February 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

As Year 12 students move into their final months of study we look to continue to support them as they consider ‘What’s Next’. Below you will find dates, links and information that we hope you will find useful in the coming months to ensure that students make informed, considered and realistic decisions about their education, training and employment options.

**Careers Advisers/ Guidance Interviews**

We work closely with the Department of Employment and Learning and all Year 12 students have an interview with our DEL Careers Advisor, who offers individual personal career planning. For further information see [Careers Guidance Interview](https://youtu.be/6Y3u3itM9cA).

The Careers Advisers for Breda Academy are Gerard McGrath and Paul McLennan.

Careers advisers can also provide advice to parents as they support their children and help them make successful career choices. Parents are a key influencer in young people’s future study and career choices and parental support and encouragement is very important.

To help parents support their children to make informed career decisions, the Careers Service has produced a parental guide which is available to view or download [Careers Service - a parental guide](https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/careers-service-a-parental-guide-PDF-June-2020.pdf)

Should pupils or parents wish to make direct contact, Careers Advisers can be contacted by telephone on 0300 200 7820, by visiting [www.nidirect.gov.uk/careers](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/careers) or by chatting to an adviser online at [www.nidirect.gov.uk/chat-with-a-careers-adviser](https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/chat-with-a-careers-adviser).

**Progression Routes**

At the end of Year 12 students need to start thinking about the career path they want to take. It is important they find out what qualifications are required if they have a particular career in mind. They can carry on learning, get a job or do a training course or apprenticeship.

Please visit <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/options-after-year-12> for more information on options after Year 12.

Progression Routes available:

* Staying on at School

Students may decide to move on to sixth form at Breda Academy or go to another school. More information will be available on Post-16 options at Breda Academy.

* Further Education

Further Education (FE) colleges are for students aged 16 and over and offer a range of courses. These include academic, vocational or a mixture of both and can be full-time or part-time. There are different levels of course available to suit individual ability and learning support for those with learning needs.

* Apprenticeships

An [apprenticeship](https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/training-programmes/apprenticeships)is a real job with training so you can earn while you learn and gain recognised qualifications. Your employer provides your on-the-job training and pays your wages. You will work alongside experienced staff to learn and develop your skills.

Your off-the-job training will usually be on a day-release basis with a training provider. This can be a college, training organisation or university.

* Skills for Life and Work

Skills for Life and Work provides you with the knowledge and skills you need to get a job or move onto the next level of training. The training is designed around you – your level, your interests and your goals. You will also get an Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA).

* Employment

Remember that skills, experience and qualifications are important in this very competitive job market. Job vacancies can be found in newspapers or online.

**Important Websites and Dates:**

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| Apprenticeships | Work+ | [www.workplus.app](http://www.workplus.app)  Applications open 17th January  Applications close 18th February at 1pm |
| Further Education Colleges | Belfast Metropolitan College  South Eastern Regional College  CAFRE (College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise) | <https://www.belfastmet.ac.uk/>  Applications open 25th January  <https://www.serc.ac.uk/>  <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/contacts/cafre-college-agriculture-food-rural-enterprise> |
| Skills for Life and Work | People First  Bryson Future Skills  Impact Training  Rutledge Training Ltd  Springvale Employment and Learning  Workforce Training Services | <https://www.people-1st.co.uk/programmes/skills-for-life-and-work>  <https://www.brysonfutureskills.org/>  <https://impacttrainingltd.com/>  <https://www.rutledgegroup.co.uk/>  <https://www.springvalelearning.com/>  <https://www.workforceonline.org/> |

Your son/daughter will have received a personalised action plan from their Careers Guidance Interview, if you require a copy of this please let me know.

If you have any concerns or worries about your son / daughter's future plans, then please don’t hesitate to contact me via email gferguson162@c2ken.net. We will do all we can to support your son / daughter to secure an offer from a college, sixth form or training provider of their choice.

Many thanks,



