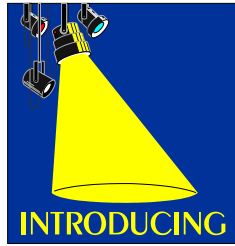


(i)



**This booklet is to assist Year 12 students
in their choice of AS Levels and their entry into St Mary's Sixth Form.**

There are over 300 pupils in Years 13 and 14. While the majority of these students proceed into Sixth Form from our own Year 12, each year a number have joined us from other schools. These students are very welcome and we aim to assist them in settling into the changed and very different environment of St Mary's Sixth Form.



The Sixth Form is divided up into Form Groups for registration each morning at **9.00 am**.

There are also two **Religious Education** periods each week and one period of **Career Planning**.

The remaining periods will be available for independent private study in the Study Hall.



St Mary's Sixth Form is an academic and personal preparation for life in Third Level education or in the world of employment.

Students are increasingly expected and encouraged to accept responsibility for their own environment. Great emphasis is placed upon **hard work and academic discipline** to ensure the best possible examination results and the largest number possible entering Third Level education.

Every student is frequently made aware of what is expected of him in terms of **academic performance, behaviour and response to the school**.

No student will succeed without **sustained hard work** but, students who work hard and follow instructions can expect academic success and have, as models, past students who have entered all Faculties in Universities each year.

Finally, a student's **attitude, academic progress and response to the school society** form the basis of his UCAS reference which is an integral and vital part of every student's application both to Third Level Education and to employment.

(ii)

CHOICES

The basis on which A-Level subject choices should be made based on the following:

1. *What are you good at?*

Your examination performance in the 'Mocks' and in the GCSE is important. You need a grade A at GCSE to take Mathematics or Science subjects at A-Level. Experience shows that students taking Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry and Physics at A-Level without high grades at GCSE find study difficult and the success rate of such students is not very high.

2. *What do you enjoy learning about?*

You will do better in a subject which you enjoy. Remember, at A-Level you study, in depth, for eight periods per week. You are also expected to work at each subject on your own.

3. *What are your future career or university ideas?*

The list of courses, careers and A-Level subjects in this Booklet will assist you but, should you have any doubts, ask the Careers staff and check relevant Careers literature.

Do not base your decision only on point 1 or 2 or 3 – this must be a balanced decision. You must be able to explain each of your subject choices afterwards by supplying answers to the above three questions!

- ✓ Talk to older friends or family members to find out about their courses.
- ✓ Talk to teachers about their subject specialisms.
- ✓ Talk to Year 13 and 14 students in the school already studying the subjects that you are interested in.
- ✓ Read this booklet in full and use the recommended **career websites** in the following pages.
- ✓ If you want to go to university check the entrance criteria **NOW** for your courses of interest. The list at the back of this booklet is only a guide and you should check out the university's website as well. It will be **too late** to check in Year 13 or 14 and discover you have picked the wrong A-Level subjects!
- ✓ Get advice from those who know you well or a careers adviser.
- ✓ Talk your choices and decisions over with older family members, your teachers or a careers adviser.

**This is a critically important decision.
It is better to be safe than sorry!**

(iii)

CRITERIA :: SCHOOL YEAR 2013-2014
For the Entry of **Pupils** into **St Mary's Year 13**

The **Religious and Educational Philosophy** of St. Mary's Christian Brothers' Grammar School for Boys is that of a **Christian and Catholic School**.

For pupils who wish to enter the **Sixth Form** in St Mary's, the Board of Governors has laid down the following Criteria:

1. The Board of Governors decide which applicants will be admitted and the Principal will administer the admission process on their behalf.
2. Special Circumstances:
The Principal may consider the admission of boys who do not meet these academic requirements if he is of the opinion that there are special circumstances which should be taken into account.
3. Prospective pupils must apply for admission and must attend for interview if required.
4. Prospective pupils must have had a 95% attendance record and a record of good behaviour and discipline.
5. In the first instance the best **six** subject grades will only be considered for students applying to study **A-Levels**. Pupils must obtain at least **33 points** in these six grades. This is the equivalent of three B and three C grades at GCSE (A* = 8, A = 7, B = 6, C = 5).

Students applying to study the **National Diploma in Sport Level 3 (OCR)** must obtain at least **30 points**. This is the equivalent of six C grades at GCSE.

All students must have English Language or Mathematics at grade C or better.

6. In the event of places still being available the following will apply:
 - a) Pupils who have two B and four C GCSE grades (thirty two points) will be considered.
 - b) These must include English or Mathematics.
7. In the event of a tie, priority will be established by the following computerised random selection which is renewed each June:

C	L	O'	E	O	W	Mac	P	D	Q	F	G	V	U	Y	T	B	M	A	N	Mc	Z	H	K	X	R	S	J	I
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(iv)

8. Other General Criteria:
- a) There must be a vacancy.
 - b) It must also be possible to accommodate the choice of subjects to be studied by the pupil.
 - c) The Principal must be of the opinion that admission is academically and in all other respects appropriate.

