

Paths to the Future



Dalkeith High School

Senior Phase Option Booklet

For Pupils in S4 Session 2024-

2025

Introduction

The Senior Phase Option Booklet provides information on the opportunities available to young people moving through years 4 to 6 at Dalkeith High School.

Options are listed in alphabetical order.

In addition to full coverage of the more traditional academic subjects, an exciting range of vocational courses is on offer. The vocational courses, some delivered in collaboration with local partners, promote and develop employability skills and are available across the levels.

There are also opportunities to learn outwith the school context, for example at college; through work experience or internships; through volunteering or even by studying modules delivered through The Open University.

Pupils should see the selection of courses as an opportunity to choose subjects which they enjoy, which they are good at and that will benefit them in later life. It is very important that pupils discuss their option choices with parents or carers, and teachers, before making final decisions. Attention should be paid to school reports; to departmental recommendations and to advice given in the coursing guides posted on the school website.

The school's Careers Adviser is Barbara Moir. Mrs Moir is able to provide valuable advice about making subject choices that fit with future career plans. Mrs Moir can be contacted by young people and parents at barbara.moir@sds.co.uk or 07887 831027. Mrs Moir is also available to students every Tuesday break in the dining hall.

Worth a look is the Skills Development Scotland website, My World of Work. On this website a subject choices tool allows young people to see how choices relate to future careers. For parents, the website offers clear, relevant advice on supporting young people in their lives at big decision times. The website can be found at: www.myworldofwork.co.uk.

Coursing Process

Important dates for each year group are outlined in the school calendar.

Points to note:

- For S4, S3 pupils are advised to choose subjects from those studied in S3, though there are a number of new courses available for which application is also encouraged
- All pupils in S4 will follow an appropriate English and maths course. Beyond that, pupils are expected to study maths and English to the level that fulfils individual potential.

- Pupils in S5 or S6 may select a subject not previously studied at National Qualifications level. In such cases, pupils should discuss the plan with the principal teacher of the subject concerned. Choices will be reviewed by pupil support leaders and principal teachers.
- A number of opportunities exist for students looking to experience learning outwith the school classroom setting. College courses run on a Tuesday and Thursday, from 1. 30 p.m.to 4 p.m. Pupils return home, or to school, around 4. 30 p.m. Further college and training opportunities may be on offer for Session 2024-2025 and information will be disseminated when it is available.
- S6 pupils opting to study Advanced Higher Art and Design must also choose Art and Design Portfolio.
- University entrance offers usually focus on Higher results so in S6 students are often best advised to secure further Higher qualifications. If a student already holds a number of A or B Higher passes and wishes to progress to university study in a particular subject, or wishes to study medicine, it can be appropriate to follow an S6 Advanced Higher course. Dalkeith High School has always been very proud of the success of students at Advanced Higher level and current Higher students will be fully briefed by class teachers on the Advanced Higher courses on offer this session.
- All pupils will have the opportunity in August to amend choices in the light of SQA results. Beyond August, there is an expectation that students will commit to the chosen options for the entire session. Only in exceptional circumstances will pupils be allowed to make changes.

Qualifications Structure and Progression

National Qualifications are available at five levels:

- National 3 and National 4
 - unit assessments assessed by teachers
 - no external examination
- National 5 and Higher
 - external examination
- Advanced Higher
 - external examination

Also provided through Dalkeith High School and partners are Skills for Work courses, National Progression Awards and Foundation Apprenticeships, as well as opportunities leading to the recognition of achievement.

The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Network (SCQF) – is available to help young people make sense of all these different types of qualifications and to plan

moves in the learning journey. The SCQF promotes equality of qualifications. For instance, Early Learning and Childcare sits at level 5 on the SCQF, which is the same level as a National 5. The courses involve very different types of learning but the same level of skills is required to achieve the qualifications.

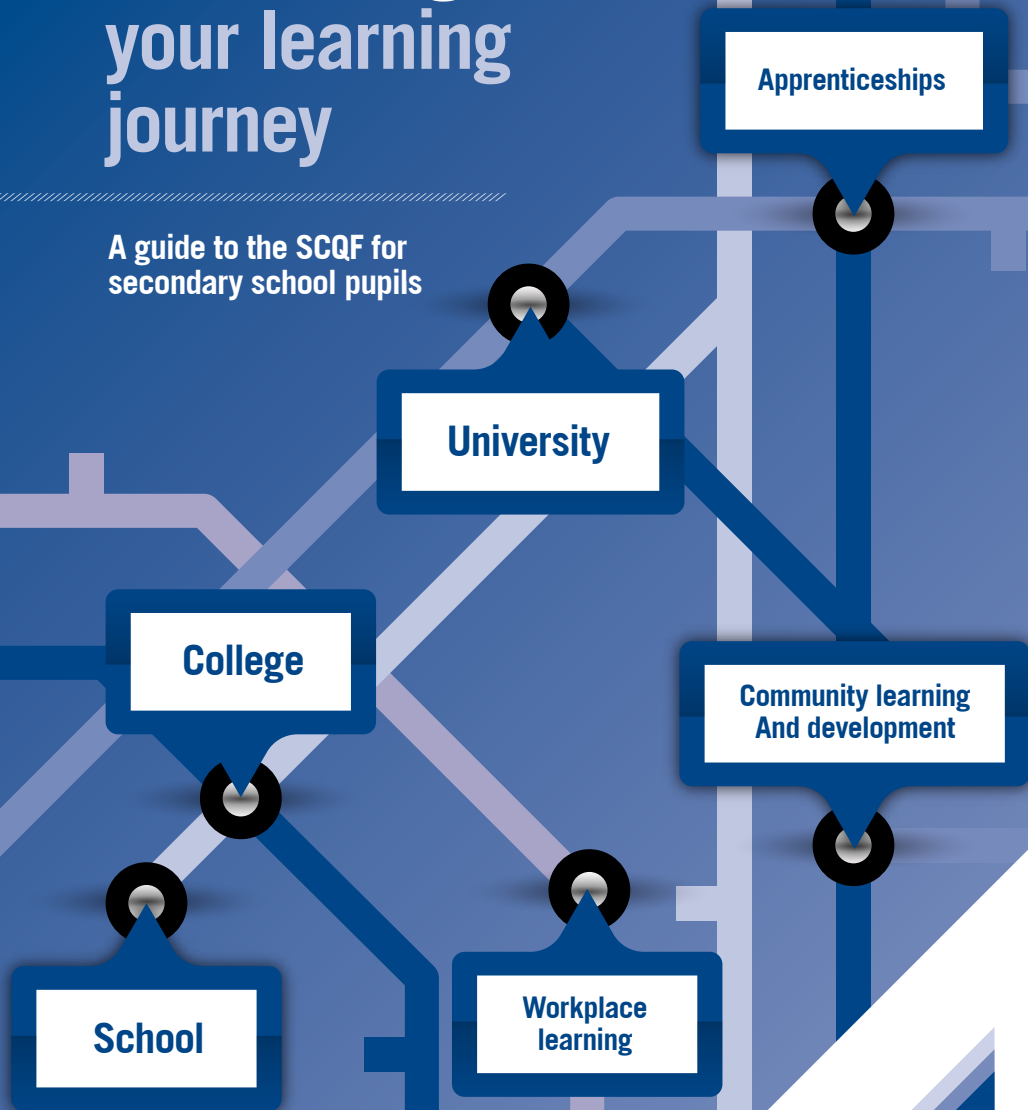
Please see the next pages for the SCQF guide for secondary school pupils.

Finally

The availability of any course is dependent on pupil uptake and the constraints of the timetable. This said, Dalkeith High School is confident that a rich and exciting senior phase will be on offer to all our young people.

→ Connecting your learning journey

A guide to the SCQF for secondary school pupils





SCQF Levels	SQA Qualifications			Qualifications of Higher Education Institutions
12				Doctoral Degree
11				Masters Degree, Integrated Masters Degree, Post Graduate Diploma, Post Graduate Certificate
10				Honours Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate
9			Professional Development Award	Bachelors / Ordinary Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate
8		Higher National Diploma		Diploma Of Higher Education
7	Advanced Higher, Awards, Scottish Baccalaureate	Higher National Certificate		Certificate Of Higher Education
6	Higher, Awards, Skills for Work Higher			
5	National 5, Awards, Skills for Work National 5			
4	National 4, Awards, Skills for Work National 4	National Certificate	National Progression Award	
3	National 3, Awards, Skills for Work National 3			
2	National 2, Awards			
1	National 1, Awards			

The SCQF can:

- help you plan your learning journey and make the right choices;
- help employers understand different qualifications;
- help universities or colleges identify the level that you have studied in a particular subject;
- recognise other areas of your learning that can help your personal development and goals for the future; and
- increase your confidence and self-esteem by showing you the level of learning you have achieved.

Don't worry if you're not familiar with some of the qualifications mentioned above. You will learn more about them as you move through school. We explain each one on the interactive Framework diagram on our website. The website also contains a helpful video clip which explains the SCQF in relation to your SQA exam certificate.

The Framework diagram shows the main SQA qualifications studied at secondary schools in Scotland. You may be surprised to know that other types of learning that you might do in your school or youth club are included on the SCQF. To check if a programme is on the SCQF, visit the SCQF Database. Turn over for information about some awards you might have heard of.



