



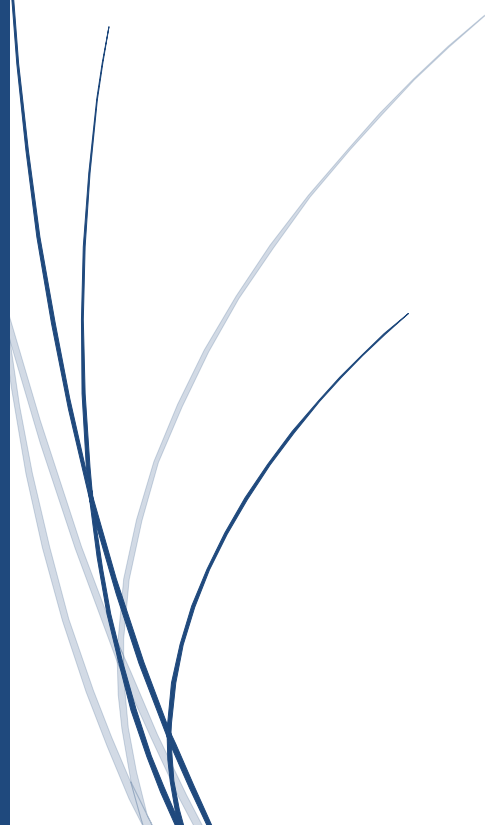
SPERRIN
INTEGRATED COLLEGE
MAGHERAFELT

KS 4 Options 2019

Parent Information on the

Options Process. Preparing

for Success at KS4



Our Commitment to our pupils is to provide a curriculum that:

- Meets the ethos of our Grammar and All Ability pathways
- Is informed by data specific to individuals and the cohort
- A Curriculum whereby all pupils have the opportunity to succeed
- Prepares pupils for A Level or Post 16 progression
- Is relevant to the world of work for the future

In order to ensure your child is on the correct GCSE pathway to increase their chances of academic success we use a range of methods to enable decisions

- CATs Data- Yr8 & 10- Predicts GCSE outcomes at 5 A*-C
- Data on Literacy & Numeracy ability. This is PTE and PTM data
- School based Assessment data on Performance to date- AP2
- Class Band and how your child has progressed in this class
- Your child’s track record on attitude to learning as demonstrated by their progress
- Information from Heads of Department on your child’s suitability for their subject as evidenced on three years of teaching your child at KS3.

Success Pathway Option Choices

Your child will be placed on an options pathway that is deemed suitable for their ability based on data held by the school. The school seeks to ensure that every pupil is on a pathway which provides stretch and challenge as well as a realistic successful outcome at GCSE. The pathways are explained as follows:

Success Pathways	What they will offer?
Pathway 1	A range of traditional GCSE subjects
Pathway 2	Mostly traditional GCSE subjects and a small range of appropriate L2 subjects
Pathway 3	A mixture of traditional GCSE subjects and L2 Qualifications
Pathway 4	A select range of appropriate traditional GCSE subjects combined with L2 qualifications and Princes Trust Diploma which is equivalent to 2 X L2 qualifications

Every pupil will study core subjects such as English and Mathematics. This is a requirement for all post 16 progression pathways and for the world of work. Universities will require a minimum of Grade C in both English and Mathematics to progress on to all degree courses.

Pupils in 11G will also have the opportunity to study English Literature and Further Mathematics will be available as an option for those pupils that the Mathematics department deems this GCSE is suitable for.

All pupils will study core Religious Studies, Learning for Life and work and Physical Education. These are requirements laid out by the National curriculum to enhance pupil's wider physical, social and emotional development. These subjects will not be subject to examination.