9. Criteria for any extra places made available by the Department of Education for admission into Year 13:

The Department of Education may, on request, increase the number of pupils that the school can admit to its Year 13. Places that become available in this way shall be allocated only to pupils who meet the basic eligibility criteria for sixth form study (as above) and shall be allocated in the order determined by the criteria to be applied in the order set down.

1. Pupils who have most recently completed Year 12 in St Mary's Grammar School.
2. Pupils from other schools where admission to an extra place at St Mary's Grammar School has been agreed by the Department of Education.*

* Parents should note how the Department of Education will, in response to a school's request, increase the school's admission number in order to allow an extra post -16 pupil to enrol. DE will first check whether there is another school or schools of a type suitable for that pupil within an hour's journey of where the pupil lives. If there is, DE will then check whether this other school or schools may provide all of the post-16 courses that the pupil wishes to pursue. If these checks find that no other suitable school may provide all of the post-16 courses that the pupil wishes to pursue - then DE will agree a school's request for an extra place.

What is a school of a type that is suitable for a pupil? To determine this, DE first considers all schools to be one of 4 types: (1) denominational (2) non-denominational (3) Integrated and (4) Irish-Medium. A school requesting an extra place for a post-16 pupil will belong to one of these 4 types and DE will consider any other school or school from this same type as suitable for the pupil. DE will also consider as suitable for the pupil any school from the same type as the type of school that the child attended in Year 12.

10. It is expected that an application to attend St Mary's Grammar School will indicate that there is an acceptance to respect the ethos and traditions of the school and to comply with all school Rules and Regulations.
11. Admission will not be offered where it is judged to be prejudicial to the efficient use of school resources.

J Sheerin (Principal and Correspondent to the Board of Governors)
February 2013

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Post 16 Options

Prospects for global economic growth are uncertain, driven by difficulties in the US and Euro zone. The UK economy grew by 0.7% in the fourth quarter of 2013, bringing the annual growth rate to 1.9%. (the highest since 2007)

However NI has been **more impacted than other UK regions** during the course of the downturn

The NI labour market is still struggling with **Youth unemployment** standing at **23.8%** - the highest in the UK - and a 200% increase since 2008. The sectors particularly affected have been construction, retail, finance, education, health and business services. The first people to lose their jobs are young people and those with fewer qualifications.

The logical conclusion?

More qualifications = better chance of employment.

More qualifications = higher salary.

Skills and qualifications will be needed more than ever, with growth predicted in the following sectors in Northern Ireland:

- ICT – particularly the **Software** industry
- STEM type occupations (i.e. **Sciences, Technologies, Engineering, Maths**)
- Renewable Energies
- Agri-food – food production, preparation, packaging, technology and science
- Environmental careers
- Financial Services
- Creative and Digital Media
- Tourism and Hospitality – new hotels and tourism packages, chefs.

There are many different types of qualifications nowadays and there are several routes open to 16 year olds. Choosing a pathway can be confusing so the following is a break down of those choices and some possible *benefits* and *drawbacks* of each. **However, as this is a personal choice there may be more individual benefits or drawbacks and these will need serious discussion.**

A-Levels:

These can be undertaken in Sixth Form here, at another school or at Belfast Metropolitan College.

Benefits of A-Levels:

- A continuity of full-time study in a known environment.
- In St Mary's there is a continuity of strong pastoral care and extra-curricular activities on offer.
- The standard route to university.
- Recognised by all employers.

Drawbacks of A-Levels:

- A-Levels will take self motivation, commitment and drive. A-Level students must carefully balance and prioritise their time.
- This is an *academic* choice and is not the correct route for everyone.

Full-time Further Education:

Further Education refers to any qualification at level 1, 2 or 3. GCSE's are considered to be level 2 qualifications.

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BTEC or OCR National Diploma:

This is a two-year course offered at FE colleges and some local schools (here at St Mary's you can study the double or triple award OCR Diploma in **Sport**). It could be the equivalent of one, two or three A-Levels in one wide subject (i.e. Engineering) and is generally assessed by continual coursework and project work. After a National Diploma you can apply for **employment** or a **university course** in the area studied. N.B. To understand how many A-Levels a National Diploma is equivalent to you need to look at the number of units included in the qualification - **6 units = 1 A-Level, 12 units = 2 A-Levels, 18 units = 3 A-Levels.**

Entrance Requirements: Minimum of 5 grade C's at GCSE, often including English and Maths. Other subject requirements will depend of the area applied for (i.e. Engineering will also require a Science at grade C)

BTEC or OCR First Diplomas:

This is a one-year course offered at FE colleges and some local schools. It is the equivalent of four GCSE's in one area and is assessed by coursework.

Entrance Requirements: 4 grades D-G at GCSE.

National Vocational Qualifications:

These are more commonly known as NVQ's. Some FE colleges offer NVQ's in vocational areas such as Childcare or Professional Cookery. Students spend part of their week in college and part of their week in a relevant work placement. The qualification is gained by assessment in the workplace and by a student portfolio. These are work based qualifications and are not recognised on the UCAS tariff by universities.