Apprenticeships & SVQs
Professional Apprenticeship
Graduate Apprenticeship Professional Apprenticeship SVQ
Graduate Apprenticeship Professional Apprenticeship
Graduate Apprenticeship Technical Apprenticeship SVQ
Higher Apprenticeship Technical Apprenticeship SVQ
Modern Apprenticeship SVQ
Modern Apprenticeship Foundation Apprenticeship SVQ
Modern Apprenticeship SVQ
SVQ



You will get to know about the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) as it appears on your SQA Scottish Qualifications Certificate which is issued in August.

What is the SCQF?

The SCQF is a way of comparing and describing Scottish qualifications. It covers the qualifications you will achieve at school, college, university and in the workplace. It does this by giving each qualification a level and credit points.

The level of a qualification shows how difficult the learning is. The credit points show how much time it takes you to achieve that qualification. For example, one person may study a course at National 4 (SCQF level 4) and another at Higher (SCQF level 6). Both qualifications have 24 SCQF credit points but have different levels of difficulty.

What is it for?

The SCQF helps you make sense of qualifications and plan the next stage of your learning journey. You can also compare vocational and more traditional qualifications and see that, although they are very different types of learning, in many cases they sit at the same SCQF level.



Other awards you may know

SCQF level	Award owner	Award name	Credit points
7	SQA	HNC Police Studies	96
7	The Boys' Brigade	King George VI Leadership Programme	13
7	University of Glasgow	Top-Up Programme	10
6	Direct Devitt	Comedy Award	1
5	The Outward Bound Trust	Adventure & Challenge Award (5 day)	5
5	The Duke of Edinburgh's Award	Duke of Edinburgh Leadership Programme	5
5	REHIS	Food Hygiene Elementary Certificate	1
3 and 4	Playback ICE	Essential Skills for Employment	27 (each)
3	The British Computer Society	Digital Skills	22
3	Youth Scotland	Dynamic Youth Awards One-Five Star Awards	1-31 (each)

Frequently asked questions

Are SCQF credit points the same as UCAS tariff points?

SCQF credit points are not the same as UCAS tariff points. UCAS tariff points relate to the grades you have achieved. SCQF credits are a measure of how much you need to learn to achieve a qualification, no matter what grade you get.

Why does an 'A' at Higher get the same number of SCQF credit points as a 'C' at Higher?

The number of SCQF credit points you've gained doesn't change depending on your grade at any particular level. SCQF credits reflect how much learning you've done, not how well you've learned a subject.

Will my qualifications be recognised if I move abroad?

SCQF levels are referenced against the European Qualifications Framework (EQF), so learning institutions and employers in Europe can easily compare your qualifications against their own country's qualifications framework.

If I build up SCQF credit points, will I get into college or university?

Not directly, although SCQF credit points help admissions officers in colleges and universities know exactly how much learning you have done and at what level. The admissions officers still have other factors to consider, such as the subjects you studied and grades you achieved.

I am taking part in an award at my local youth club that has an SCQF level and credit points. What are the benefits of this?

Having an SCQF level and credit points means that the award is formally recognised by employers and admissions officers in colleges and universities. If you are applying for a job or to college or university having these extra awards can strengthen your application and make you stand out from other candidates.

Will the SCQF help me to get a job or an apprenticeship?

Not directly, but it will help employers understand the level of difficulty of each qualification, as well as the number of credit points you have achieved as part of your personal development. As your career develops, any work-based qualifications you achieve may add to the number of credits you already have.

www.scqf.org.uk



@SCQFPartnership



www.facebook.com/scqfp



www.youtube.com/user/SCQFPartnership



www.instagram.com/scqfpartnership

info@scqf.org.uk www.scqf.org.uk

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ADMINISTRATION & IT: Higher

Overview of Course

This course will introduce students to the business world of organisations, and to the skills and qualities needed to be an effective administrator in the workplace.

The following employability skills will be developed: literacy and numeracy; communication and customer service; time-management; team-working. An ability to learn and acquire new skills will also be fostered.

retail businesses, councils, the public services, legal practices, education, the armed forces, central government, banking, insurance companies, distribution companies, events management businesses.

HNC or HND in Administration and IT at college; a range of Business Information, Events Management or Business Management courses at a university.

Course Details

Topics covered include: the study of effective teams; time and task management; legislation affecting administration; customer care. Students will be trained in the use of word processing, desk-top publishing, and spreadsheet and database packages. Students will also learn how to use IT to organise and support events, and to problem-solve within administrative contexts.

Assessment takes the form of a 50 mark theory question paper and a 70 mark assignment. The assignment demands that the student use advanced functions in word processing, spreadsheets, database and presentation packages to produce, process and manage information and to solve problems in unfamiliar contexts.

Progression

Administration jobs in a wide range of workplaces: factories, engineering firms,

ADMINISTRATION & IT: National 3, 4 & 5

Overview of Course

This course will introduce students to the business world of organisations, and to the skills and qualities needed to be an effective administrator in the workplace.

The following employability skills will be developed: literacy and numeracy; communication and customer service; time-management; team-working. An ability to learn and acquire new skills will also be fostered.

companies, events management businesses.

HNC or HND in Administration and IT at college; a range of Business Information, Events Management or Business Management courses at a university.

Course Details

Topics covered include: customer service; health and safety; security. Students will be trained in the use of word processing, desk-top publishing, and spreadsheet and database packages. Students will also learn how to use IT to organise and support events, and to problem-solve within administrative contexts. Students will be using computers on a daily basis.

At National 5 level, assessment takes the form of a 50 mark practical question paper and a 70 mark practical assignment. The assignment demands that the student work through a series of tasks related to planning an event or a business enterprise.

Progression

Administration jobs in a wide range of workplaces: factories, engineering firms, retail businesses, councils, the public services, legal practices, education, the armed forces, central government, banking, insurance companies, distribution

APPLIED SCIENCES: NPA level 5

Overview of Course

This course helps young people who enjoy all the sciences to develop a deeper understanding of the world around them. Pupils will develop practical science abilities as well as a range of employability skills, for example:

- Working safely and expertly in a laboratory environment
- Working as a team as well as on own initiative
- Communication
- Problem solving
- Organisation and time management

Young people with this qualification will have the employability skills and knowledge needed for a job in a STEM industry. Pupils in S5 or S6, who have already enjoyed studying a science at National 4/5 are the intended audience for this course.

Course Details

There are four sections in this course: Chemical Changes and Structure; Cell Biology; Physics: Waves and Radiation; Lab Science: Practical Skills.

Course-specific Entry Requirements

This is a course that fits alongside other National 5 Sciences but is more accessible for some as there is no final exam. The course is for young people who want to continue learning about physics, chemistry *and* biology, within an exciting, modern context.

Progression

Students are able to move on to another science at level 5, including Laboratory Science. Alternatively, this course could lead to a college course in one of the following areas:

- Applied Sciences
- Electrical Skills
- Engineering Academy
- Cyber Security
- Software Development
- Scientific Technologies
- Health and Social Care

Interested students should speak to the Science department for more information.

ART & DESIGN: Higher

Overview of Course

The Higher Art and Design course is practical and experimental, enabling students to develop and refine technical skills as they produce a portfolio of work in both expressive and design contexts.

The course will develop transferable skills which support future employment in the creative industries. Skills developed include: problem solving, time management, analysis, creative thinking and communication.

Course Details

Personalisation and choice principles allow students to design and produce a final solution in either graphics or body adornment in response to the design brief originally devised by the student. In addition, students will explore a range of fine art media and techniques that will help the student refine their drawing and painting skills in a creative and imaginative way. Students will work on a theme of their own choice.

Analytical and literacy skills will also be developed across all levels as students work to understand and appreciate a range of artists and designers.

A portfolio of work is submitted to SQA for marking. In addition, students sit a written examination in which a range of analytical questions is set.

Course-specific Entry Requirements

In order to aid essay writing, students will benefit from competent literacy skills. A willingness to engage in critical thinking, and the analysis of art and design works is crucial to success.

Progression

Successful completion of the course will support students with applications for any creative courses at college or university.

Students will have evidence of the skills they have developed over the year and will also be able to discuss and present their work to others. This qualification can assist with a career in architecture, fashion and textiles, costume design, jewellery making, graphic design, digital and games design. In addition, career opportunities specifically linked to fine art include: art gallery curator; courtroom or police sketch artist; hair and make-up artist; painter; tattoo artist and art therapist.

ART & DESIGN: National 3, 4 & 5

Overview

The National Art and Design courses are practical and experimental, enabling students to develop and refine technical skills as they produce a portfolio of work in both expressive and design contexts.

The course will develop transferable skills which support future employment in the creative industries. Skills developed include: problem solving, time management, analysis, creative thinking and communication.

Course Details

Personalisation and choice principles allow students to design and produce a final solution, in either graphics or body adornment, in response to a design brief originally devised by the student. Students explore a range of fine art media and techniques that help the student refine their drawing and painting skills in a creative and imaginative way.

Analytical and literacy skills will also be developed across all levels as students work to understand and appreciate a range of artists and designers.