Types of GCSE Qualifications

Traditional GCSE subjects are based on subjects taught at KS3 and have a stronger focus on exam performance. The College derives all its traditional GCSE specifications from council for the curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA). Their subject and specification details can be obtained from <http://ccea.org.uk/> . Pupils who are placed on pathway one will have access to the full range of

GCSE Subjects offered at Sperrin Integrated College

Art & Design
Business & communication systems
Double Award Science (Pathway 1 and to some Pathway 2)
Single Award Science (Pathway 2 and Pathway 3)
GCSE Drama (this may be L2 Performance Skills and is cohort dependent)
French
Further Mathematics
Geography
History
Home Economics
Digital Technology (ICT)
Music
Physical Education (P.E)
Religious Studies
Technology & Design

****It is expected that some GCSE subjects will be oversubscribed therefore pupils will be selected on the bases of their results at (AP2). Classes with a practical requirement such as The Sciences, PE, T&D and Home Economics have a class size restriction for Health and Safety Purposes of 20.**

Progression to A Level

As a general rule pupils' must have studied a subject at GCSE in order to study it at A Level. It is also expected that they will be successful to a minimum of grade B at GCSE. All A Level pupils should have a minimum grade C in GCSE Mathematics and English. This is explained in the table below

A level Subject	Specific Requirements	Minimum Grade entry
Geography History Home Economics Art & Design Physical Education (P.E) Religious Studies Technology & Design	These subjects need to be studied at GCSE to access the A Level	A minimum of Grade B is required. If any of these subjects are oversubscribed at A level pupils with the highest grades will be selected
Biology Chemistry Physics	Pupils must have studied Double Award Science at GCSE to access the A level programme	A minimum of Double grade A (AA) is required.
Moving Image Arts	Subjects studied at GCSE that will complement this A Level as an entry requirement are ICT/Drama/Performance Arts/Art & Design and in some cases OS Digital Media	A minimum of Grade B is required. If any of these subjects are oversubscribed at A level pupils with the highest grades will be selected
Health & Social Care Business Studies Applied ICT	Ideally, pupils will have studied these subjects at GCSE to access A Level, however where the GCSE option is not available supporting subjects will be considered e.g. Home Economics will support Health & Social care	As this subjects are applied and require strong literacy skills, pupils GCSE English grade will be important

Level 2 Qualifications Explained?

There are a range of qualifications that are either described as GCSE or Level 2 equivalents. A Level 2 is generally recognized as equivalent to a B Grade at GCSE. Pupils who achieve a Level 2 qualification can use it to access Level 3 courses in Further Education Colleges (equivalent to A Level) and can progress on to University or the world of work from this pathway. However, Level 2 qualifications in general do not prepare pupils for progression to a traditional A Level programme. Level 2 Qualifications suit pupils who find examinations challenging and enjoy building a portfolio combined with practical activities.

- OS Design & Creativity (Digital Media)
- OS Technology & Innovation (Construction)
- L2 Performance Skills
- L2 Environment & Society (Sports Studies)
- L2 Business Services (Child Development)
- L2 OCN Agriculture & Business systems
- L2 OCN Hospitality & Business Services

These are based on a Portfolio of work, therefore attendance is crucial. There is no exam in this programme and pupils have the opportunity to carry out practical Activities

Princes Trust Programme

This Qualification is 100% portfolio based and enables pupils to develop a range of wider skills that prepares them for the world of work.

It is worth 2 Level 2 Qualifications equivalent to 2 B Grades

It is well recognised and respected by FE Colleges and Apprenticeship programmes.

It develops skills such as:

- Employability
- Entrepreneurship
- Money management
- Communication and presentational skills
- Community Spirit

OCN L2 Vocational Qualification

This is also a Level 2 Pathway and currently we offer Hospitality & Business from this subject suite. They fall into the category of vocational skills as they require ability to develop a portfolio through enquiry and practical based work and allow students to achieve qualifications prepare them for post 16

We are introducing OCN L2 Agriculture and business systems. You can obtain more information from their website <https://www.ocnni.org.uk>

Options Process & Timeline

The options process is lengthy but the school endeavours to carry it out in a timely fashion through discussion with pupils and parents. The information sessions to both pupils and parents is only the beginning of the process.

Options Timeline & Dates

What to Expect?	Date/Time
Information session to pupils	5 th February 2019
Information session for parents	6 th February 2019
Phase 1 Option Sheet (this is a trawl to ascertain pupil interest in subjects)	8 th February 2019 these should be returned on Monday 11 th February 2019
Phase 2 Option Sheet (this will have the block arrangements based on pupil choices. These blocks will be final)	After Half Term – Week beginning 25 th February 2019
Phase 3 Parent/Pupil interview with Mrs Chambers to finalise choices.	After Half Term - Week beginning 4 th March 2019

***** Parents should ring the school office to arrange a time for an options discussion the week beginning 25th February.**