Entrance Requirements: This depends on the area studied. GCSE English and Maths may be required.

Possible benefits of vocational education:

- As these qualifications are assessed by course work or project work it may suit those who perform better by continuous assessment.
- As one main subject is undertaken it may suit those who have a strong interest in only one area.
- Some students may benefit from a more informal or practical learning environment.
- Vocational education can help make you more employable.

Possible drawbacks of vocational education:

- The break in continuity of care and support offered by St Mary's. FE colleges provide a very different, and sometimes impersonal, learning environment.
- In order to succeed in this learning environment students need to be mature, self disciplined and motivated.
- The choice of university degrees will be limited. National Diplomas are eligible for university entrance but often in the area studied (i.e. with a National Diploma in Sport you may apply for sports related degrees, however other university subjects may be possible).
- As these are assessed by continual coursework and project work there are many deadlines to meet. Where A-Levels are assessed by a combination of examinations and coursework, National Diplomas rely heavily on assignment work so it would be normal to hand in approximately 40 large assignments over the course of 2 years of a Diploma.

Apprenticeships:

An apprenticeship offers you the opportunity to "earn while you learn". An apprentice will be employed and paid a salary by the employer for three or four days of each week and will attend a training supplier for the rest of the week (a list of these is mentioned under Training Programmes). It is your responsibility to find an employer. Qualifications gained through apprenticeships are NVQ's: an apprentice usually gains an NVQ Level 2 and Level 3 in three years. Some career areas can *only* be accessed through the apprenticeship programme such as Electrical Installation or Plumbing.

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Possible advantages of apprenticeships:

- You earn your own salary while learning.
- There are significantly fewer classes to attend.
- You learn to become a professional within your chosen industry.
- Employers value qualified apprentices with National Vocational Qualifications.

Possible disadvantages of apprenticeships:

- Working life begins early!
- Finding your own employer can prove difficult, especially in the current economic climate.
- Professionalism is required and you might not be ready for this.
- There will be no more school holidays (apprentices are required to work throughout the year).
- The learning environment will require you to learn without your peers.

To discover more about apprenticeships please visit:

<http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsni>

Training Programmes

Training Programmes are also known as “Training For Success”. This scheme provides *training* that will give you the relevant qualifications, tools and skills you need to get a job, while providing you with qualifications as well as the required personal and behavioural skills to progress into work. Training For Success offers three different types of training programme: Skills For Your Life, Skills For Work and Programme-Led Apprenticeships. Trainees receive an allowance of £40 per week. The local training suppliers are Springvale Learning, Dairy Farm, Paragon Training N.I., Workforce Training Services Ltd and Belfast Metropolitan College. For further details on these training suppliers and on Training For Success please visit:

<http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/trainingforsuccess>

Possible advantages of Training Programmes:

- There is no minimum entrance requirement for Skills For Your Life or Skills For Work.
- You can sample different areas of employment and the world of work.
- If you want to undertake an apprenticeship but cannot secure an employer then Skills For Work Level 2 will help you gain the required NVQ Level 2 for that area.

Possible disadvantages of Training Programmes:

- Trainees receive £40 per week rather than a small salary.
- There will be no more school holidays (trainees are required to work throughout the year).

Employment:

Fulltime employment is difficult to secure at the age of 16. The main employers of young people leaving school are those who offer apprenticeships so that training and qualifications are gained through the job. **It is widely accepted that in order to progress successfully through life that individuals will need qualifications above and beyond GCSE's.** The National Minimum Wage for 16-17 years olds is £3.72 per hour. It may be possible for 16 year olds to work fulltime in the following roles:

- Call centre operative
- Sales assistant (retail or hospitality)

(viii)

Which one is right for me?

When making important decisions you must follow logical steps to a conclusion:

Define the task in hand i.e. “What will I do next year?”

Establish my options

Collect information on my options

Investigate the pros and cons of my options

Decide best option

Execute decision

Never jump a step ahead! When collecting information on all of your Post-16 Options you must consider the following:

- Where do I see myself in two years' time? (what you choose to do at 16 will have a direct bearing on what you *can* choose at 18)
- Do I have a career plan?
- What sort of learner am I?
- What are my skills and how will this affect my choices? (see the following page for subject skills)
- Have I gathered enough information on all of my options and weighed this information up?
- Have I asked anyone for advice?

Where do your skills lie?

School subjects are not just about examinations or what you learn in the classroom: they often reflect aspects of your personality, your interests and the skills that you have. Think about your own subjects. Not just in the past few weeks, but over time – perhaps even before you started your GCSE’s. Do you like any of your subjects enough to take an interest in them in your spare time?

In the table below you will find some of the different skills associated with your different GCSE subjects. They may give you some broad idea of the type of person that you are and how your schoolwork fits into “The Big Picture”

See if you can match any of the subject skills below to your own strengths.