National 3 and 4 practical and written outcomes will be regularly monitored and assessed in school by teaching staff. National 5 students will submit a portfolio of work to SQA for external marking. In addition, students sit a written examination in which a range of analytical questions is set.

Progression

Successful completion of the course will support pupils with application to creative courses at college and university.

The skills and portfolio of work produced will also assist with careers in the Creative Industries including careers in: fashion and textiles, costume design, jewellery making, graphics, architecture, digital and games design. In addition, career opportunities linked to fine art include art gallery curator, courtroom or police sketch artist, hair and makeup artist, painter, tattoo artist and art therapist.

ART & DESIGN: NPA Level 5

Overview

Successful completion of the National Progression Award in Art and Design develops transferable skills, which support future employment in the creative industries. Skills developed include problem solving; time management; creative thinking and the ability to communicate ideas and opinions.

Course Details

The course is practical and experimental. Pupils develop technical skills as they use mixed media and mark making techniques and approaches.

Young people experience the course through mini projects. Units include Introduction to Mixed Media; Printmaking and Introduction to Illustration. The projects encourage pupils to experiment and explore art and design ideas in a creative and personalised way.

All course outcomes are regularly monitored and assessed in school by teaching staff. There is no SQA examination.

Course-specific Entry Requirements

NPA Art and Design will benefit pupils in S4 who would like to focus on producing a practical folio of work. This will allow pupils who enjoy the process of creating and experimenting the opportunity to work with a range of media.

NPA Art and Design will also benefit pupils in S5 and S6 who have completed

the National 4 or 5 course and want to extend their art and design skills before progressing to Higher level.

Progression

Successful completion of the course will support pupils with application to creative courses at college and university.

The skills and portfolio of work produced will also assist with careers in the Creative Industries including careers in: fashion and textiles, costume design, jewellery making, graphics, architecture, digital and games design. In addition, career opportunities linked to fine art include art gallery curator, courtroom or police sketch artist, hair and makeup artist, painter, tattoo artist and art therapist.

BAKERY: NPA level 4 and PRACTICAL CAKE CRAFT: National 5

Overview of Courses

The National Progression Award (NPA) in Bakery at SCQF level 4 develops practical bakery skills in craft baking, bread making, cake decoration and pastry making.

Practical Cake Craft is designed for those wishing to acquire cake baking and finishing skills and to develop and demonstrate innovativeness in these areas. An interest in the creative and artistic aspect of the course is crucial.

Course-specific Entry Requirements

NPA Bakery is offered to pupils in S4 whilst Hospitality: Practical Cake Craft provides progression in S5 and S6.

Progression

Both the bakery courses are aimed at young people who are interested in pursuing a career in the bakery industry.

Students will also be equipped with the skills required for progression to further qualifications.

Beekeeping and the Environment: NPA level 5 and FOLA 5

Overview of Course

This hybrid course comprises two awards: Beekeeping level 5 and Forest and Outdoor Learning Award level 5. These complementary courses focus on learning and working in the outdoors and fostering an appreciation of the natural world. Students will explore the practical skills of beekeeping and honey production and focus on the study of bee biology, diseases and the functioning of honeybee colonies. Students will also spend time in woodlands in order to learn how to work safely, responsibly and sustainably to manage these environments. Learning will focus on working with tools, fire, knots and how to identify woodland plants and animals. The benefits of woodland and nature to human wellbeing will also be a core part of the programme.

Course Details

The Beekeeping course consists of three units and the FOLA course comprises four.

Assessment of the first two beekeeping units relies on the observation of students as they conduct their practical work. Written and oral evidence is gathered of candidates' achievements to show success in terms of the third unit. There is no final examination or assignments. The FOLA award is assessed by teacher observations, photographs and video as well as a learner journal that candidates will keep.

Course-specific Entry Requirements

There is no specific knowledge required for entry to this course. However, given its practical nature, students will need to be happy to work outdoors in appropriate clothing with hand tools and in very close proximity to bees. Candidates may be stung, even with appropriate protection, so the course is not suitable for students with a known anaphylactic allergy to bee stings.

Progression

On leaving school, students may progress to the Scottish Beekeepers Association Basic Beekeeping Certificate with our partners at Newbattle Beekeepers Association and then on to further awards.

The Beekeeping qualification and experience is appropriate for anyone seeking a career in: animal husbandry; zoology; agriculture; horticulture and scientific research.

FOLA Awards can be completed up to level 8 and are excellent qualifications for anyone looking to work in the outdoors and with young people.

BIOLOGY: Higher

Overview of Course

Higher Biology contributes to a student's general and vocational education through the teaching of specialised biological skills and knowledge as well as through the development of transferable employability skills such as problem solving and teamwork.

The course develops an understanding of the ways in which biological principles can be applied to the issues facing the individual and society today. It also fosters positive attitudes to others and to the environment.

Course Details

The course consists of three mandatory units:

- DNA and the Genome
- Metabolism and Survival
- Sustainability and Interdependence

Each unit of work includes knowledge specific to biology, but each unit of work also builds on learning in other fields such as maths or geography.

Each unit of work is formally assessed with a test. A student's practical work and engagement in lesson activities is also reviewed for tracking and monitoring purposes.

The course assessment includes an examination, as well as a practical assignment that requires the display of good research skills and the completion of a formal laboratory report.

Course-specific Entry Requirements

Normally students should have already attained a National 5 award in at least one science, preferably in biology.

Progression

Students who achieve Higher Biology may progress to a wide range of further and higher education opportunities in:

- biological sciences, medicine, nursing, physiotherapy, dietetics, radiography, and chiropody

Increasingly, modern apprenticeships are available in the field of biology. For example, an apprenticeship as a laboratory technician would be accessible.

Skills gained from following courses in biology are beneficial for roles in the financial sector and in most managerial posts.

BIOLOGY National 3, 4 & 5

Overview of Course

Biology is the study of living organisms: how they function and how they relate to their environment. The biology courses in the senior phase will enable learners to:

- develop an interest and enthusiasm for biology
- develop an understanding of the role of biology in relation to the scientific issues that affect our daily lives
- establish a foundation for further study of biology by improving knowledge and understanding and by developing skills

The biology courses will also develop a student's transferable employability skills. The capacity for problem solving will be improved as biological knowledge is applied to contexts relevant to society today. Literacy and numeracy skills are developed, and as students work collaboratively on tasks and experiments, team-working skills are honed. Experiments also require good organisation and time management to be effective.

Course Details

At all levels, pupils will study three mandatory units:

- **Cell Biology**
- **Multicellular Organisms**
- **Life On Earth**

Each unit combines knowledge specific to biology with learning related to other subjects such as geography, chemistry or maths.

Each unit is assessed with a test and the course award demands the completion of a practical investigation and report.

National 4 Biology assessment requires a scientific experiment and research.

National 5 is assessed through an examination that contributes 80% to the final overall grade. The remaining 20% comes from a practical assignment.

Progression

Schools College Partnership courses are available to students in the senior phase. Students could move from a biology course to a Health and Social Care college course or a Social Services: Children and Young People Foundation Apprenticeship.

Biology courses prepare students for careers in the life sciences (microbiology, biotechnology and biomedical sciences), the health sector, environmental science and teaching.

A wide variety of further and higher education courses are available in the field of biology, for example: HNC Biology, HNC Applied Science, BSc in Biological Sciences.

There is also a range of apprenticeships for which a qualification in biology would be appropriate, for example health care assistant, beauty massage therapist, dental nurse and animal care assistant.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT: Higher

Overview of Course

This course explores the activities of businesses, particularly with respect to the main functional areas which categorise the operation of all organisations. Emphasis is placed on the enterprise skills required to be successful in today's business world.

The following employability skills will be developed: literacy and numeracy; communication and customer service; time-management; team-working. An ability to learn and acquire new skills will also be fostered.

management, hospitality management, office management, risk management.

Business Management, Accounting and Finance, Administration, Marketing, Events Management, International Business courses at college or university. Many institutions encourage the study of business with a modern language to prepare students for working in an international setting.

Course Details

The course will build an understanding of the internal and external factors which impact upon businesses. The management of marketing and human resources, and operational and finance departments will be examined. Other topics covered include: the analysis of the impact of business decisions; ethical decision-making; applying entrepreneurial skills; the analysis of the use of existing and emerging technologies to improve business practices; the analysis of financial data.

Course assessment takes the form of a 90 mark exam and a 30 mark assignment. The assignment will focus on an aspect of business chosen by the student.

Progression

Employment in Human Resources, project management, sales management, the financial sector, health service

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT: National 3, 4 & 5

Overview of Course

This subject looks at what makes a successful business, with an emphasis on developing in students the skills that can be used in a variety of jobs.

The following employability skills will be developed: literacy and numeracy; communication and customer service; time-management; team-working. An ability to learn and acquire new skills will also be fostered.

Business Management, Accounting and Finance, Administration, Marketing, Events Management, International Business courses at college or university. Many institutions encourage the study of business with a modern language to prepare students for working in an international setting.

Course Details

Topics covered in this course include: enterprise; marketing; operations; finance; the role of business within society; ethical businesses; the environmental impact of businesses.

Business skills developed throughout the course will be those involved in decision making; communication; enterprise; the analysis of financial data; customer service; the evaluation of production techniques.

