



## Renfrewshire Council: Children's Services

# Advanced Higher (AH) provision

### Introduction

Renfrewshire Council strives to ensure that young people are well placed to progress to appropriate destinations when they leave school. In recent times the number of young people from Renfrewshire who progress from school to university has been above the national average.

To support this, we endeavour to provide a broad range of advanced higher courses; the availability of these is, of course, dependent upon staffing, accommodation and resources. Study at advanced higher level can be desirable for some S6 pupils who wish to specialise further in a subject area, though for others, breadth of learning is of equal importance, meaning that in S6 it is more appropriate for them to broaden their attainment at Higher level. Indeed, many university courses do not require candidates to have achieved at advanced higher level.

The procedures we have established for the delivery of advanced higher level courses aim to offer equality of opportunity for all pupils wishing to study a course at that level.

### Consortium delivery

Some advanced higher courses in Renfrewshire are delivered through the consortium; this means that a pupil may undertake study in a subject at advanced higher level out with their own school. **Provision of advanced higher courses on a consortium basis seeks to maximise pupil choice and progression while also preparing young people more adequately for further or higher education by encouraging more independent learning. To support this endeavour, advanced higher candidates have access to the Heriot-Watt University programme, SCHOLAR. This allows them access to online advanced higher study resources in many subjects. Pupils should engage with SCHOLAR at the earliest opportunity when embarking upon advanced higher level study.** Consortium delivery also allows S6 pupils to meet and work with pupils from other schools and learn how to work in different environments.

### Parental support

As at all stages of your child's educational journey, your support is invaluable. For example, it is important that when deciding their S6 options young people take account of expected S5 examination grades and what choices may best support any particular career aspirations they have. That is, we would emphasise the importance of your support in making sure that the desire to study a particular subject at AH level on the part of your child is matched by vocational purpose and previous attainment experience. The need for parental support in ensuring that pupils who opt to study courses at AH level complete the course, should also be highlighted.

## Key information

- In most cases, it is recommended that pupils study a maximum of 2 subjects at AH level;
- For the purposes of AH delivery on a consortium basis, 3 locality groupings have been devised:
  - › **Locality 1**—Gryffe High School, Johnstone High School, Linwood High School, St. Benedict's High School;
  - › **Locality 2**—Park Mains High School, Renfrew High School, Trinity High School;
  - › **Locality 3**—Castlehead High School, Gleniffer High School, Paisley Grammar School, St Andrew's Academy

Wherever possible pupil options for study at AH level will be accommodated within their own locality; however to maximise choice and ensure equality of opportunity, learners will have the flexibility to access courses out with their locality;

- There is greater demand for AH provision in certain subjects: based on this, i.e. past uptake patterns, AH courses have been assigned 2 distinct levels. Subjects for which there is routinely the greatest uptake are classed as level 1 subjects and all others are considered as level 2 subjects. For example:
  - › **Level 1** English, Maths, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Art & Design, Music, Graphic Communication
  - › **Level 2** History, Geography, French (MFL), RMPS, Modern Studies, Drama, plus any other subjects

Every attempt will be made to ensure that pupils who opt to study Level 1 subjects are able to do so within their own locality; it is noted that it may not be possible to provide provision of these subjects within the pupil's own locality until numbers are finalised in August of each session (post SQA examination results); it is also recognised that in any given year a spike in pupil uptake could prevent this from being possible for the entire session;

- Please be aware that definitive provision of AH will be dependent upon staffing, accommodation and appropriate resources;
- All schools will submit their pupil options for AH and candidate numbers for each subject using the schools' online portal (referred to as Glow);
- At the same time, schools offering AH in a particular subject (the host school) will indicate how many places are available;

- In the case of over-subscription for a course, or for a course within a given locality, **a balloting system may take place in late May/early June and/or in August. The ballot will take account of prior levels of attainment in the subject and vocational purpose;**
- Wherever possible, an attempt will be made to ensure that any student making a change to their initial subject choice is provided with options appropriate to their attainment at Higher level in a subject and intended post school pathway.

## Timeline:

### By the end of March:

Following the option process, S6 pupils will have made their initial option choices

### By the end of May:

Confirmation of AH courses and initial pupil placements, in most cases

### Start of June:

If necessary, balloting process takes place in relation to oversubscribed courses/delivery out with locality hub

### June S6 (start date to be agreed):

Commencement of AH courses

### August—start of new session:

DHTs with responsibility for post 16 pupils will revise pupil placements using the Glow portal.

### Week 2 of new session:

DHTs with responsibility for post 16 pupils will meet to confirm finalised placements and assign available places in a 'mop of' e.g. pupils studying levels other than advanced higher

### End of August:

DHTs will use online updated information to ensure "catch all" for any students still not placed.