ENGLISH LITERATURE	<i>Writing, talking, explaining, arguing, creativity, organising your ideas, analysing, summarising, intellectual criticism</i>
MATHEMATICS	<i>Using numbers, being logical, measuring, being accurate, getting answers, problem-solving</i>
SCIENCE	<i>Understanding the physical world, being practical, being logical, asking questions, getting answers, problem-solving, analysing</i>
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	<i>Researching, analysing information, balancing different viewpoints, writing, talking</i>
TECHNOLOGY	<i>Designing, planning, measuring, creativity, practicality, thinking about consumers and users, IT skills, problem solving</i>
ICT	<i>IT Skills, practicality, being logical, designing, problem solving, planning projects</i>
LANGUAGES	<i>Communication, confidence, memory skills, knowing another country, cultural awareness</i>
HISTORY	<i>Writing, explaining, arguing, looking at evidence, logic, asking questions, research skills, recognising bias</i>
GEOGRAPHY	<i>Writing, explaining, finding out information, using numbers, understanding the world and people</i>
GOVERNMENT & POLITICS	<i>Writing, explaining, debating, arguing, researching, summarising, analysing information</i>
ART	<i>Creativity, patience, practicality, working by yourself, designing, visual observation and recording, interpretation</i>
MOVING IMAGE ARTS	<i>Creativity, practicality, technical skills, team work, designing, IT skills, communicating, performing.</i>
MEDIA STUDIES	<i>Writing, analysing, IT skills, research skills, recognising bias, adjusting communication styles, presentation skills</i>
DRAMA	<i>Teamwork, communication, memory skills, performing, practicality, memory skills</i>
BUSINESS STUDIES	<i>Business awareness, evaluating data, using numbers, presentation skills, IT skills, planning projects</i>
FINANCIAL SERVICES	<i>Collecting and recording data, interpreting statistics, business awareness, financial and economic awareness</i>
SPORTS STUDIES	<i>Plan activities, improve your own and others’ performance, teamwork, analyse and evaluate activities</i>
MUSIC	<i>Technical and IT skills, analysing, critically appraising, working by yourself, performing, memory skills</i>

(X)

Careers Information Online

Visit: <http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/careers>

Click on *Get Career Ideas* on the right-hand side, then choose *Get Career Ideas – ages 14 to 19 (Cascaid)*. Register as a User to benefit from free programmes.

When logged into the website Click on *Explore Careers* & using the drop down menu select *Get Career Ideas*.

This website also provides useful information for parents – just click on the *Parents' Zone*

A new website for parents about career options is: <http://www.parentadviser.co.uk/>

A useful website for parents about employability and choosing careers is:

<https://www.barclayslifeskills.com/parents/>

The Careers library is open to all pupils for research and consultation. The range of resources, research materials and computer software packages are continually updated. Books can be borrowed from the library and there are Careers A-Z files for reference. There are additional careers resources available on request from Miss Moore in the Careers Room.

Further and more detailed information on **University courses** may be obtained by using the following websites:

<http://www.bestcourse4me.com/>

BestCourse4me is designed to help students make those all important University and career choices. The site has been designed to be as user friendly as possible. Browse your way through What Do I Want to Be, What Do I Want to Study and Where Do I want to Study.

<http://www.ukcoursefinder.com/>

This site has a comprehensive course search facility as well as an “interests questionnaire” to match you to potential courses of interest

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education>

Select *University Guide*. This is a guide to universities and colleges which is claimed to be the most comprehensive source of information on the UK's academic sector, covering some 100 000 calculations on 150 universities and colleges. You can look at league tables and listings for all subject areas and all universities themselves. The Guardian teaching score is given for each university and college as well as job prospects.

<http://www.push.co.uk>

This is a user-friendly site aimed at teenagers which helps students to choose a university on the basis of many different criteria. There is a very useful jargon buster section.

Queen's University website:

<http://www.qub.ac.uk>

University of Ulster website:

<http://www.ulster.ac.uk>

St Mary's University College Belfast website:

<http://www.smucb.ac.uk>

The UCAS website is

<http://wwwucas.com>

The CAO website is <http://www.cao.ie>. The CAO system is for applications to Higher Education in the Republic of Ireland.

February 2015



Key of Abbreviations
QUB = Queen's University Belfast
UU = University of Ulster
BMC = Belfast Metropolitan College
CAFRE = College of Agriculture, Food & Rural Enterprise