For National 5, course assessment takes the form of a 30 mark assignment on an aspect of business of the student's choice, and a 90 mark exam.

Progression

Employment in Human Resources, project management, sales management, the financial sector, health service management, hospitality management, office management, risk management.

CHEMISTRY: Higher and National 3, 4 & 5

Overview of Courses

Chemistry is the study of substances which make up matter, investigation of the properties of the matter and how they react together, and the use of such reactions to form new substances.

Chemistry studies are related to the environment that surrounds us and the society in which we live. The courses develop an understanding of the ways in which scientific principles can be applied to the issues facing us today. The courses also foster positive attitudes to others and to the environment.

All courses in chemistry contribute to the development of a student's transferable employability skills. Analysis and problem solving skills are improved during investigative science exercises. Literacy and numeracy skills are developed, and as students work collaboratively on tasks and experiments, team-working skills are honed. Experiments also require good organisation and time management on the part of the student.

Higher Chemistry provides a solid base from which students can progress to employment or further study in areas related to chemistry.

Course Details

The areas of study in chemistry courses are

- Nature's Chemistry
- Chemical Changes and Structure
- Chemistry in Society
- Researching Chemistry (Higher only)

Each unit combines knowledge specific to chemistry with learning related to other subjects such as engineering or maths.

At National 5 and Higher level, course assessment consists of an examination and a practical assignment. National 4 requires students to carry out a scientific experiment and write a laboratory report, and to conduct a research assignment. Students at National 3 level will do the scientific experiment and report.

At all levels, each unit of work is formally assessed with a test. A student's practical work and engagement in lesson activities is also reviewed for tracking and monitoring purposes.

Course-specific Entry Requirements

For entry to Higher, students should have already attained a National 5 award in at least one science, preferably in chemistry.

Progression

Qualifications in chemistry could lead to a career in the petrochemicals industry, or to a job or modern apprenticeship in pharmaceuticals, biochemistry, medicine or engineering.

Skills gained from following courses in chemistry are beneficial for roles in the financial sector and in most managerial posts.

Many further and higher education opportunities are available to students who achieve a qualification in chemistry.

CLASSICAL STUDIES: Higher

Overview of Course

This course studies the civilisations of Ancient Greece and Rome. In so doing, an insight into the roots of western civilisation is provided. The study of ancient civilisations also enhances students' awareness of social, political, religious and moral issues in society today.

The study of classics encourages clarity of thought, attention to detail, and the ability to argue a case, skills useful in many areas of employment.

Course Details

The course covers three topics:

- Life in Classical Greece – study of the political and legal systems of 5th century BC Athens (slavery; the role of women; Athenian imperialism)
- Life in the Roman World – study of Rome in the 1st century BC and AD (what it meant to be a Roman citizen; roles of slaves and women; impact of the Empire on people living under the rule of the Roman Empire)
- Classical Literature – study of Oedipus the King and Antigone (a comparison of modern and classical attitudes to heroism, leadership, conflict and violence, women in society and fate versus free will)

Course-specific Entry Requirements

Through qualifications already gained, or courses being studied, it should be clear that students possess Higher-level literacy skills.

Progression

For generations a classical education was considered a privilege for the few, but the knowledge and skills it provides are now highly appreciated by both academic institutions and employers. It can aid cultural literacy; teach the foundations of philosophy and history; encourage cultural insight; and provide opportunities for wide-ranging and critical thinking.

The course is particularly useful for those seeking to embark on careers in: law, journalism, the civil service, politics and the arts.

A Higher qualification in classical studies is respected and valued by universities.

College Opportunities

A number of opportunities exist for students looking to experience learning outwith the school classroom setting.

College courses run on a Tuesday and Thursday, from 1. 30 p.m.to 4 p.m. Pupils return home, or to school, around 4. 30 p.m.

Further information on the courses available can be found in the college spreadsheet posted on the school website under 'Coursing'. Travel to Granton and back is not tenable within the school day so students are asked not to choose from courses running at the Granton campus.

COMPUTING and SOFTWARE ENGINEERING Provision

For a number of years, the Authority has struggled to recruit teachers of computing science. The problem exists across Scotland.

There are, however, a number of excellent alternatives available to our pupils in Midlothian, alternatives which contain the aspects of computing science most essential to preparation for employment or further study in the world of computing.

The following courses are offered through the Schools College Partnership:

- Computer Games with IT Software
NPA Level 5 – Friday afternoon
- Cisco Cyber Security Essentials
NPA Level 5 – Friday afternoon
- Software Development
NPA Level 6 – For S5 and S6 pupils
- Data Science
NPA Level 6 – For S5 and S6 pupils
- IT: Software Development Level 6
– For S5 and S6 pupils

Details of the college courses are available on the Edinburgh College website and in the spreadsheet posted in the Coursing section of the school website.

If after reading through the college course materials, pupils still wish to indicate a desire to study pure computing science, put a tick on the option form where this information is requested. (A full coursing request is still required. The computing science tick does not count as an option.)

It is possible that a few places may be available in courses at other Midlothian schools but it should be noted that such places will be extremely limited in number.

CONSTRUCTION (Further information to follow)

DANCE: Higher and National 5

Overview

These courses encourage students to be inspired and challenged when developing technical dance skills and when performing, creating and appreciating dance. Learners use theoretical knowledge to inform practice, and develop an understanding of a range of dance techniques and choreographic skills.

The styles of dance in which students practise their skills are jazz, contemporary and commercial.

Transferable employability skills are also developed. Choreography tasks require good management and leadership, and the management of dancers and rehearsal space develops a student's organisational skills. Also built up is a capacity to learn and acquire new skills.

It should also be noted that a large component of the course is theory work.

Course Details

There are four main areas of assessment:

- Technical solo
- Choreography
- Choreographic review – a written project
- Written exam – students must demonstrate their understanding of technical and performance skills, as well as their knowledge of the history and origins of a particular dance style. Students will also have to evaluate an example of professional choreography.

Course-specific Entry Requirements

It would be a benefit to students if they already train or compete regularly in a key dance style. Students must have good physical fitness and a willingness to train to improve their fitness further.

Progression

These courses have the potential to enhance a student's employability in dance-related areas of the performing arts industry. Further study of dance after school is also possible and could lead to professional dance leader or teacher qualifications. The courses also lend themselves to working in the sports and leisure industry or sports coaching.

DESIGN & MANUFACTURE: Higher

Overview of Course

This course will foster understanding of the process of designing and of the factors which influence designs in a commercial context. Students will learn to appreciate how creativity and designing for visual impact need to be combined with consideration of the practicalities of function and performance.

As well as learning skills in product design, students will develop transferable employability skills, including those in: communication; problem solving; working under pressure and managing time. The capacity to learn and acquire new skills and the ability to show initiative and be self-motivated should also come through successful completion of design and manufacture courses.

Course Details

At Higher level, the emphasis is on commercial design knowledge and manufacture.

Students devise designs and communicate ideas through written notes, sketched graphics and model making. Students apply their design knowledge in order to make informed choices as they develop a solution into a feasible design proposal. Applying knowledge of materials and manufacturing, students then devise a plan of how to produce the proposal in a commercial situation, using modern manufacturing methods.

During these processes students gain an understanding of the impact that design and manufacturing technologies have on our environment and on society.

Assessment takes the form of an SQA course assessment and a written examination.

Progression

Achievement at Higher Design and Manufacture prepares students for employment in fields such as design, manufacturing, engineering and construction.

Potential jobs include: product designer, prop maker and set designer, furniture designer, production manager, joiner, cabinet maker, building technician, construction manager, kitchen fitter, window fitter, picture framer, wood machinist.

College and university courses are available in design, product design, manufacturing, construction and engineering.

DESIGN & MANUFACTURE: National 4 & 5

Overview of Course

This course provides opportunities for students to gain skills in designing and making products. Students will learn to appreciate how creativity and designing for visual impact need to be combined with consideration of the practicalities of function and performance. Students will gain an understanding of the impact that design and manufacturing technologies have on our environment and on society.

As well as learning skills in product design, students will develop transferable employability skills, including those in: communication; problem solving; working under pressure and managing time. The capacity to learn and acquire new skills and the ability to show initiative and be self-motivated should also come through successful completion of design and manufacture courses.

Course Details

Students devise designs and communicate ideas through written notes, sketched graphics and model making. They apply their design knowledge in order to make informed choices as they develop a solution into a feasible design proposal. Applying knowledge of materials and manufacturing, students devise a plan of how to make the product, then manufacture the product in the workshop.

At National 5, assessment takes the form of an SQA course assessment and a written examination. In order to pass at National 4, students must pass internally assessed units of work.

Progression

Successful completion of design and manufacture courses prepares students for employment in fields such as design, manufacturing, engineering and construction.

Potential jobs include: product designer, prop maker and set designer, furniture designer, production manager, joiner, cabinet maker, building technician, construction manager, kitchen fitter, window fitter, picture framer, wood machinist.

College and university courses are available in design, product design, manufacturing, construction and engineering.

DRAMA: Higher

Overview of Course

The Higher Drama course will develop students' skills in numerous areas including: researching contemporary issues; exploring a range of challenging play texts; analysing live performance; writing and directing pieces of theatre and developing skills in acting and additional production roles.

