



December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

We are writing to update you on the options and guidance process that our year 11 students are following as they make important individual learning pathways decisions over the coming months. If you have not yet viewed the year 11 options launch presentations, they can be found at the following location on the school website:

[Year 12 and 13 Subject Information - Whitchurch High School](#)

The following timeline provides an overview of the process:

- COMPLETION OF ILPP: September 2024 to April 2025
- YEAR 11 OPTIONS LAUNCH: Week beginning 11th November 2024
- OPTION SUBJECT INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE: December 2024
- KEY STAGE 5 SUBJECT OPTION TALKS IN LESSONS AND ASSEMBLY: December 2024 onwards
- **SIXTH FORM OPTIONS OPEN EVENING: 16th January 2025 - 5-7pm**
- FREE CHOICE SURVEY: 20th January – 3rd February 2025 – the decisions made by pupils at this stage are used to help formulate the Sixth form option grid.
- OPTION GRID AVAILABLE: 17th February 2025
- INDIVIDUAL STUDENT INTERVIEWS: 18th, 19th and 20th February 2025
- SIXTH FORM APPLICATION DEADLINE: 7th March 2025.

All students are in the process of working through their Individual Learning Pathway Plans (ILPPs). These plans will guide students through the options and guidance process and will support them with learning pathway decisions. It will encourage students to consider careers that interest them and will direct them to places where they can find out more. A copy of the ILPP can be found on the school website, there is also an alternative notebook that is available to students in the wellbeing Team on Microsoft Teams:

[Careers and Work Related Experiences - Whitchurch High School](#)

Teachers have also been discussing the specific content of key stage 5 courses during lessons and specific assemblies to help support students with their decisions. Our Sixth Form Prospectus can again be found on our website.

[SixthFormProspectus](#)

Further information will be shared in the sixth form open evening. This will be held on the upper school site and is a great opportunity for students to find out more about subjects that they are interested in following at post 16.

Armed with this information, students should be in a position to make their free choice decisions between the 20<sup>th</sup> January and the 3<sup>rd</sup> February. This is an online survey that all year 11 students need to complete, either selecting the courses they want to follow at Whitchurch in year 12 or letting us know that they do not intend returning to our sixth form. Students will need to log these decisions using the sims student app. Written instructions can be found on our school website under the curriculum tab / Yr 12 and 13 subject information / informative presentations.

[Year 12 and 13 Subject Information - Whitchurch High School](#)



Although these decisions are not final, it is important that they are as accurate as possible, as the totals and priorities of student choices will be used to formulate the final option grid. This ensures that the final option grid provides the highest possible match to student choices to ensure that as many students as possible can follow the courses they have selected.

Those who do not intend returning to the sixth form will still need to complete the free choice survey and indicate that they do not wish to return to Whitchurch. This will allow us to provide targeted advice and guidance on different pathways and support with college/job applications.

You will also notice from the timeline on the previous page that the support and guidance does not stop there. Students will also receive a one-to-one interview with a senior member of staff to help discuss option choices and individual learning pathways. Careers Wales advisors will also be available on the interview days to support. We will also provide individual employer interviews for all students, with local businesses supporting us. Students will need to bring a completed CV and mock application form with them to these interviews. Templates and advice will be shared with students during their wellbeing sessions to support with the completion of these documents.

A copy of the sixth form entry requirements and student contract can be found in our sixth form prospectus. Information is also available to explain how places are allocated on courses:

The digital application form can be accessed by following a link from the same section of the website from the 17<sup>th</sup> February onwards and will include the final option grid that has been constructed based on free choice decisions.

Whilst students will be able to change their mind following the free choice survey and after application forms are submitted, it is important that the decisions that they make over the coming months are as informed and as accurate as possible to avoid disappointment. With this in mind, we would encourage you to discuss these decisions with your child over the Christmas period and beyond.

Can we take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support and wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us on 02920 629700

Yours sincerely,

**Miss C Hollings**  
Assistant Headteacher  
Key Stage 4

**Mr A Horgan**  
Year 11 Progress Leader

**Mrs R Griffiths**  
Year 11 Pastoral assistant

**Mr J Miller**  
Year 11 Assistant Progress Leader

**Mrs B Ashford**  
Assistant Progress Leader

**Mr J W Davies**  
Assistant Headteacher  
Curriculum