many points were allocated to them.

When nominating subjects the following advice should be taken into account:-

- The need to think carefully about your interests, abilities and long-term aims so that you keep open a breadth of career choice which will suit you.
- All subjects share the same general objectives: to teach you how to find, sift and evaluate information; how to analyse problems and construct possible solutions; how to present a well argued case either in written form or orally; how to cope with complex issues.



The importance of any subject depends on what YOU want to do in the future. If you take up a subject because of its career value rather than your ability in it, you must be prepared to work really hard for success.



- It is usually desirable when selecting subjects for a specialised course to choose those which are related and appropriate to the career being pursued.
 - Find out as much as possible about the subjects being offered. Do not assume that the courses are just a continuation of GCSE - most AS subjects will be very different at this higher level.
 - Seek detailed information about any of the new or applied subjects which might interest you.
 - Make sure you talk to your teachers in the next few weeks as they have the correct information about all the specifications.
 - **Where girls are interested in a university course, it is important to check all the relevant information to make sure that the entrance requirements for a particular course may be met. The most useful sources of information are the ‘The Big UCAS Book’ and the university prospectuses. All of these may be consulted in the Careers Suite. On the Internet, the UCAS website www.ucas.com is well worth a visit. Click on ‘course search’ and it will allow you to search for university courses by subject throughout the UK. Information on courses at Irish Universities can be researched using the website: www.cao.ie**
- www.hero.ac.uk is also very helpful for finding out about all aspects of Higher Education.**
- www.prospects.ac.uk Their online careers centre gives information on the opportunities open to you when you graduate.**
- **The Department for Employment and Learning’s website also provides comprehensive information on a wide range of careers, employment, labour market information and higher education (www.careersserviceni.com).**

AS & A2 Subject Nominations

Nominate 4 subjects. You must make your nomination by selecting not more **than ONE subject** from any 4 of the following 5 blocks. In an attempt to widen your options some subjects appear in more than one block.

We expect the majority of our pupils will study 4 AS subjects.

- Our recommendation is that only pupils achieving at least 18 points at GCSE (see paragraph 1 under Entry Criteria) should consider studying 4 AS subjects. Some pupils with less than 18 points may also wish to take 4 subjects but this will be subject to discussions in August after the GCSE results become available.
- Every girl, especially those who intend applying for high demand university courses (eg medicine, law etc), must check the UCAS website www.ucas.com for individual university course requirements in terms of numbers of subjects to be taken and preferred subject patterns. Some universities may not accept students into certain courses with more than 1 applied subject.

Block 1	Block 2 ★	Block 3 ★	Block 4	Block 5
Physics Health & Social Care English Literature Biology PE ICT	Chemistry French Religious Studies Geography Mathematics Art	Biology English Literature French Government & Politics Business Studies Music	Mathematics Chemistry Geography History Government & Politics German Spanish *GCSE Astronomy *GCSE Journalism	History Design & Technology Theatre Studies Business Studies Biology Chemistry Religious Studies Health & Social Care **Further Maths (Taught in Yr 14)
	Psychology Moving Image Travel & Tourism Engineering Hospitality (BTEC) Sociology			

★ Collaboration blocks

- * GCSE Journalism is being offered as an alternative to choosing a fourth subject at AS level.
- * GCSE Astronomy is available to pupils who have studied GCSE Physics.
- ** A pupil should not choose a subject from box 5 if they are planning to study Further Maths (AS) in Year 14.

Please note the following important information about the collaborative courses.

1. Only a limited number of places will be available for these subjects
2. **Psychology will be delivered in Glenlola Collegiate** and taught by staff from South Eastern Regional College.

Travel & Tourism, Engineering and Hospitality (BTEC) will be taught in Bangor Academy & Sixth Form College.

Moving Image and Sociology will be taught in St Columbanus College.

- * Pupils considering studying collaborative subjects (with the exception of Psychology) need to be aware that there will be some impact on their other AS class time. This is due to the time tables in the collaborative schools not being fully aligned.

NB It is important to note that if you nominate and are accepted for any of the collaborative subjects you will NOT be able to study any other subjects from blocks 2 and 3 in the table.

Year 13 Subject Nomination Form

**To be removed, completed and
returned to Your Daughter's
Form Teacher by
Monday 22 March 2010**

YEAR 13 SUBJECT NOMINATIONS 2010/11

Complete **EITHER** Section A OR B



Please return to your Form Teacher **no later than Monday 22 March.**

Section A Returning to School

These nominations should be made in full consultation with School staff and parents.

Everyone is required to nominate **FOUR** subjects: Either **FOUR** at AS level or **THREE** at AS level plus GCSE Journalism or Astronomy in Block 4.

Only ONE subject may be chosen from any Option Block.

NB The final number of subjects studied by each pupil will be determined after results are known in August.

Nominate 4 Subjects:

Block 1	Block 2	Block 3	Block 4	Block 5

Career Plans

Indicate possible career option /s.

- _____
- _____

Section B Leaving School

College/Employment _____

Proposed Course of Study _____

Action to date _____

Name _____

Form 12 _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____

Date _____