Following a drama course will also develop transferable employability skills in self-confidence, communication, problem solving, critical thinking, cooperation, resilience and creativity.

Course Details

In the Drama Skills unit, students research, devise, script and direct a piece of drama based on a central theme. They also develop appropriate production concepts and perform as an actor in dramas directed by other students. This culminates in an evening performance for parents and carers.

In Production Skills, students demonstrate their competence in two production areas (lighting, sound, acting, make-up, set design, props or acting).

During the course of the session students will also write two essays and an extended response under exam conditions.

Students prepare for a practical examination as actor, director or designer and are assessed by a visiting examiner. The written examination will test pupils on textual analysis, application of theatre production skills and analysis of performance.

Course-specific Entry Requirements

Students will be required to attend theatre visits during the year. These will take place in the evenings. In addition, students will be expected to attend rehearsals after school in the lead up to presentations. Candidates will be expected to show a full commitment to these areas.

Progression

Students who successfully follow drama courses could pursue careers in acting, production, design, public speaking or presenting. Students are also well placed to study drama, theatre studies or related disciplines in further or higher education.

DRAMA: National 3, 4 & 5

Overview of Courses

Drama is a largely practical subject which gives students the opportunity to be creative and to express themselves in a variety of contexts. Although there is a performance element in all units of the courses, pupils can later choose to specialise in a production role if that is their preference.

In addition to knowledge and skills specific to the arts, drama also enables students to practise transferable employability skills such as problem-solving, communication, resilience and team work.

Course Details

The National Drama courses allow students to explore many different aspects of drama and theatre studies including acting, as well as the technical jobs of lighting; sound; props; costume and set design; and make-up and hair.

For the Drama Skills unit, as a member of a group, students will create a drama from a stimulus.

In Production Skills, students work on a particular production skill (two for National 5). Production skills include: lighting, sound, hair and make-up, props, costume or set design. Students go on demonstrate their competence through a presentation or performance.

National 5 students prepare for a practical examination as actor or designer and are assessed by a visiting examiner. There is also a written examination. National 3 and 4 students are assessed in school.

Progression

As well as the more obvious opportunities within the arts, a drama course equips students with the skills they need for any career in which they are required to work within a team or to communicate their ideas to others. Drama also helps students to develop the confidence and interpersonal skills required when interviewed or asked to lead others in the workplace.

Students who successfully follow drama courses could pursue careers in acting, production, design, public speaking or presenting. Students are also well placed to study drama, theatre studies or related disciplines in further or higher education.

Acting and Performance NPA Level 6

Overview of Courses

This course meets the needs of learners who wish to develop a foundation for further study in the performance arts sector, providing skills and knowledge appropriate to the theatre industry.

The experiences provided develop skills of self-discipline, commitment, collaboration and creativity. Pupils work in groups but there is also a clear focus on the development of each pupil's individual repertoire of performance skills.

Course Details

The course consists of two units: Theatre Skills in Performance and Professional Theatre in Context.

The first unit develops stagecraft and performing skills. Pupils engage with a wide range of performance styles and learn about the complementary roles of actor and director. The final part of this unit invites pupils to apply their learning to an analysis of a performance in front of a live audience.

The second unit offers pupils the opportunity to look at contrasting theatre practitioners and their influence on contemporary performance. In so doing, pupils develop their technical and evaluative skills.

Course-specific Entry Requirements

NPA Drama will benefit pupils in S6 who have completed the Higher course and

wish to continue their drama input without taking on the intensity of the Advanced Higher offering. Additionally, pupils who have successfully completed National 5 Drama may see the NPA as an alternative to Higher or as a supportive intermediary step towards the Higher course.

Progression

Successful completion of this course prepares pupils for progression to further National Certificate or Higher National Certificate study at college or for further study at degree level.

Pupils who achieve the NPA in Acting and Performance could potentially find employment in the following areas: performing (drama, dance, music theatre); arts promotion/management; teaching.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Overview

The benefits of achieving a DofE Award at any level are endless. Participants will have fun; will push themselves to do new things that will help them grow in confidence and develop useful skills; and will meet new people who will be inspiring and with whom lasting friendships will be made.

Furthermore, a DofE Award can give participants the edge when applying for college, university or a job. Put simply, the DofE is about helping young people along the path to a productive and prosperous future.

Pupils studying a number of subjects at Higher level should consider selecting Duke of Edinburgh as the sixth curricular option.

Entry Requirements

- An interest in, and enthusiasm for, the outdoors and health and fitness
- The willingness to work hard and the determination to improve or develop a particular skill
- The desire to help others and to change things for the better

Course Details

Physical: This section requires the participant to take part in some kind of physical activity once a week for a set number of weeks. Examples of likely activities include: dance, football, basketball, athletics, hockey, swimming, golf, cycling.

Skill: This section requires the participant to partake in a skilful activity - one which is not classed as physical - once a week, for a set number of weeks. Examples of likely activities include: playing a musical instrument, cooking, baking, woodwork, hobby craft.

Volunteering: This section requires the participant to give up their time for at least one hour, once a week, for a set number of weeks. The participant cannot receive any financial reward for this time. Some examples of activities include: coaching youth sports teams; paired reading; helping within the school; litter picking in the community.

Expedition: For this section, participants must complete an overnight expedition. The participants will have to walk a certain distance whilst carrying all of their own supplies. They then must make camp and cook their own food. The participants will be trained in camp craft, navigation and general expedition skills.

At least two expeditions will be carried out over the duration of the course. The first will be a practice expedition where the participants will have an instructor on hand at all times. The second expedition is an assessment where candidates must navigate by themselves and will have no input from instructors. Candidates will be assessed on the ground by an independent assessor.

Progression

There are three levels of award: Bronze, Silver and Gold. The main differences between the awards are the minimum length of time they take to complete, how challenging they are and the minimum starting age.

EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE: Skills for Work National 4 & 5

Overview

This course is a perfect choice for students who wish to work in the childcare profession.

During the course students may have the opportunity to work in primary schools and nurseries to support staff and in so doing will develop the skills required to work in the child care industry.

In addition, the following will be gained:

- an understanding of the workplace
- an appreciation of employee responsibilities
- an understanding of the importance of good timekeeping; appropriate appearance and good customer care
- an ability to self-evaluate

Course Details

Topics covered during the course include:

- the development and wellbeing of children and young people
- play in early learning and childcare
- working in early learning and childcare

The course does not have a final examination; instead, performance is assessed throughout the year with a number of tests.

Progression

Students may progress directly to employment. Alternatively, students can access over S5 and S6 the Midlothian-based Foundation Apprenticeship in Social Services Children and Young People. In addition, a number of related courses are available at college.

ENGINEERING SCIENCE: Higher and National 4 & 5

Overview of Course

Engineering Science is a key STEM subject which brings together elements of technology, science and mathematics and applying these to real-world challenges. Engineering is vital to everyday life; it shapes the world in which we live and the future of that world.

The course in engineering science examines key engineering concepts, principles and practices and develops greater understanding of the role of engineering in changing our environment and society. Students will also develop key employability skills in numeracy, information handling, analysis and evaluation, problem solving, working to deadlines and communication.

Our society needs engineers, and more young people with an informed view of engineering. Engineers play key roles in fields which include climate change, medicine, IT and transport. And because of a focus on developing transferable skills, a qualification in engineering science will be useful whatever a student should decide to do on leaving school.

Course Details

Students will study:

- Engineering Contexts and Challenges
- Electronics and Control
- Mechanisms and structures

Students will apply skills across a range of contexts and will analyse, design, simulate, test and evaluate solutions to engineering problems,

At National 4, the course is assessed on an on-going basis through unit assessments. At National 5 and Higher, assessment takes the form of a course assignment and a written examination.

Progression

There are different engineering disciplines in which employment is available: electronic, electrical, mechanical, civil, aeronautical, structural etc. Employment opportunities include, but are in no way limited to: automotive engineer, building control officer, marine engineer, lighting technician, aerospace engineer, textile technologist, site engineer.

Increasingly, modern and graduate apprenticeships are being offered in engineering.

Engineering can be studied at HNC or HND level at college, and at degree level at university.

ENGLISH: Higher, Literacy Plus and National 3, 4 & 5

Overview of Courses

English must be studied until at least the end of S4 and most students will continue beyond that point for at least one more year. In addition to the Advanced Higher course, the details of which will be shared with relevant students, a number of courses are available.

All the courses build on what has gone before in terms of developing the core skills of reading, writing, talking and listening. A range of fiction and non-fiction texts is studied in order that students understand and appreciate the techniques writers use to create meaning. Language activities allow pupils of all abilities to engage in meaningful and challenging work. Where appropriate, activities will be designed around employability and life skills.

By developing good literacy skills, students will be better placed to process information effectively, apply knowledge of language in practical contexts and develop analytical thinking skills. These are all features which will substantially improve the capacity of every student to access other subjects at whatever level is appropriate. Students will possess the essential communication and literacy skills needed in the world of work, at college or at university.

Course Details

The National 3 and 4 English courses allow students to gain qualifications in English and literacy without the need to sit an exam.

Beyond the National 3 and 4 courses students are likely to progress to Literacy Plus. Successful completion of the Literacy Plus course will see students achieving literacy units at National 5 level, as well as National 4 units in media studies.