Career / Course	Univ.	Necessary G.C.S.E. Subjects	Useful G.C.S.E. Subjects	Necessary A-Level Subjects	Useful A-Level Subjects and Comments
Accounting (Option with Languages)	QUB UU	GCSE Maths Grade A/B High grades required	Add Maths Business Studies	Language (if applicable)	Maths is useful (High grades). GOOD CAREER PROSPECTS
Actuarial Studies	QUB UK Uni(s);	English, Maths Very high grades required	Add Maths	Maths – grade A	Grades A*, A, A or A,A, A & 4 th A at AS Level. GOOD CAREER PROSPECTS
Advertising	UU UK Uni(s)	English Maths	Business Studies	No specific subject requirements.	Business Studies is useful. Many combinations offered.
Aero. Engineering	QUB UK Uni(s)	Maths, English, DA Science	Technology	Maths & a science, preferably Physics	Further Maths & any other Science useful Grades B, B, B for QUB
Agriculture	QUB C.A.F.R.E	English, Maths, DA Science		A Science subject	Preferably A Level Chemistry or Biology
Animation	UU UK Uni(s)	English, Maths Art	Media Studies, ICT	Art	Computing or ICT are useful
Architecture	QUB UU	Maths, English, Science, Art	Technology	No specific subject requirements but Art is advisable	Art & a mathematical subject are advisable Grades A, B, B or B, B, B.
Art & Design	UU BMC	English, Maths, Art		Art	Diploma in Fd Studies in Art & Design required for degree entrance
Automotive Engineering	UK Uni(s)	English, Maths, DA Science	Technology	Maths Physics	Any other – esp. Sciences, Computing.
Banking	Direct Entry	English, Maths	7 GCSE's required	3 C grades at A Level minimum generally required	Business Studies, or Maths may be useful
Biochemistry	QUB	Maths, English, DA Science		Chemistry & one other science or Maths	Biology is preferred as 2 nd science. Grades B, B, B.
Biology	QUB UU	Maths, DA Science		Biology Chemistry	Mathematics Physics
Biomedical Engineering	UU	Maths, English, DA Science		1 of: Biology or Chemistry or Physics or Maths or Technology	Biology and/or Maths may be an advantage. Grades B, B, C. GOOD CAREER PROSPECTS
Biomedical Science	QUB UU	English, Maths, DA Science,		2 Sciences	Biology & Chemistry preferred
Bio-technology	UK Uni(s)	Maths, DA Science	Technology	Biology	Chemistry and Maths also preferred. GOOD CAREER PROSPECTS
Building Engineering & Materials	UU UK Uni(s)	Maths, DA Science	Technology Computing ICT	One from Maths, Physics, Technology, Chemistry, Computing, Business Studies, Geography or ICT	Grades B, C, C
Building Surveying	UU UK Uni(s)	English Maths	Science, Construction Technology	No specific subject requirements.	Technology, ICT, Computing, Maths or Business studies all useful
Business	QUB UU	English Grade B in GCSE Mathematics for QUB	Business Studies	No specific subject requirements.	Lots of combinations available. Grades range from A, A, B to B, C, C. Business Studies, ICT, Mathematics or Computing could be useful.

Career / Course	Univ.	Necessary G.C.S.E. Subjects	Useful G.C.S.E. Subjects	Necessary A-Level Subjects	Useful A-Level Subjects and Comments
Chef / Catering	Colleges, Training Orgs & Employers	Maths, English & Science	Home Economics	N/A	GCSE grades required, generally in English, Maths or Science
Chemical Engineering	QUB	Maths, DA Science	ICT, Computing, Geography, Technology	Maths & a Science or Further Maths	Grades B, B, B
Chemistry	QUB UU	Maths, DA Science		Chemistry & one other science/Maths	Grades B, B, B. GOOD CAREER PROSPECTS
Civil Engineering	QUB UU	Maths, DA Science	Technology Computing Geography	Maths & a Science subject (Physics (preferred), Biology, Chemistry, Computing, Design/Technology).	Geography may be useful Grades B, B, B. GOOD CAREER PROSPECTS
Clerical Employment	Direct Entry	English, Maths	At least five GCSE's	Best two 'A' Levels	Usually by Aptitude Test or App. Form + Interview
Computer Games Development	QUB UU BMC	Maths, DA Science	Computing	Maths or Physics for QUB	Computing very useful
Computer Science	QUB UU	Maths, DA Science	Computing	QUB ask for Mathematics or Computing or Chemistry or Physics or Technology	Grades B, B, B. UU prefer Maths or Computing, Chemistry or Physics GOOD CAREER PROSPECTS
Construction trades	Direct Entry	English, Maths, DA Science	Construction	No specific subject requirements.	Work Experience important. Interview required.
Counselling	Direct Entry BMC	English & Maths		No specific subject requirements.	Qualifications are provided from levels 1-4 by community groups and FE colleges
Criminology	QUB UU UK Uni(s)	English, Maths		No specific subject requirements.	Grades A, B, B for QUB
Dentistry	QUB UK Uni(s)	English, Maths, DA Science High Grades required – 9 A* or A grades		Chemistry PLUS one of Physics, Maths or Biology (with Biol. to AS level).	A, A, A. A in Chemistry plus a 4 th A grade at AS Level. APTITUDE TEST REQUIRED
Dietetics	UU	English, Maths, DA Science	Home Economics	2 Science subjects	A Level Chemistry preferred. APTITUDE TEST REQUIRED
Drama Studies	QUB UU	English, Maths	Drama	No specific subject requirements.	B, B, B. A Level Drama useful. .AUDITIONS REQUIRED.
Economics	QUB UU	English GCSE Maths Grade A/B for both N.I. universities	Business Studies	No specific subject requirements.	A Level Maths or Business Studies are useful.
Education (Primary)	St Mary's Stranmillis College UK Uni(s)	English, Maths Science	Academic subjects	National Curriculum subjects WORK EXPERIENCE REQUIRED	High grades and interview required. JOB PROSPECTS CURRENTLY DIFFICULT
Education (secondary)	St Mary's Stranmillis College UK Uni(s)	English, Maths, Science	Academic subjects	2 A Levels preferred in 2 teaching subjects	Any 'A' Level but Maths, Science, ICT & Computing useful subjects. JOB PROSPECTS CURRENTLY DIFFICULT
Electrical / Electronic Engineering	QUB UU	English, Maths, DA Science	Technology Add Maths	Maths. & a Science or Technology	Grades B, B, B for QUB. GOOD CAREER PROSPECTS
Electrician	Employers & ETT	English, Maths	Technology		You must be physically fit and NOT be: colour-blind, afraid of heights or enclosed spaces.

