



Tuesday 23 rd February 2021	
Question	Response
Is Engineering Science offered at a Higher/Advanced Higher and do Uni admissions consider it as equal to say Physics Higher for entry to Engineering?	Engineering: depends on the Uni. Best to check the prospectus. We know Strathclyde did not want an AH but any other Higher...but that might change year to year. Further discussions with Guidance Teacher will help too.
Will the Guidance Teacher set up 1:1 meetings, or is the pupil to set the meeting up, and will that be pupil + parent or just pupil to Guidance Teacher?	Meetings will be set up by the Guidance Teachers over the next few weeks. They will contact parents/carers individually to try and arrange a suitable time. If parents/carers are working, please e-mail us and we will see what we can do to accommodate out with work hours.
Are you sending out a hard copy of the Course Choice Booklet or is this something available only on the web site?	Booklets/Forms are not being printed out and can be obtained online from the website. However, if a family would like a copy of the booklet or form please just request this at the aboyne.support@aberdeenshire.gov.uk and we will try to send this out. Please bear in mind that it is a very large document to print out!
Are there enough places for all children for their 1st course choices or is there a maximum number for certain courses? i.e. should we prepare for back up course options?	We have a fixed staffing which is spread across all year groups; the timetable has to "work" for all pupils. Back up course options are important as we cannot guarantee all choices for everyone unfortunately. That's why pupils are asked to choose their 8 subjects but also 2 reserves. We usually have a high percentage of pupils (in excess of 90% that get their preferred choices)
Can you advise what Engineering Science and Graphic Communication is please?	Please refer to the Course Choice Booklet on the school website for this, and also you can ask more on the call with the Guidance Team. Pupils can also contact their subject teachers for a conversation around this in their virtual classroom or on a live session.
Is there an option for Computing Science in senior stages as I notice it isn't an option for S3?	We hope to offer the Foundation Apprenticeship in IT Hardware/Software Development.
Is it likely there would be too many pupils for course choices, or first choices not likely to be available to be due to insufficient numbers?	We always need to balance the timetable across the needs of the whole school but at any stage try to accommodate the choices of pupils. If there are insufficient numbers for a course, it probably would not run.
Given the way the last 12 months have panned out, I feel there is an element of pupils not having sampled enough full, face to face teaching of a subject to make an informed choice if they like it or not. What are your thoughts on this?	We agree with this point; however, there is very little that we can do unfortunately. We hope that pupils will have had enough of an experience so far; however, again asking more information of their teachers if there are any questions, the detailed information in the course choice booklet and through conversation with their Guidance Teacher will help.
If they select general science would they be able to select any or all of the science subjects for S4?	We would say that pupils would cope going from Science to one National Qualification in either Biology. Chemistry or Physics; however, they would struggle to go for more than one due to the experience being less in-depth.
Would that be the same for French and Spanish? Is it unlikely that a student could switch from French in S3 to Spanish in S4?	We take a flexible approach where possible as young people do change their minds; so although not ideal this

	would be possible in the same way picking up a "crash" Higher might be further on in their school career.
Are pupils set to have a chat with career advisor in order to help set their subject choice?	This is not needed for many pupils in S2 however, if necessary contact the Careers Advisor via our website: https://aboyneacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/remote-learning-2021/support-resources/careers-adviser-skills-development-scotland/
If a student isn't keen on doing any subjects in one column is there an option for them to take a subject from one of the other columns?	Students needs to take a subject in each column. If there is a strong desire to deviate from the broad curriculum parents should submit a request to the school. There is never a guarantee that this can be accommodated within the timetable structure, but we will do our best.
Will the timetable change at the normal time it or will it be any different this year?	We do not know this information yet but will inform everyone in the school community who needs to know when we do find out.
Can you clarify a wee bit about the subject choice from column 1... is there a chance one of these choices is dropped off in favour of the alternative choice as this is what happened to my child who chose Art & Design and ended up with Geography I think it was? Are Choice 1 subject set in stone?	Subject choices are not guaranteed as the needs of the whole school timetable sometime mean changes have to be made.
When will the pupils find out what choices are successful - When do they have an indication of their timetable?	Their timetable is not usually available until just prior the change of timetable. We will inform pupils and parents of choices as soon as we can but this requires the bulk of the school timetable to be created first so is likely to be in April/May.
Will there be a new selection process if a pupil needs to decide on a reserve choice?	We would usually discuss this change with the pupil concerned. 2 reserves are chosen on the course choice form.