At National 5, assessment will consist of an examination and a portfolio, both of which will be externally marked. This is in addition to the internally assessed Spoken Language unit which must be passed for a National 5 award to be gained.

Higher English has the same assessment structure as the National 5 course, though the content covered and the skills required are considerably more challenging.

Class teachers will discuss with all students the course that is appropriate to their individual needs.

Progression

Successful completion of the National 3, 4 and Literacy Plus courses provides students with the essential literacy qualifications most employers seek.

National 5 English is a qualification that is sought by many college courses and Higher English is crucial for entry to most university courses.

Most modern apprenticeships will look for National qualifications in English or Literacy.

English courses can be the gateway to employment in journalism, publishing, the media and teaching, to name but a few potential areas of employment.

FRENCH: Higher and National 4 & 5

Overview of Course

In an increasingly multicultural world, a modern language qualification is highly valued and respected by universities and employers alike. The qualification shows that a student possesses skills in creative and critical thinking, as well as the ability to communicate effectively. Moreover, because language students have to adapt to unfamiliar situations and new cultural ideas, such students are well-equipped to learn new skills and to handle fresh challenges.

The study of a language contributes to the development of cultural awareness, as it enables learners to make connections with different people and cultures and to play a fuller role as global citizens. A language course also contributes towards the development of literacy as a student will reflect upon how that foreign language relates to the student's own native tongue.

The Higher course offers a smooth transition from National 5. It allows learners to build upon previous learning and to develop detailed and complex language skills in the meaningful, real-life contexts of society, learning, employability and culture.

Course Details

Language skills are built gradually through the levels as students listen, talk, read and write in the contexts of society, culture, learning and employability. Students engage with a variety of topics relevant to society today: the environment, the media and film studies, lifestyles, holidays and tourism, part-time jobs, music etc.

Students are assessed in all four skills, with each worth 25% of the final grade.

Progression

As businesses compete in a global economy, employers are increasingly aware of the value of foreign language skills. The ability to speak a foreign language, and the transferable skills acquired in the learning process, make students with a language qualification stand out from the crowd.

Career opportunities exist for language specialists as translators, interpreters or teachers, or in employment within the travel and tourism and hospitality industries. A modern language qualification is also highly valued by employers in law, in retail and in engineering, in the media and broadcasting, business, in journalism, in the oil industry, in politics, the forces, import/export businesses, transport and distribution, the civil service, or the diplomatic services.

A Higher language qualification will contribute towards entry for most, if not all, university courses. Courses in marketing and business often allow for the study of a language as well.

GEOGRAPHY: Higher

Course Details

This course comprises four mandatory units:

Physical Environments

- *Atmosphere* (heat budget, transfer of energy)
- *Hydrosphere* (the Hydrological cycle, Hydrographs)
- *Lithosphere* (Glaciated/ Coastal landscapes)
- *Biosphere* (soils)

Geography: Human Environments

- *Population* – problems in developed and developing countries/ impact of migrations
- *Rural* (rural land use conflicts in the Cairngorms and Dorset/ land degradation in the Tropical Rain Forest and Sahel)
- *Urban* (case studies of problems and solutions to urban management issues in developed and developing cities)

Geography: Global Issues

Two global issues are studied in depth:

Development and Health
Global Climate Change

Added Value Unit

This unit provides rich opportunities for learners to choose from a range of possible titles. The work will allow pupils to develop and consolidate research skills associated with secondary sources, such as library and internet skills.

Progression

With the achievement of a Higher award in Geography, students may be able to progress to Advanced Higher Geography,

to HNC/D awards or to degree courses in further/higher education, as well as on to employment. Knowledge and skills gained in Higher Geography are widely regarded as excellent indicators of ability in many fields of employment, e.g. in conservation, in renewable energy, in environmental issues, in water management, in the civil service, in the service industries, in transport, tourism, town planning, banking, insurance, surveying, teaching, architecture and landscaping.

GEOGRAPHY: National 3, 4 & 5

Overview

National Geography covers a wide variety of topics: environmental issues, sustainable development, global citizenship and social justice. The courses develop knowledge and understanding of the changing world and its human and physical processes.

Employability skills developed through the courses include literacy and numeracy, communication, team work, analysis, time management and the ability to acquire new specialist skills.

Studying geography will prepare students for employment in tourism, sustainable development, renewable energy, geology, flood control, town planning, construction, architecture, conservation, ecology, climate change initiatives and environmental education.

Course Details

Students following National Geography courses will learn by conducting research and fieldwork; by mapping; by analysing and interpreting sources; by using GPS and through group work.

The course has three units:

- Physical Environments – glaciated and coastal landscapes, UK weather systems
- Human Environments – global population, contrasting urban and rural issues such as shanty towns and GM farming
- Global Issues – environmental hazards, such as volcanoes, earthquakes and hurricanes; the development and health problems

facing developed and developing countries

Students complete an assignment for which students must travel to Edinburgh to collect a range of data to analyse.

Assessment at National 5 consists of the assignment, plus an examination. Other national courses are assessed internally.

Progression

A geography qualification can assist with applications for a variety of employment opportunities. In the tourism industry, jobs such as airline pilot, tour guide and tour representative at a resort exist. Other potential jobs include architect, town planner, renewable energy consultant, countryside ranger, GPS/mapping consultant, conservationist, environmental manager, ecologist, geologist and quantity surveyor.

Jobs are not necessarily limited to the environmental sector as many areas of employment are now looking for experts in global issues such as climate change, development and health.

Studying geography at college or university is so wide-ranging in the topics covered that geographers are often employed in managerial roles. Study areas closely linked to geography include environmental science, town planning, ecology and geology.

GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION: Higher and National 4 & 5

Overview of Course

With the world's growing reliance on visual media, studies in graphic communication offer a valuable pathway to employment in many fields of industry and commerce. In Graphic Communication students learn about manual and digital graphic techniques and, as they learn to use industry standard software, students improve their skills in communicating information and desk-top publishing. Students also explore the environmental, social and economic impact of communication technologies.

Courses in graphic communication develop transferable employability skills, including: the capacity to work under pressure and to deadlines; the ability to organise and manage time; the ability to learn new skills and the capacity to demonstrate initiative and self-motivation.

Students of graphic communication are prepared for employment in fields such as graphic design, engineering, construction, marketing, advertising, publishing, town planning and tourism.

Course Details

The National course offers a range of practical activities associated with the production and evaluation of visual graphics. The course suits students who enjoy drawing and sketching, and using computer equipment to produce 3D models and professional page layouts.

The Higher course covers computer-aided design; drawing standards and protocols; manual sketching and illustration

techniques; and the creation and critical analysis of digital and printed media.

Given the growing use of CAD-CAM technologies, Graphic Communication is a valuable STEM subject in its own right but a graphics course can also provide complementary accompaniment to studies in engineering science, art and design or design and manufacture.

Progression

Jobs for students with graphic communication experience include: architect, animator, CAD technician, cartographer, engineer, exhibition designer, graphic designer, computer games developer, interior designer, product designer, technical surveyor.

College and university courses in graphic design, web design, architecture, engineering, construction and product design, advertising, marketing and publishing might be enjoyed by successful students of graphic communication.

HAIRDRESSING: Skills for Work National 4 & 5

Overview of Course

This course provides a broad, practical introduction to hairdressing. Students will gain experience of the general salon duties involved in supporting stylists and assisting with customer care. Knowledge and understanding of the hairdressing industry will be gained along with transferable employability skills and the confidence required for the workplace.

- Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs) in Hairdressing
- A full-time National Certificate Course in Hairdressing at Edinburgh College

Course Details

The course is designed to mirror the apprenticeship skills developed within the industry.

There are four units:

- Creative Trends – research the year's current look; gain an understanding of how fashion trends influence hair styles
- Working in a Salon Environment – learn about duties, health and safety legislation, customer care
- Salon Skills – develop practical skills in shampooing and conditioning hair, massage techniques, styling and blow drying
- Introduction to Colour – gain a basic knowledge and understanding of the colouring process; learn how to prepare hair prior to colouring, how to mix colour and how to remove colour

Progression

- Employment as a hairdressing apprentice in a salon
- Further vocational training

HISTORY: Higher and National 3, 4 & 5

Overview

By choosing to study history, students will develop a greater understanding of the world by learning about other people and their values in different times, places and circumstances. Students will also develop many key skills employers look for, including the ability to research, present, listen, evaluate and think critically.

- USA: 1918 – 1968 (Growing tensions in American society, focusing on racial divisions, economic difficulties, growth of federal powers and struggle for civil rights)
- Scotland: Migration and Empire 1830 – 1939 (Population movement and social and economic change in Scotland and abroad)

Course Details

The National courses consist of three areas of study:

- Scotland: 1900 – 1928 (The experiences of Scots in the Great War and how the war changed life for people at home, both during and after the war; the impact of technology on the soldiers on the Western Front)
- Atlantic Slave Trade: 1770 – 1807 (The nature of the British Atlantic slave trade, changing attitudes towards it in Britain and the pressures that led to its abolition)
- Germany and Nazi Germany: 1919 – 1939 (Attempts to establish democracy in Weimar Germany, reasons for its collapse and nature of the Nazi state)

The Higher courses studies:

- Britain: 1850 – 1950 (Development of UK into a modern democracy and development of the role of the state in the welfare of its citizens)

Progression

The skills developed through the study of history are ones highly valued by employers. They are particularly useful for careers in law, journalism, teaching, academia, archaeology, conservation, commerce, human resources, politics, public relations, tourism - and in the heritage sector, in places such as museums and historic buildings.