Career / Course	Univ.	Necessary G.C.S.E. Subjects	Useful G.C.S.E. Subjects	Necessary A-Level Subjects	Useful A-Level Subjects and Comments
English	QUB UU	English	Journalism, Media or Drama	English Literature	Grades A, B, B for QUB. Many subject combinations available
Entrepreneur		None but English & Maths are useful	Business Studies	No specific subject requirements.	Business Studies may be useful. Experience is vital.
Environmental Health	UU	English, Maths, DA Science		Grade A in Maths or a Science	Grades A, B, B
Environmental Planning	QUB UK Uni(s)	Maths, Science	English, Geography	No specific subject requirements.	Geography &/or a Maths based subject are very useful
Environmental Sciences / Studies	UU	English, Maths, DA Science	Geography	2 of the following: Geography, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, PE, ICT	Grades C, C, C.
Events Management	UU BMC UK Uni(s)	English Maths	Business Studies	No specific subject requirements.	Business Studies may be useful. Work experience is helpful
Film Studies	QUB UU	English	English Literature, Media Studies, Journalism, Drama	No specific subject requirements.	English Literature, Moving Image Arts, Drama or Media Studies would be helpful
Finance	QUB UU	GCSE Maths grade B English	Business Studies	No specific subject requirements, however QUB prefer Maths	Business Studies useful. Grades range from A, B, B to B, B, B. GOOD CAREER PROSPECTS
Food & Nutrition	QUB UU CAFRE	English, Maths, DA Science	Home Economics	Biology and Chemistry preferred by QUB. Maths or any science required by UU	Grades range from B, B, B (QUB) to C, C, D (CAFRE). GOOD CAREER PROSPECTS
Forensic Sciences	UK Uni(s)	English, Maths, DA Science		Chemistry & Biology	Basically a Chemistry Degree
Forestry	UK Uni(s) or Direct Entry	English, Maths, DA Science		2 Science subjects or 1 Science & Maths or Technology	Limited universities offer this. High grades - Direct to Forest Service.
French	QUB UU	English, Maths, French	Irish or Spanish	French - Grade B	Often combined with other subjects. GOOD CAREER PROSPECTS
Geography	QUB UU	English, Maths Geography	Science	Geography - B/C	Grades B, B, B for QUB or C, C, D for UU. GOOD CAREER PROSPECTS
Graphic Design	BMC UK Uni(s)	English, Maths, Art	ICT or Computing	Art	Fd Diploma in Art after school, then degree in UK. A Level ICT or Computing useful.
Health & Social Care	UU UK Uni(s) BMC	English, Maths	Science Home Economics	No specific subject requirements	Grades B, B, C for UU. Work Experience helpful.
History	QUB UU	English, History		No specific subject requirements.	History very useful. Often joined or part of combined course.
Horticulture	CAFRE UK Uni(s) or Direct Entry	English, Maths DA Science		No specific subject requirements.	A science may be useful. Direct Entry - 4 GCSE passes Limited courses offered
Hospitality Management	BMC UU UK Uni(s)	English Mathematics	Home Economics A language	No specific subject requirements.	Work experience vital. A language is very useful. GOOD CAREER PROSPECTS
Housing Management	UU or Direct Entry	English Maths		No specific subject requirements.	Business Studies may be useful
Human Resource Management	UU UK Uni(s)	English Maths	Business Studies	No specific subject requirements.	Business Studies or a language may be useful
ICT (also called Computing Technologies)	UU UK Uni(s)	English Maths	Computing or ICT Technology	No specific subject requirements.	A Level ICT or Computing are useful but not essential
Interior Design	UU UK Uni(s)	English, Maths, Art		Art	Diploma in Fd Studies in Art & Design is usually required for degree entrance

