



19th March 2014

Dear Parent / Carer

CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE & SCOTTISH UNIVERSITIES ADMISSIONS POLICIES

Please find below key points from a presentation at an Education Scotland event held during this academic year. There have been interesting discussions at our Curriculum for Excellence Evenings, the Learner Pathway Information Evenings and our Parent Council meetings regarding Curriculum for Excellence and University admissions.

Yours faithfully

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CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE & SCOTTISH UNIVERSITIES ADMISSIONS POLICIES

Universities and CfE

- Universities are positive about CfE
- Similarities between many CfE aims and universities' aims
- Universities want to admit Scottish school leavers, so they will adapt
- Publishing policies to be clear & transparent

University statements on CfE

- Vary depending on the institution
- Vary depending on subject
- Very important to check individual university websites and / or prospectuses for their CfE policy and their wider policy.

Common themes: National 5s

- Total number of National 5s will not generally be a condition for entry
- Some universities seek *minimum* level of knowledge in e.g. English, Maths or another subject at National 5, and will require a Higher if there is no National 5

Common themes: Highers

- *Majority* of institutions (**not** all) will consider Highers taken over S4 & S5 as equivalent to Highers taken only in S5 (may be some exceptions for some courses)
- Some universities require a minimum number of Highers / Advanced Highers to be taken in at least one year of the Senior Phase.

Common themes: Advanced Highers (AHs) & Scottish Baccalaureates (SBs)

- Universities recognise the value of Advanced Highers (AH) and Scottish Baccalaureates (SB)
- Good preparation for university level study
- Where students are doing AHs and / or SB, encourage them to complete the course even if they are not part of a conditional offer
- Entrance requirements mainly expressed in terms of Highers (some exceptions)
- AH / SB might be used to meet entry requirements where not met by end of S5
- AH / SB might be used for direct entry to second year

Common themes: Wider achievement

- Academic qualifications are normally the primary requirement.
- Universities will take into account wider achievement in the personal statement and reference in making decisions.
- *Most* universities will take account of contextual factors recognising an applicant's circumstances.

Conclusion: Two key messages

1. Universities are responding to CfE changes in terms of admissions and they want Scottish entrants!
2. Read individual universities CfE statements, admissions policies and prospectuses – and look at subject detail – because they all vary (as is the case at the moment).