



# Subject Choices for SVI

March 2016

# The Curriculum

- Advanced Highers
- Highers
- Cooking for independent living
- DoE Award Leadership
- PSE & PE
- UCAS tariff

# SVI Free Choice

- English
- Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- French, German and Spanish,
- Latin & Classical Studies
- Geography, History and Modern Studies
- Business Management
- Art & Design, Design & Manufacture and Graphic Communication
- Music
- Psychology
- Philosophy
- Practical woodwork

# The Timetable

- Free choice to columns of the timetable
- 3AH or 2AH + 2H or 1AH + 3H or 4H
- Advanced Highers
  - Good Higher prelim grade
  - Class tests in March
- Removing subjects with very low uptake
- Requesting changes
- Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August

# Higher to Advanced Higher

- Degree of difficulty
- Work ethic
- Homework
- The well rounded student
- Prefectship
  - Regent
  - Duties
  - Opportunities to apply for positions of leadership
  - Develop important employability skills
- A successful start at university
- SVI results for future employers
  - Top internships / grad programmes looking for 300 UCAS points in 3 subjects

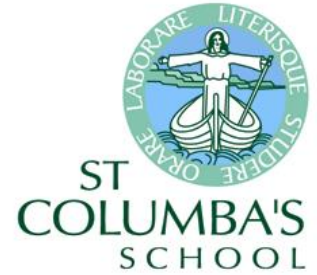


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COLUMBA'S  
SCHOOL

# The Shape of the Year

- The year group
  - Team building weekend at Ardeonaig
- UCAS applications
- Units and Unit tests
- November parents' evening
- Progress sheets from individual subjects
- Motivational weekend at Drymen
- January prelims with written reports
- Class tests in March
- A reduced diet and withdrawing candidates

# Applying to University



- WHAT do YOU want to STUDY?
- Where do you want to study?

# How to decide?

- Prospectuses & University Websites
- Course content & assessment
- Employability
- Futurewise
- Work Experience
- Former Pupils
- University Open Days (3)



Subjects	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Engineering	8	9	10	6	12
Architecture	-	-		3	1
Business (inc Econ & Acc, Mktg)	16	8	11	6	11
Maths	-	4	3		
Physics	1	2	2		3
Chemistry	-	-	1		
Biological Sciences	6	2	5	1	
Medicine	2	3	1	5	4
Other Medical	1	1	1	2	3
Dentistry	-	-	2	2	1
Veterinary Medicine	-	1	1		1
Psychology	4	8	3	4	6
IT	2	-	3		1
English		3		1	3
Geography/Geology	1	-	4	3	
Law	2	3	1	7	1
Politics/IR	6	-	4	3	5
History	2	1	2	4	3
Languages	3	3	1	1	1
Classics/Latin	1	-		1	
Primary Education	2	-		1	
Art/Fashion/Hist of Art	6	1	2	2	1
Film/Theatre/Drama/Media	1	1	1		
Events Management		-	2		

# Have you heard of ...

- Molecular Microbiology
- Medicinal Chemistry
- Artificial Intelligence
- Film & Visual Culture
- Social Anthropology
- Scottish Ethnology
- Cognitive Science

# Where?

- Scotland: length & breadth of course
- Rest of UK
- Ireland: eg Trinity, UCD (no fees for EU)
- Europe: eg Maastricht
- USA: Fulbright Commission:

[www.fulbright.org.uk](http://www.fulbright.org.uk)

# University Destinations

SVI Leavers



	2015 (50)	2014 (48)	2013 (55)	2012 (52)	2011 (57)
<b>Edinburgh</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	7	<b>12</b>
Glasgow	6	3	1	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>
Aberdeen	4	5	6	11	6
St Andrews	4	6	2	4	2
Strathclyde	6	8	3	1	2
Dundee	3	-	6	5	5
Stirling	2	-	1	2	-
RGU	2	2	2	-	3
Heriot Watt	4	4	6	1	2
QMUC	-	-	1	1	1
GCU	-	2	2	2	1
UWS	1	-	-	2	1
Napier	2	2	2	-	3
Oxbridge	2	1	-	1	1
RUK	3	1	10	3	5