Career / Course	Univ.	Necessary G.C.S.E. Subjects	Useful G.C.S.E. Subjects	Necessary A-Level Subjects	Useful A-Level Subjects and Comments
Irish Studies	QUB UU	English, Maths, Irish		Irish	Many combinations available. UU degree may be more suitable for Irish Language
Journalism	BMC UU UK Uni(s)	English Maths	Journalism History	No specific subject requirements.	UU grades B, B, C. English, Media Studies, History and Politics useful
Land Use & Environmental Management	QUB	Maths grade B Science	Geography	No specific subject requirements.	A Science or Geography may be useful
Landscape Architecture / Design	CAFRE UK Uni(s)	English, Maths, DA Science	Art	No specific subject requirements.	Geography, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry or Art all very useful.
Law	QUB UU UK Uni(s)	At least 7 high GCSE Grades required	English Literature, History	No specific subject requirements.	Usual grades A, A, B. A Level History, English or Politics may be useful. APTITUDE TEST REQUIRED FOR SOME UK UNIVERSITIES
Leisure Studies	Direct Entry	4 GCSE grades C, English, Maths & Science included	PE	WORK EXPERIENCE IMPORTANT	Direct Application Good sports interest. Reference
Liberal Arts (with a subject)	St Mary's University College	English & Maths		The subject chosen must be studied at A Level, i.e. Business or English or Geography or History or Irish or PE or RE	Direct application. Must be chosen with Business or English or Geography or History or Irish or PE or RE
Management	QUB UU	English Maths – B for QUB	A Language, Business Studies	No specific subject requirements.	Business Studies or a language are useful
Marine Biology / Sciences	QUB UU UK Uni(s)	Maths, DA Science	Geography	2 Science subjects	Biology & Chemistry preferred. Geography may be useful.
Marketing	UU BMC UK Uni(s)	English Maths	Business Studies A language	No specific subject requirements.	Business Studies or a language are useful
Mathematics	QUB UU	Maths high grade English	Add Maths Computing, DA Science	Maths.	Further Maths useful . Combinations available. GOOD CAREER PROSPECTS
Mechanical Engineering	QUB UU	English, Maths, DA Science	Computing Technology	Maths & a Science or Technology	Physics preferred. Further Maths helpful. GOOD CAREER PROSPECTS
Media Production or Media Studies	UU UK Uni(s)	English Maths	English Literature, Media Studies, Moving Image Arts	No specific subject requirements.	Moving Image Arts, Media Studies or Eng Lit very useful. Good artistic & critical sense required
Medicine	QUB UK Uni(s)	English, Maths, DA Science. High profile required - 9 A* or A grades.		Chemistry & one other Science. Biology to at least AS Level. WORK EXPERIENCE ESSENTIAL	A, A, A. A in Chemistry plus a 4 th A grade at AS Level. APTITUDE TEST & INTERVIEW REQUIRED
Meteorology	UK Uni(s)	Maths, DA Science	Geography	Physics	Basically a Physics Degree. Maths recommended. Geography very useful.
Motor Vehicle - Mechanic	Employers or BMC or SERC	For college: 5C's to include English, Maths & Science			For apprenticeship route you must have an employer
Music	QUB UU UK Uni(s)	English, Maths, Music		A Level Music or Grade 8 Practical and Theory	Audition & Interview may be required. At least grade B in A Level Music.
Music Production / Music Technology	QUB UU BMC UK Uni(s)	English. Maths, DA Science, Music	Computing or Technology	For QUB: Grade B required in Computing or ICT or Maths or Music or Physics	Grade 8 Theory of Music is acceptable instead of A Level Music Range of grades required depending on the institution

Career / Course	Univ.	Necessary G.C.S.E. Subjects	Useful G.C.S.E. Subjects	Necessary A-Level Subjects	Useful A-Level Subjects and Comments
Nursing	QUB UU UK Uni(s)	English, Maths, Double Award Science		WORK EXPERIENCE REQUIRED	Biology is preferable, grades B,C,C. Non Science background grade requirement is B, B, C
Occupational Therapy	UU	English, Maths, DA Science		APTITUDE TEST AND WORK EXPERIENCE REQUIRED	B, B, B. Any subjects. High degree of commitment.
Ophthalmic Optics / Optometry	UU UK Uni(s)	English, Maths, DA Science		2 Science subjects or 1 Science & Maths	Grades A, A, B. Very competitive.
Pharmacy	QUB UU	English, Maths, DA Science		Chemistry & 1 other Science or Maths	Biology is preferred as 2 nd science. Grades A ,A, B. Very competitive
Photography	UU BMC UK Uni(s)	English Maths	Art or Moving Image Arts	No specific subject requirements	Moving Image Arts or Art could be useful, experience with cameras and software is very useful
Physics	QUB UK Uni(s)	Maths, DA Science		Physics & Maths	Sometimes 3 Sciences required for best courses; 2 acceptable. GOOD CAREER PROSPECTS
Physiotherapy	UU	English, Maths, DA Science		1 Science subject (preferably Biology) or Maths WORK EXPERIENCE REQUIRED	Grades B, B, B. Very competitive. APTITUDE TEST REQUIRED. DIFFICULT EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS.
Plumber	Employers	Maths & English			Apprenticeship – find own employer
Podiatry	UU UK Uni(s)	English, Maths, DA Science		1 Science subject or Maths WORK EXPERIENCE REQUIRED	Grades B, B, B. APTITUDE TEST REQUIRED.
Politics	QUB UU	English Maths	History	No specific subject requirements.	Politics useful. Usually part of Humanities course.
Politics, Philosophy & Economics	QUB UK Uni(s)	English, Maths Grade B. High grades required	Eng Lit, Add Maths	No specific subject requirements.	Politics & Maths are useful
Property Investment / Development	UU UK Uni(s)	English, Maths	Business Studies Geography or Construction or Technology	No specific subject requirements.	Grades B, B, C at UU. Business Studies, Geography or Technology are useful.
Psychology	QUB UU	English & Maths	Science	No specific subject requirements.	Grades range from A, B, B at QUB to C, C, C at UK Universities. ENSURE THE DEGREE IS VALIDATED BY THE B.P.S.
Public Relations	UU UK Uni(s)	English Maths	Business Studies	No specific subject requirements.	Grades A, B, B. Business Studies may be useful
Quantity Surveying	UU UK Uni(s)	Grade B at GCSE Maths & English, DA Science	Construction or Technology Geography Business Studies	No specific subject requirements.	Maths, Technology, Geography or Business are useful. High grades - A,B,B. GOOD CAREER PROSPCTS
Radiography	UU UK Uni(s)	English, Maths, DA Science		1 Science subject or Maths	Grades B, B, B. APTITUDE TEST REQUIRED FOR UU. Work experience useful.
Retail Management	UK Uni(s) Direct Entry	English & Maths	Business Studies	WORK EXPERIENCE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED	Business Studies useful. Part of Business Degree. Direct entry requires 5 GCSE's and 3 good A Levels.
Renewable Energies	UU Direct entry UK Uni(s)	English, Maths & DA Science. A in GCSE Maths for UU	Technology or Construction	Maths or a Science or Technology	Grades B, B, C for UU. GOOD CAREER PROSPECTS

