



Education Resources
Executive Director **Tony McDaid**
Calderside Academy
Head Teacher **J S Dodds**

Our ref:

Your ref:

If calling ask for:

Phone: 01698 717180

Date: January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

S5 OPTION PROCESS

We normally write to you in January to invite you to a senior school course choice event, this sits alongside your child completing their course choices for entering S5. While these arrangements are not in place in the usual format, we are writing to update you on our approach during this time.

At the meeting, we would give you an overview of our draft course choice arrangements and let you know about the important aspects of Upper School Courses, assessment procedures and progression from S4 to S5. While we will not be holding an in school parental event we are updating you on the support and timeline in place. This has already commenced in December and will continue this month.

As part of the options process all S4 pupils will receive 2 presentations regarding subject choices and procedures in senior school. A live online assembly took place in December (presentation 1). This outlined our approach and the associated calendar. A second presentation will also take place this month. This is pre recorded with a voice over, will focus on aspects of the curriculum in S5 and offer advice as to consideration taken around the level of a course that pupils will undertake.

Both presentations are available on the school website and your child will also be signposted to the second presentation this week. They are also asked to read over the first presentation to remind them of the points covered in December. In addition, there are booklets available on the school website relating to the process, the following literature is available at www.calderside.s-lanark.sch.uk:

-Guidance Booklets

- Options Guidance booklet: 21/22
- Senior Phase course options: N5 and other courses 2021/22
- Senior Phase course options: Higher 2021/22
- Senior Phase course options: Advanced Higher & S6 only courses 2021/22
- S5 Options Sheet 2021/22

-Youth Employment Provision

- Foundation Apprenticeship provision (last year's provision, update to follow when available from SLC)
 - GradU8 provision (last year's provision, update to follow when available from SLC)
- S5 upper school options presentation 1, Dec 2020 (slides only, no audio, this was presented live)
- S5 upper school options presentation 2, with audio, Jan 21

During PSE week commencing 18 January your child will be signposted to the second course choice

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presentation, which they should view along with revisiting presentation 1. They will be asked to complete their course choice form remotely. Both the presentation and the form will be made available to them via their S4 year group google classroom. The online form takes them through the completion of their option sheet. **This should be completed and submitted by Thursday 28 January.** On receipt of their submitted form, Pupil Support and/or senior staff will review these. If there is thought to be a point or query or further advice required the appropriate member of staff will contact either you or your child.

As is the norm after completion of this process pupils are to focus on their S4 studies. When we commence our new timetable in the summer term, I will speak to your child again to set the scene regarding S5. We will then revisit S5 course choice options with pupils in August when pupils have received their SQA results.

Yours sincerely

Mrs D Osprey
Depute Headteacher – S5/6