

SDS Careers at Aberdeen Grammar School

Newsletter January 2021



We realise that starting the new school term in lockdown is unsettling and pupils may feel concerned about making plans for their future. We want to remind and reassure that we are here to offer careers advice, information and guidance.

While the impact of Coronavirus and Brexit on education and the labour market make it difficult to predict what lies ahead, our young people still have decisions to make about their next steps. We would like to encourage pupils and parents to remain positive, make decisions which are right for them and ask for help and advice if needed.

Subject Choice S2/3/4/5

We will be supporting pupils over the coming weeks with subject choice for the next school year. By the end of this week all S2/3/4/5 Google Classrooms will have a presentation from us containing links to our subject choice help sheets, some have been there since December. S2 and S3 have already provided us with some information about their initial thoughts and we will be in touch with those who indicated they would like to speak to a Careers Adviser and/or those that the school think would benefit from our input.

Our website My World of Work www.myworldofwork.co.uk has a 'subject choice tool' which pupils can use to help support their decisions. If any pupil or parent/carer would like advice around subject choice, please contact us via the details below. The actual subject choice forms and deadlines will come from school soon.

Fulltime College Applications

Pupils who are hoping to leave school this year for full time college, either as their first choice or a back-up plan to a university place, need to apply now. Please apply to NESCOL online via www.nescol.ac.uk, other Scottish colleges will have similar practices. If any pupil would like help with this, please get in touch.

Apprenticeships and Job Seekers

Pupils interested in leaving school this year and applying for an apprenticeship, keep checking www.apprenticeships.scot where employers are encouraged to advertise (they may advertise elsewhere too). We would ask any pupil thinking about applying for an apprenticeship/full time job to contact us to discuss further. We can offer advice about job seeking, CV and application form preparation as well as interview skills.

University Applications

UCAS applications should now all have been submitted. If pupils have queries that we can help with, please ask.

Getting in Touch

We will continue to work from home while schools remain closed. We can arrange appointments via Google Meet, a phone call or a chat over email.

Please contact the Careers Adviser linked with your house/guidance teacher:

Byron (Mrs Allan, Miss Norrie), **Keith & Dun** (Mrs Gillespie) contact Morag Evans morag.evans@sds.co.uk / 07833401254 (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday)

Melvin (Miss Fraser, Mr McTernan) **Keith & Dun** (Mrs Gibson) contact Kate Hogg kate.hogg@sds.co.uk / 07584 880321 (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday)

Skills Development Scotland also provide support to adults seeking careers information, advice and guidance and our PACE Team supports those facing redundancy. If any parent or carer would like to speak with an adviser about themselves, please call 0800 917 8000 or see www.myworldofwork.co.uk