

S4 Assembly
March 2023

S5 Options Process



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The S5 Options Process Timeline



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By now you should be:

OPTIONS BOOKLET

- Looking over the course description booklet that was posted on the school website.
- The link was emailed home to families on Monday 20th February.
- This can be found in the S4 Year Group Section of the school website.
- It is vital that you take time to read over this carefully.



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S4 TRACKING REPORT ISSUED LAST WEEK

- Use this report to identify your '5 Best Subjects' – these are the subjects which you will be directed to study in S5.
- It is vital that you play to your strengths in S5 so use the information on that tracking report to help guide you with this process.



WEDNESDAY 8TH MARCH 6PM VIA TEAMS

- Our Information Event for both students and families will take place next Wednesday.
- Please make sure you attend this meeting on-line with your families.
- Lots of information will be provided about the senior options process.
- The link will be sent to families and posted on the year group team.



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WEEK OF MONDAY 17TH APRIL 2023

- During this last week of teaching prior to the SQA exams, you will be issued with your final S4 Tracking Report.
- This report is the SQA Estimate Report.
- It is vital that you use this report to direct you to your five strongest subjects.
- There should not be huge differences between this and your most recent report.



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WEEK OF MONDAY 17TH APRIL 2023

- This is the deadline for the final S4 into S5 Options Form.
- This will be submitted via a glow form.
- This is NOT a draft as we will base our school timetable and classes on the numbers collected from this.
- The form will be emailed to families and posted on the year group team.



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Key Advice and Information about the S5 Options Process



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1. Always Choose your 'Five Best'

- Look at your most recent tracking report - what subjects are your strongest? Where are you achieving the highest grades?
- Every year we see students thriving when they have selected from their strongest National 5 qualifications.
- For the MAJORITY of students in S4, our expectation is that you choose the five strongest subjects from S4.



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2. Do I have to study English in S5?

- Every learner should aim to secure a minimum of National 5 in English by the end of S5 – so if you did N4 English in S5 you must study National 5 in S5.
- Most learners will go onto study H English (if they achieve a minimum of a C at N5) in S5 as this tends to be an entry requirement for a lot of places of employment following graduation. Some university and college courses will request this.
- However some students may wish to do this in S6 if not one of their ‘five best’.



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3. Do I have to study Maths in S5?

- Every learner should aim to secure a minimum of National 5 Maths or Application of Maths by the END OF S6.
- If you are studying National 4 Maths in S4 you should consider studying National 5 in S5 (**UNLESS YOU ARE AIMING TO SECURE 5 HIGHERS IN OTHER SUBJECTS**).
- If you are currently N4 Maths, N5 Application of Maths is the best route for you to study in S5.



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4. Should I study H Maths in S5?

- Our school data shows that students who achieve a minimum of a grade B at National 5 perform well at Higher.
- For those who achieve a C – we would suggest **NOT** sitting Higher Maths in S5 , **UNLESS** you specially require this for your chosen University / College course.
- If you are planning to study a course in University that needs H Maths – do this in S5 as success is more likely.
- A large number of courses do not insist on Higher Maths – so do your research with Uni websites!



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5. How many Higher subjects should I sit?

- Your aim is to sit as many Highers in S5 as possible (Universities refer to this as ‘one sitting’ or ‘first sitting’).
- This is why it is so important that you play to your strengths in S5 and choose your FIVE BEST from S4.
- You can then sit additional Highers in S6 – either weaker subjects from S5 or brand new crash Higher subjects.



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How many Higher subjects should I sit?

- However, remember you have two years to secure qualifications – S5 and S6.
- For some learners it may be more effective to secure 1, 2, 3 or 4 Highers in S5 and then do more in S6.
- Take advice from your Pastoral Care Teacher on this and also use your grades to guide you.
- Grade A or B at N5 definitely Higher.
Grade C – potentially Higher (not Maths) take advice from your teacher.



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6. Can I 'crash' any subjects in S5?

- The quickest answer is NO but a few exceptions.
- You are not able to select any crash Higher subjects in S5.
- If you studied N4 Sciences in S4, you can select N5 Lab Skills.
- If you studied N4 Social Subjects in S4, you can select N5 Travel and Tourism.
- If you are mostly studying N5 levels, you may chose Practical Cookery in S5.



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7. Can I study a Part Time College Course in S5?

- We would suggest that the majority of S5 do **NOT** study the part-time college courses and leave this to S6.
- For some students a N5 college course may be a good option – but this **MUST** be discussed with your Pastoral Care Teacher or House DHT in the first instance.
- Keep an eye on the year group team for info from Mr Mullin.