# Considerations

- Five courses
- Back-up/safety-net
- Increasing competition for places at top Scottish universities
- Personal Statement has to be relevant to all 5 courses
- Type of course: sandwich/industrial placement
- Erasmus & international links

# UCAS Application

- Centralised on-line application system for UK universities
- On-line registration opens at the beginning of September 2016 for courses starting in September 2017
- Cost £23.00 (£12)
- Choices not ranked

# Personal Statement

- Up to 4000 characters
- Demonstrate your interest in your chosen subject
- Reading/work experience/independent study
- Demonstrate your skills and interests
- Sell yourself & show your interest
- Workshop & Head of House support

# Reference

- Written by Head of House
- Up to 4000 characters
- Subject teacher input
- Predicted grades
- Contribution to School & community
- Approved by Rector



# Deadlines

- October 15<sup>th</sup> Medicine; Dentistry;  
Vet Medicine; Oxbridge
- January 15<sup>th</sup> All other applications  
except ...
- 24<sup>th</sup> March Some Art & Design  
courses

# The Process



- March Head of House interview
- March Free choice of subjects
- June Head of House interview with parents
- June ISCO follow up interview
- August 11<sup>th</sup> Confirmation of Subjects
- September PSE: UCAS and Personal Statements
- Sept/October Regular meetings with Head of House
- October PSE: Interview Skills
- Oct/Nov/Dec Application finalised. Meeting with Rector. Application sent to UCAS
- November Practice Interviews
- June-November Admission Tests

# Interviews and Tests

- Formal and informal interviews
- Medicine, Dentistry, Primary Teaching
- English Universities
- UKCAT
- LNAT
- Oxbridge Admissions tests
- Portfolio

# Offers

- UCAS track
- 31<sup>st</sup> March (7<sup>th</sup> May)
- Unconditional
- Conditional
- Rejection
- Final decision: 6<sup>th</sup> May
- UF/CF/CI/Rej

# CUKAS

- Very similar to UCAS
- Music “on-time” deadline: 1<sup>st</sup> October
- Dance, drama, screen deadline: 15<sup>th</sup> January
- Up to 6 choices
- Application fee: £16 + audition fees
- References: Academic & Practical

# UCAS Extra



- 25<sup>th</sup> February
- All 5 choices used? No offers? Changed your mind?
- Submit additional choices: one at a time
- New Personal Statement
- Not all courses available

# Other Options

- Gap Year and Deferred Entry
- College (HNC/HND)
- Modern Apprenticeships
- Employment
- [www.notgoingtouni.com](http://www.notgoingtouni.com)
- [www.unisnotforme.com](http://www.unisnotforme.com)

# Finances: SAAS

- Scottish University Fees
- England fees of up to £9,000
- Living cost loans: £4,750
- £16,910 earnings threshold
- 9 % of monthly salary over threshold
- £20,000 pa, repayment = £19.99 per month (from £1,300)
- Bursaries: means tested income below £34,000
- Scholarships



# Graduate Employment

- Verbal and written communication skills
- Numeracy and IT skills
- Thinking & problem-solving skills
- Interpersonal skills
- Well-rounded individuals
- Ability to work as part of and lead a team
- Entrepreneurial spirit, enterprising mind-set

# Myths

- Arts and Humanities degrees don't lead to employment
- Studying Business/IT will guarantee you a job
- You need to study Accountancy to become an accountant

# Growth Sectors

- Data analysts
- Computing and mathematics based jobs
- Architecture and engineering
- Specialist sales people
- Senior managers, especially in media, entertainment and information sectors
- Designers, specifically product and industrial
- Human resources and organisational development specialists
- Regulatory and government relations experts

# At University

- Don't forget about your CV
- Seek out clubs and take on additional responsibilities
- Acquire work experience
- Summer internships, taster days and work placements
- Travel

# Next Steps

- Focus on fulfilling your potential
- Work Experience
- Futurewise
- Career Experience Days
- Order & read university prospectuses
- Check entry requirements - small print
- Book Open Day visits on-line
- Access your Allies!

# Finally ...



- Don't worry
- 65% of students don't know what they want to do when they graduate