History qualifications provide access to a wide range of college and university courses.

HOSPITALITY: Skills for Work National 4 & 5

Overview of Course

In this course students will develop vocational skills and knowledge, and will gain practical experience in: menu planning; preparing, cooking and presenting a range of foods in a professional kitchen; serving food and drinks; undertaking reception duties and customer care; and planning, organising and running a small hospitality event.

Students will gain experience that will help prepare them for employment in, for example, events management; working in a commercial kitchen; or working front of house.

This course develops transferable employability skills.

Course Details

There are four mandatory units at both National 4 and National 5. The course does not have a final examination. Instead performance is assessed throughout the year with a number of tests. Practical lessons will be a feature throughout the course.

Progression

This course will help with entry to college hospitality courses, and to Queen Margaret University, where courses are offered in related areas of study.

Successful completion of the course will also provide the specialised skills necessary to employment in the hospitality industry.

HUMAN BIOLOGY: Higher

Overview of Course

Biology is a natural science that studies the physiology, behaviour and other qualities of life and living organisms, while human biology does the same thing but focuses on humans.

Higher Human Biology also contributes to a student's general and vocational education through the teaching of specialised biological skills and knowledge as well as through the development of transferable employability skills such as problem solving and teamwork.

The course develops an understanding of the ways in which biological principles can be applied to the issues facing the individual and society today. It also fosters positive attitudes to others and to the environment.

Course Details

The course consists of four mandatory units:

- Human Cells
- Physiology and Health
- Neurobiology and Communication
- Immunology and Public Health

Each unit of work includes knowledge specific to biology, but each unit of work also builds on learning in other fields such as geography or chemistry.

Each unit of work is formally assessed with a test. A student's practical work and engagement in lesson activities is also

reviewed for tracking and monitoring purposes.

The course assessment includes an examination and a practical assignment requiring research and a formal laboratory report.

Course-specific Entry Requirements

Normally students should have already attained a National 5 award in at least one science, preferably in biology.

Progression

Students who are successful in Higher Human Biology may progress to a wide range of further and higher education opportunities in:

- biological sciences, medicine, nursing, physiotherapy, dietetics, radiography and chiropody

Increasingly, modern apprenticeships and other training opportunities are available in the field of biology. For example, a modern apprenticeship in biomedical sciences would be accessible.

Skills gained from following courses in biology are beneficial for roles in the financial sector and in most managerial posts.

LABORATORY SCIENCE: Skills for Work National 5

Overview of Course

This course develops the basic practical skills and knowledge needed for working in a laboratory whilst also enhancing problem solving, communication and team working skills. Increasing the confidence of students is a main aim of the course.

Students will explore a variety of industries and services, and career opportunities, in science laboratories and other STEM contexts.

Course Details

Throughout all units, the course emphasises the employability skills and attitudes valued by employers that help prepare students for the workplace. Students will review their own employability skills, and will seek feedback from others on their strengths and weaknesses.

Students will develop the basic practical skills and knowledge needed for working in a laboratory: measuring, weighing and preparing compounds and solutions; health and safety requirements; practical skills in microbiology; measuring radioactivity; chemical handling and laboratory instrumentation.

Students will work with others to produce a plan for a practical investigation. Then students will report the results, conclusions and evaluations of the investigation.

The course is internally assessed with a folio approach. Pupils will generate the evidence required throughout the year by

demonstrating practical skills; by participating in group discussion; by evaluating progress and by producing written responses.

Course-specific Entry Requirements

In most cases, students should not choose Laboratory Science, and Science and Technology. Laboratory Science (level 5) provides progression from the Science and Technology (level 4) course. However, Laboratory Science is also useful for students considering any study at university or college that involves working in a laboratory. At school, it is a sensible accompaniment to most science courses.

Progression

Successful completion of the course may lead to courses at college such as NPA Level 6 Laboratory Science, or applied science HNC courses.

Students will be prepared for working as a laboratory assistant in industry or education, and for other associated STEM roles.

Science, medicine or nursing students will appreciate the skills acquired during this course.

Long Hair Design with Make-up: NPA Level 5

Overview of Course

This course develops the basic skills involved in long hair design and make-up. The qualification structure has been devised so that candidates will receive a broad education in Long Hair Design with Make-Up and this is reflected in the qualification title.

Course Details

This qualification provides candidates with current styling skills techniques. There are three main topic areas:

1. Long hair design, including various 'up' techniques
2. Make-up for young and mature skin for bridal and evening looks
3. Salon skills with employability (customer service and selling)

Progression

This course is suitable for pupils who wish to gain entry into the beauty industry. It will enable candidates to progress to work-based qualifications within the sector and the completion of National Occupational Standards.

The NPA allows for straightforward progression to further study at SCQF levels 5, 6 and 7, in particular in SVQ Level 2 Beauty Therapy, Beauty SCQF level 5 and NCGA Make-Up Artistry at SCQF level 6.

APPLICATIONS OF MATHEMATICS: Higher and National 3, 4 & 5

MATHEMATICS: Higher and National 4 & 5

Overview of Courses

Maths must be studied until at least the end of S4. Beyond that, students should continue when further progression is likely. In addition to the Advanced Higher course, the details of which will be shared with relevant students, a number of courses are available.

The development of good numeracy skills is crucial to managing personal financial affairs on leaving school and mathematics knowledge is of benefit to any student who intends studying a course at university which has mathematical content.

Course Details

Students will follow a Mathematics or Applications of Mathematics course.

Mathematics develops logical reasoning, analysis, problem solving skills, creativity and the ability to think in abstract ways.

Applications of Mathematics enables students to apply mathematical ideas and strategies. This provides students with the knowledge and understanding to manage finances, statistics, geometry and measurements in real-life contexts.

Numeracy + is a school-named subject composed of National 4 Application of Mathematics and Numeracy National 5. In the numeracy course, students learn to use numerical skills to solve real-life problems. Numeracy + is intended for S5 students who have not yet achieved the

highest numeracy qualification of which they are capable.

Class teachers will discuss with all students the course that is appropriate to individual needs.

Progression

Successful completion of the level 3, 4 and Numeracy + courses provides students with the essential numeracy qualifications most employers seek.

National 5 Mathematics or National 5 Applications of Mathematics are qualifications sought by some college and university courses.

Most modern apprenticeships will look for National qualifications in Mathematics, Applications of Mathematics or Numeracy.

Higher Mathematics is a qualification highly sought by universities and is helpful to first-year study in engineering, science, computing science, economics, finance and business as well as, of course, mathematics.

Higher Applications of Mathematics is a qualification suitable for a wide range of learners, including those who wish to progress to further learning and employment, for example, in non-STEM areas such as, social subjects, humanities and psychology.

MEDIA: National 4 & 5

Overview of course

Media studies teach students to think more critically about the television programmes and films they watch, the newspapers and magazines they read and the adverts surrounding us all in everyday life.

Course Details

Learning will cover areas such as narrative; categories; audience; media institutions; media language; representations and the role of the media. These key aspects will be taught through the use of films, television programmes, print and screen adverts, and magazines. Work on these texts prepares students for the final exam which forms 50% of the overall grade.

In addition to analysing and evaluating a variety of texts students are given the opportunity to research, plan, produce and evaluate their own media text. The finished media assignment forms 50% of the overall grade.

Course-specific Entry Requirements

Studying, or having studied English at least to National 5 level is beneficial: the course has a significant written element and requires analytical skills.

Progression

Courses dealing in all aspects of media in further education establishments.

MODERN STUDIES: Higher and National 3, 4 & 5

Overview

Modern Studies is the study of the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a democratic society and the moral and ethical responsibilities of individuals. The courses develop knowledge and understanding of contemporary political and social issues in local, Scottish, UK and international contexts. Students develop skills that will help them interpret and participate in social and political processes.

Courses in Modern Studies also lead to the development of transferable employability skills, particularly in literacy and numeracy, communication, time-management and team working. Importantly, Modern Studies nurtures a capacity in students to respect those in society with values different from their own.

Course Details

The National Modern Studies courses study the following topics:

- Crime and law in the UK
- Civil war in Syria
- Democracy in Scotland

The Higher Modern Studies course focuses on the following:

- Social inequality in the UK
- Underdevelopment in Africa
- Democracy in Scotland

Students studying modern studies will develop skills in drawing conclusions, report writing, identifying exaggeration and bias, decision making, synthesising

information, critical thinking, research, evaluating sources.

Assessment at National 5 takes the form of an examination. The Higher course is similarly assessed. Other national courses are assessed internally.

Progression

There is a wide variety of possible careers for which the study of Modern Studies is useful, and the following list is by no means exhaustive:

Law, policing, criminology, court services, trade unions, social work, journalism, the armed forces, politics, local government, political research, international relations, civil service, social administration, health care, opinion poll research, business.