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7. Can I study a Part Time College Course in S5?

- If you want advice on whether you should study a part time college course – once we know what courses are running – speak to either your Pastoral Care Teacher or Mr Mullin in the first instance.
- For some it is a great idea but you **MUST** be fully committed to travelling and completing the full course during the year!



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8. What happens if my SQA results are different to what I am expecting?

- We will be able to do LIMITED changes in August to course planning for S5 and S6 BUT this will only be based upon your SQA results.
- This is why it is so important that you make the right choices now! We will be deciding what classes to run based on these choices and this cannot change in August!



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In summary our expectations of S5 are:

- Full timetable for every S5 student – 5 subjects.
- Excellent attendance and timekeeping.
- Work ethic and positive attitude towards studies.
- Realisation of the jump in demand from National 5 to Higher courses.
- Homework deadlines will be met.
- Importance of acting as a role model at all times.



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The Options Process – Research is key...

- www.planitplus.net
- www.myworldofwork.co.uk
- Seek Advice – Pastoral Care Teacher
- School Careers Advisor
- DYW Coordinator – Ms Cusick
- University / College & Apprenticeship Websites
- Subject teachers
- Speak to family members / family friends



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Remember you can drop in to see your Careers Advisor for advice during the coming weeks – click on the QR code on the next slide or on poster outside Pastoral Care to book an appointment



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Skills
Development
Scotland

Your School Career Advisors

We have 2 Careers Advisors based at Hyndland. They can be found in the Careers Office in the school library. Students have been allocated a Careers Advisor based on their House Group as below:

Vanessa Kokota

Katrine and Torridon House

In school:

Monday all day

Thursday periods 1 to 4

Friday all day

Email:

Vanessa.Kokota@sds.co.uk

Nicky Mearns

Lomond and Rannoch House

In school:

Monday all day

Tuesday all day

Wednesday all day

Email:

gw20mearnsnicola@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

How can I make an appointment with my Careers Advisor?

You can either attend the drop-in session which takes place on Mondays and Fridays at lunchtime in the library or you can scan the QR code below and complete the short survey – your Careers Advisor will then contact you to make an appointment.



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S6 students – the Senior Phase Options Process from a pupil perspective



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SQA Exams Countdown and Support Available



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The first SQA Exam is on
Tuesday 25th April for S4
students

6 weeks on Monday!



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Supports on offer:

- **Extensive Supported Study Timetable in place** – PLEASE make sure you are taking advantage of this. We are tracking attendance and rewards will be issued to students attending sessions!
- **Saturday Study** – this is on up to the Easter Holidays – really popular and a great way to study!
- See Teams and School Website for timetables!



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Teacher	Subject	Day	Time	Day2	Time2	Day3	Time3	National 5	Higher	A Higher
Mr Kearney	Spanish;French;	Monday	4-5pm					National 5	Higher	
Mr Matheson	History;	Monday	4-5pm					National 5	Higher	Advanced Higher
Mrs Gillies	Music;	Monday	4-5pm					National 5		
Mr Byrne	Drama;	Monday	8.10 - 8.40am					National 5	Higher	Advanced Higher
Mr Gillies	Design and Manufacture;			Wednesday	3-4pm			National 5	Higher	
Mr Greer	Computing Science;			Wednesday	3-4pm				Higher	
Mr Henderson	Maths;			Wednesday	3-4pm			National 5		
Mr Swan	Physics;			Wednesday	3-4pm				Higher	Advanced Higher
Mr Thomson	History;			Wednesday	3-4pm			National 5		
Mrs Gillies	Music;			Wednesday	3-4pm			National 5	Higher	
Mrs Lake	Modern Studies;			Wednesday	3-4pm				Higher	
Mrs Menzies	Business Management;			Wednesday	3-4pm				Higher	
Mrs Miller	Fashion;Practical Cookery;			Wednesday	3-4pm			National 5	Higher	
Ms Biggart	Spanish;			Wednesday	3-4pm				Higher	Advanced Higher
Ms Fulton	Admin			Wednesday	3-4pm				Higher	
Ms Glover	English;			Wednesday	3-4pm			National 5	Higher	
Ms Pringle	Business Management;			Wednesday	3-4pm			National 5		
Ms Spiers	Art;			Wednesday	3-4pm			National 5	Higher	
Mr Currie	Physics;					Thursday	3-4pm	National 5		
Mr Henderson	Maths;					Thursday	3-4pm		Higher	
Mr McLaughlin	Chemistry;					Thursday	3-4pm	National 5		
Mr Mullin	Computing Science;					Thursday	3-4pm	National 5	Higher	
Mr Scobie	PE;					Thursday	3-4pm		Higher	
Mrs McIlroy	Fashion;Practical Cookery;					Thursday	3-4pm	National 5	Higher	
Mrs McManus	Biology;					Thursday	3-4pm		Higher	
Mrs Nolan	PE;					Thursday	3-4pm		Higher	Advanced Higher
Ms Craik	Geography;					Thursday	3-4pm	National 5		
Ms Fowlie	Technical					Thursday	3-4pm	National 5		
Ms Samuel	Biology;					Thursday	3-4pm	National 5		Advanced Higher
Mr Byrne	Drama;					Thursday	8.10 - 8.40am	National 5	Higher	Advanced Higher
Ms Longo Japp	English;					Thursday	8.10 - 8.40am	National 5	Higher	Advanced Higher
Ms McCarthy	Photography;Art;					Thursday	8.10 - 8.40am	National 5	Higher	Advanced Higher

