

Hyndland Secondary School



Options Information Booklet



March 2024

Dear S4 and S5 families and learners,

We hope that this final booklet of advice will be useful in assisting you with the S5 and S6 course choice process. Learners who are currently in S4 and S5 will soon make their subject choices for next session – the new timetable will commence in June 2024 following the diet of SQA examinations.

This booklet contains the key advice that we have delivered to both families (at our Information Evening held on Thursday 7 March) as well as information shared at assemblies with our S4 and S5 students.

We have previously issued the link to a detailed booklet which provides a full description of each subject area available in the Senior Phase for students in Hyndland Secondary School in the academic year of 2024-2025. It is important to note that it may not be possible to run every single class – this will very much depend on uptake in each subject area. This booklet can be accessed via a link on the school website or on the year group teams (in the files section).

The final deadline for the option form for our students in S4 and S5 is 5pm on Wednesday 17th April so it is vital that young people are considering their options carefully now with their families.

The senior phase options process is hugely important – if young people select the subjects appropriate for them, they are more likely to enjoy their courses and in turn achieve well. Research is vital as young people make these important decisions.

We would like to remind families, that our School Careers Advisor, who work for Skills Development Scotland, will be happy to speak to any young person on a one-to-one basis – if they wish an appointment, they should either email Vanessa via glow or pop into the library to arrange an appointment. Again, details can be found on our school website on how families can contact Vanessa.

Timeline for S5 and S6 Options Process

Event	Date
S4 and S5 Options Information Booklet issued to students via Year Group Team – this will contain detailed advice on course content and assessment arrangements for all courses in S5/6	Issued to family's week beginning 11 th March 2024 via the year group team
Skills Development Scotland will conduct one-to-one interviews with targeted young people . If anyone wishes an interview, they can request one by either popping into the Careers Office in the school library or scanning the QR code below.	These will take place from Tuesday 8 th March onwards – appointments will be given to students targeted
S4 and S5 Options Information Evening in the Airlie Theatre	Thursday 7 th March starting at 5.45pm
S4 Tracking report	Issued to families during week of 11 th March 2024
Careers Event in the Games Hall – Open to all S2, S4 and S5 families – a range of employers will be in attendance to offer advice on careers on a drop-in basis	Thursday 14 th March 2024 – 5.30pm until 7.00pm
S4 and S5 Options Presentation to students delivered by Pastoral Care and Senior Leadership Team via Assemblies	Week beginning 18 th March 2024
Final S4 and S5 report issued – contains final estimate grades for the SQA	Week of 15 th April 2024
Final Options on glow form to be submitted electronically	Wednesday 17th April 2024 – form to be submitted by 6pm.

Getting the Options Process Right from S4 into S5

When you were choosing your subjects at the end of second year; you were advised to keep a balanced set of subjects and not to cut out any subjects which might be important later on. This time, you should be thinking more selectively about which subjects to take. You should take the following factors into account:

- Choose subjects that are essential for your chosen career area / university or college course
- Choose the subjects that you are most likely to pass at the next level and at the highest grade
- Choose subjects that you enjoy
- Keep a balanced range of subjects if you are still unsure of a career area

The correct choice of subject is vitally important. In S4 you most likely studied eight subjects, whereas in S5 you will be studying 5 subjects. You must choose a sensible set of subjects, especially if you intend to go on to Higher or Further Education.

To ensure progression you must choose the correct LEVEL to study in each subject.

The 5 subjects will be chosen from the eight subjects that you are currently studying. You are NOT permitted to select any new subjects in S5 (unless you are selecting National 5 Lab Skills as a progression route in Science).

Our advice in S5 is to always study your 'best five' from your S4 experience – this will give you the best chance of success in S5. If you are equally strong in all eight subjects in S4, do your research and/or select the subjects that you most enjoy from your S4 curriculum.

You should by now have some idea of the kind of Higher Education, Further Education, training course or career for which you are aiming and you should be aware of any subjects that you require to study in order to achieve that aim. It may be difficult for students to decide which other subjects to choose.

You should speak to your class teachers, Pupil Support teacher and your parents who can all advise you of your realistic prospects in your proposed course. If you are considering applying to university, particularly for courses such as Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Dentistry, Physiotherapy and Pharmacy you are advised to consult the university website and/or telephone the admissions officer, as the entrance requirements can change from year to year.