Career / Course	Univ.	Necessary G.C.S.E. Subjects	Useful G.C.S.E. Subjects	Necessary A-Level Subjects	Useful A-Level Subjects and Comments
Social Work	UU QUB	English Maths		No specific subject requirements.	Evidence of interest & commitment. SIGNIFICANT WORK EXPERIENCE AND INTERVIEW REQUIRED
Sociology	QUB UU UK Uni(s)	English Maths	History, Media Studies	No specific subject requirements.	History or Politics may be useful
Software Development / Engineering	QUB UU UK Uni(s)	Maths Grade B English, Science	Computing	QUB requires Maths or a science, or Computing, or Technology	Maths, Computing and Physics are useful. Grades B, B, B. GOOD CAREER PROSPECTS
Spanish	QUB UU	English, Maths, Spanish	Another language	Spanish	Available as single Hons. or as part of combined course. GOOD CAREER PROSPECTS
Speech and Language Therapy	UU UK Uni(s)	English, Maths, Science	A language, English Literature	English Literature or a Language	Maths & Science useful. Grades B, B, B. APTITUDE TEST REQUIRED FOR UU. Very competitive.
Sport and Exercise Sciences	BMC UU UK Uni(s)	English, Maths, Science	Sports Studies	PE or Biology or Chemistry or Maths or Physics	Grades range from A, A, B (UU) to B, C, C in UK. Very competitive.
Sports Studies Sports Theory Sports Coaching	UU Stranmillis College UK Uni(s)	English, Maths, Science	Sports Studies	PE or Geography or History or Geography or Politics	Grades range from A, A, B (UU) to B, C, C in UK. Very competitive.
Sports Technology / Engineering	UU UK Uni(s)	English, Maths, DA Science	Technology Construction ICT/Computing	A Science or Maths or Technology	A new field of engineering with good career prospects.
Technology & Design	UU UK Uni(s)	English Maths Science	Technology Construction ICT/Computing	Maths or a Science or Technology	Technology is most useful. Good career prospects.
Theology / Philosophy	QUB UK Uni(s)	English, Maths	RE, History, English Literature	No specific subject requirements.	RE, History, Politics or English Lit are useful.
Travel & Tourism (International)	UU BMC UK Uni(s)	English Maths	Languages, Business Studies	No specific subject requirements.	Languages or Business Studies useful. Work experience important. GOOD CAREER PROSPECTS.
Transportation	UU UK Uni(s)	English Maths	Science Technology ICT Business Geography	No specific subject requirements.	Business, ICT, Geography or Technology may be useful.
Veterinary Science	UK Uni(s)	English, Maths, DA Science. High profile required - 9 A*/A's.		Chemistry & Biology WORK EXPERIENCE ESSENTIAL.	Physics or Maths preferred in addition. Check each university for specific entrance criteria. A, A, A. A in Chemistry plus a 4th A grade at AS Level. APTITUDE TEST REQUIRED & INTERVIEW USUALLY REQUIRED
Youth Work	UU UK Uni(s)	English Maths		No specific subject requirements. Work experience essential	Any 'A' Levels. Evidence of interest & commitment. INTERVIEW REQUIRED
Zoology	QUB UK Uni(s)	English, Maths, DA Science		Biology & 1 other Science	Chemistry preferred as the 2nd science. QUB requires grades B, B, B.