4.3.23	9.30 - 12.00	11.3.23	9.30 - 12.00	18.3.23	9.30 - 12.00	25.3.23	9.30 - 12.00
	Business Management; Administration;	Ms Johnston	Dance	Ms Pringle	Business Management;Ad ministration;	Ms Pringle	Business Management;Ad ministration;
Mrs Nolan	PE;	Mr Gillies	Design and Manufacture;	Mrs McManus	Biology;	Mr Timpany	Modern Studies;
Mrs McManus	Biology;	Mr Mullin	Computing Science;	Ms Glover	English;	Ms Glover	English;
Mhairi Glover	English;	Mr MacVicar	Biology;	Ms McCarthy	Photography;Art;	Ms Fowlie	English;
Ms McCarthy	Photography;Art;	Mrs Miller	Maths;	Molly Anne Fowlie	Technical	Mr MacVicar	Technical
Mr Timpany	Modern Studies;	Mr Timpany	Modern Studies;	Mr Byrne	Drama;	Mr Byrne	Drama;
Ms Johnston	Dance	Mhairi Glover	English;	Mr Timpany	Modern Studies;		
Mr Gillies	Design and Manufacture;			Helen Miller	Maths;		
				Mr Timpany	Modern Studies;		



Supports on offer:

- **Spring Revision Programme** – there will be some provision in school during the spring break – further information will follow shortly regarding this.
- You will be required to sign up in advance to attend – keep an eye on the school website.



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What steps can you take to
prepare fully for the SQA
Exam Diet?



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1. Access Supports in School

- Try to make attending supported study a priority over the coming weeks!
- Staff are offering amazing support in the school so take advantage of this help when it is there!



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2. Study Timetable in place at home

- Remember **6** weeks on Monday!
- It is VITAL that you have a study timetable in place at home.
- This should consist of around 2-3 hours per study each night – do around 30-40 minutes of one subject then swap.



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3. Study the right way!

- If you are studying you should be doing something.
- DO NOT waste time reading over notes / jotters – this is not effective studying.
- Take notes, write flashcards, complete past papers, draw mind-maps, complete brain dumps.
- At the end of your 30-40 minute block you should have produced something that you can show your family.



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4. Meet Deadlines for Coursework

- A number of subjects will be requesting course work in the coming week(s) – these are deadlines set by the SQA NOT THE SCHOOL.
- If you fail to submit coursework on time, this will result in the SQA withdrawing you from that subject at National 5 level so make sure you do NOT avoid these deadlines!



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5. Check your SQA Report Carefully

- Mrs Hayes will be providing you with a piece of paper soon – this will detail your name and address for your SQA certificate.
- It will also detail the list of entries i.e. what subjects and levels you are being presented for this year.
- It is VITAL that you check this carefully and return this as requested.



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6. Be Honest with yourself and Plan...

- Look at your tracking report from February – would you be happy receiving this via email / in the post in August by the SQA?
- If NO – be honest with yourself – what can YOU DO differently NOW?
- You still have TIME to work on improving your grades BUT you need to do this NOW.



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Remember to sign up for My SQA

**GET RESULTS
READY WITH**



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“Successful people are not gifted; they just work hard, then succeed on purpose.”

- G.K. Nielson



**There are no secrets to success.
It is the result of preparation,
hard work, and learning from failure.**

– Colin Powell