Key Advice for Getting the Options Process Right for S5

Choosing your top 5 subjects is the key to success in S5!

*In S5, students are not allowed to 'crash' any subjects. This means you cannot pick up new subjects not studied in S4.

*It is vital that you play to your strengths in S5 – you should always choose your top 5 subjects.

Are there any subjects that I have to study in S5?

*The quick answer is no – 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 S4 you should choose N5 in S5. Most learners will go onto study H English in S5 as this is an entry requirement for most College and Universities.

*With regards to Maths – we would strongly suggest if you have not passed N5 Maths in S4 and are looking at higher courses in S5 that you DO NOT sit N5 Maths in S5 – focus on your 5 best Highers and then pick Maths up again in S6!

*Unless you are passing N5 Maths at grade A or B, we would suggest again focusing on your best Higher subjects in S5, you can always pick up Higher Maths in S6 if you really want to study this course!

Science progression in S5

*If you sat N4 Biology, Chemistry or Physics in S4, and want to progress with Science in S5 you should choose either National 5 Lab Skills. If you wish to progress to Higher in Science, then you should choose this subject at N5 level in S5 if available. This will allow you do choose Higher in S6.

What information should I look at before making my subject choices?

* Listen to the presentations by PTs and read the course descriptors for each subject in the S4 year group team so that you know what is required and what you will study in each course.

* Look at entry requirements in advance for University and College courses that you may wish to consider studying beyond S6 – are they asking for particular subjects or numbers of Highers as entry requirements?

* Remember to speak to Vanessa our Careers Advisor, if you wish guidance or advice – she can be contacted via email on glow at gw21kokotavanessa@glowmail.org.uk

What else should I consider when making my choices for S5?

- * Remember EVERY S5 learner must study a full timetable i.e. select a subject in all five columns of the timetable – this is not negotiable.
- * Try to secure as many Higher qualifications as you can in S5 – this is why playing to your strengths and choosing your ‘best 5’ is so important.
- * We would not recommend repeating courses from S4 into S5 (with the exception of N5 English).

What do I need to do now?

- * Discuss your proposed option choices with your family and look carefully at your ‘top 5’ recommendations that the school has provided. This is what we think would be the best options for you in S5.
- * Use the information provided here along to complete the glow form that will be emailed to both you and your family. Remember this is the information that we will use to create our school timetable – this is not a practice option form!
- *Your option form (via the glow form) **must be submitted by 5pm on Wednesday 17th April 2024.**

Key Advice for Getting the Options Process Right for S6

Research is vital in making the right choices!

- * Listen to the presentations by PTs and read the course descriptors for each subject in the S5 year group team so that you know what is required and what you will study in each course.
- * Look at entry requirements in advance for University and College courses that you may wish to consider studying beyond S6 – are they asking for particular subjects or numbers of Highers as entry requirements?
- * If you are selecting Advanced Higher Courses – check with each University – will they accept a Higher and Advanced Higher in the same subject as two grades for entry requirements?
- * Remember to speak to Vanessa our Careers Advisor, if you wish guidance or advice – she can be contacted via email on glow at gw21kokotavanessa@glowmail.org.uk

What else should I consider when making my choices for S6?

- * Remember EVERY S6 learner MUST select a minimum of four subjects – this is not negotiable and is expected of every S6 learner.
- * It is good to leave with as many Highers by the end of S6 as you can – a **minimum of five** is expected but the more the better.
- * We would not recommend repeating courses in S6 to upgrade UNLESS you need this as a specific entry requirement – again research is key here!
- * Think back to the subjects you studied in S4. Are there any National 5 subjects that you achieved well in that you could select for Higher in S6?
- * Focus on your key strengths – if you did well in a particular subject area in S5, can you pick a subject with similar required skills in S6?

What do you need to do?

- * Discuss your proposed option choices with your family. We will send them a copy of your final subject selections prior to you commencing the courses.
- * Use the information provided here along with the hard copy of the option form to complete the glow form.
- * Your option form (via the glow form) **must be submitted by 5pm on Wednesday 17th April 2024.**