The study of modern studies at school is good preparation for further study at college or university in the areas of law, politics, criminology, social policy, social administration and international relations.

MUSIC: Higher and National 3, 4 & 5

Overview of Courses

These courses are designed to help those students with an interest in music further develop their skills.

Students learn to work independently and to manage their time effectively whilst developing creativity, confidence and an ability to work under pressure. As well as improving practical playing skills, the course teaches students about compositional techniques and the history of music.

Successful completion of a music course will be of benefit to students who wish to pursue a career within the creative industries. The skills developed are also of use in many other areas of work.

Course Details

All courses cover the three main areas of music: performance, composition and understanding music.

At National level, the final examination is undertaken by National 5 candidates only, with National 3 and 4 students preparing internally assessed evidence throughout the year. Students at all levels must prepare musical programme across two instruments.

In addition, all National students complete a composition in a style of their own choice and undertake a listening assessment. Successful completion of the listening assessment demonstrates a student's ability to identify features present in music from the 1600s to the present day.

Students at Higher level prepare a 12 minute programme across two instruments. A composition assignment allows students to explore their musical ideas as they create a unique piece of music in a style of their own choice. Higher students also sit the written listening test which, for them, focuses on music composed between 1400 and the present day.

Course-specific Entry Requirements

By the end of the year, students must be able to perform in two instruments at the standard required for the level of presentation. Students should ask their music teacher if they are recommended for study in music. All students must be prepared to perform in front of others.

Cost of Course

Students who currently receive tuition on an instrument through the Midlothian Instrumental Service will receive their lessons for free when undertaking an SQA qualification in music.

Progression

A qualification in music could lead to a career in arts management, composition, production, sound recording, teaching or, indeed, music performance.

HNC and HND music courses are offered by Edinburgh College. Degree courses are available at a number of universities across the United Kingdom.

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY: Higher and National 3, 4 & 5

Overview of Courses

These courses develop the skills of students in using music technology hardware and software to capture and manipulate audio. Students learn about the processes of sound production and about the effects that can be achieved. An understanding of 20th and 21st century musical styles and genres is developed and an introduction to music as an industry is provided.

A course in music technology helps students to develop organisation, planning and self-reflection skills as work is carried out on an individual assignment. Students learn to work independently and to manage their time effectively, whilst improving creativity, confidence and the ability to work under pressure.

Course Details

Students explore how sound is created and captured in a range of contexts, including film, gaming, audio books and radio.

Students are assessed through the production of assignments and, at National 5 and Higher level, by the completion of a written examination.

At National level, students prepare two recordings within a context of their own choice (film, radio, audio book, gaming or multi-tracking recording). For National 5 certification, projects are submitted to SQA, complete with planning, implementation and evaluation log. National 3 and 4 projects are assessed internally.

At Higher level, the course assignment requires the preparation of one recording of between 4 and 7 minutes, again within a context of the student's own choosing.

Course-specific Entry Requirements

Students do not always work alone. There are key collaborative elements within the courses and students must enjoy working as a member of a group.

Progression

A qualification in music technology paves the way for careers in, for example, sound production, arts management, and composition for television, film or gaming.

There are a number of courses in sound production at colleges and universities in Scotland.

PHOTOGRAPHY: Higher

Overview of Course

Higher Photography develops knowledge and understanding of photographic media and camera techniques. The course is practical and experimental, enabling students to develop and refine technical photographic and editing skills with the aim of producing a portfolio of photographic work.

The Higher Photography course develops transferrable skills which will support future employment in the creative industries. Transferable employability skills developed include problem solving, time management, independent learning, creative thinking and the communication of ideas and opinions.

Students also improve ICT skills and knowledge, attributes essential in the modern workplace.

Course Details

Students will learn how to use a DSLR camera for creative effect through a variety of practical learning activities all with a focus on developing technical and compositional skill.

Students will have considerable personalisation and choice as they produce a large-scale photographic project that is submitted to SQA for assessment. In addition, students prepare for a written examination that asks a range of technical and analytical questions.

Students do not need to own their own camera as a camera can be provided.

Course-specific Entry Requirements

Students would benefit from previous study of Art and Design, preferably at National 5, or the NPA Photography course at level 5.

Progression

Career opportunities in photography include: free-lance photography, forensic photography, wedding photography and photo-journalism. Jobs also exist within commercial photographic studios, marketing and with holiday companies and theme parks.

Successful completion of Higher Photography supports students with college applications.

PHOTOGRAPHY: NPA Level 4 & 5 with an Animation unit

Overview of Course

The National Progression Award in Photography develops knowledge and understanding in the area of practical photography. The Award is aimed at those who want to explore an interest in photography and perhaps take that interest to a more advanced level. Also on offer is an Introduction to Animation unit: Animation Skills.

A range of transferable employability skills will be developed including: problem solving, literacy, working with others, expressing opinions and creative thinking. The units of the course are designed to promote self-confidence and self-development. Students will also improve ICT skills and knowledge - attributes essential in the modern workplace.

Successful completion of the course will help students who wish to pursue a career in the creative industries and in digital media.

Course Details

Students will spend most time on the photography element of this option. The Photography course consists of four internally assessed units:

- Understanding Photography
- Photographing People
- Photographing Places
- Working With Photographs

As well as researching the work of successful photographers, students will develop basic camera skills and increase

knowledge of specific photography techniques. Students will have many opportunities to be experimental and personal in the approach to their photography work.

Within Animation Skills, students explore both traditional and contemporary methods of animation, completing practical research tasks and mini projects.

There is no SQA examination.

Progression

Career opportunities in photography or digital media include freelance photographer, wedding and events photographer, police forensic photographer and jobs in photojournalism, advertising, animation, digital communication, film and media.

This course will also be useful for students who wish to apply for a creative course at college.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Higher and National 4 & 5

Overview of Course

These courses are designed to develop movement and performance skills through physical activity and analysis of performance. Training to improve physical fitness and fitness testing are key components of the courses. Personal motivation and the ability to use initiative are crucial to success. These employability skills, along with those associated with communication, team work, problem solving and time management are developed on a weekly basis.

Students should note that a large component of the courses is theory work. Students must be prepared to complete regular written class work.

Course Details

At both Higher and National level, students will be assessed on their performance skills. Under practical exam conditions, students will display their practical ability in two sports or activities of their choice.

At National level, students will also complete a written portfolio on the topic of the cycle of analysis.

At Higher there will be a written exam.

Course-specific Entry Requirements

Students will benefit from having a sport in which they train or compete, or which they watch, regularly. Students should

also have a willingness to train to improve their fitness.

Progression

Students may find employment in the sports and leisure industry, for example in sports coaching, as a leisure attendant or as a fitness or class instructor.

A Higher qualification will also support pupils who wish to study teaching, sports science or sports management.

PHYSICS: Higher and National 3, 4 & 5

Overview of Courses

Physics is the study of energy and matter in space and time and how they are related to each other.

Physics studies are related to the environment that surrounds us and the society in which we live. The courses develop an understanding of the ways in which scientific principles can be applied to the issues facing us today. Renewable energy, sustainability and scientific progress are all topics that will feature in the physics courses.

All courses in physics contribute to the development of a student's transferable employability skills. Analysis and problem solving skills are improved during investigative science exercises. Numeracy skills are developed. As students work collaboratively on tasks and experiments, team-working skills are honed. Experiments also require good organisation and time management on the part of the student.

Course Details

The areas of study in National physics are

- Dynamics and Space
- Electricity and Energy
- Waves and Radiation

The Higher course covers:

- Electricity
- Our Dynamic Universe
- Particles and Waves
- Researching Physics

At National 5 and Higher level, course assessment consists of an examination and a practical assignment. National 4 requires students to carry out a scientific experiment and write a laboratory report, and to conduct a research assignment. Students at National 3 level will do the scientific experiment and report.

At all levels, each unit of work is formally assessed with a test. A student's practical work and engagement in lesson activities is also reviewed for tracking and monitoring purposes.

Course-specific Entry Requirements

For entry to Higher, students should have already attained a National 5 award in at least one science, preferably in chemistry. A National 5 award in Mathematics will also be beneficial.

Progression

Qualifications in physics could lead to a career with an engineering company. Other areas of employment include: the communications industry, the space industry, energy companies, electronics, transport, architecture and teaching.

Increasingly, modern apprenticeships are available in the field of engineering, for example as an installation electrician.

Students who achieve Advanced Higher Physics can progress to a range of further and higher education opportunities.

POLITICS: Higher

Overview of Course

Higher Politics is about the study of political concepts and ideologies. Different political systems are compared (the UK and the US) and the factors which influence electoral performance in the UK are examined.

This course will suit anyone with an interest in politics. However, the course will also develop the transferable employability skills of literacy, numeracy, communication, customer service, time-management and team working.

Areas of employment where these skills can be put to good use include political research, the civil service, the diplomatic service, in aid agencies and charities, and in overseas development. Students could, of course – just like ex-Dalkeith High School-pupil Danielle Rowley - go on to become an elected M.P. or M.S.P!

Course Details

The Higher Politics course consists of three units; Political Theory, Political Systems and Political Parties and Elections in the UK.

The Political Theory unit compares socialism and conservatism; types of democracy and political concepts. This unit is taught through the study of significant political theorists like Burke, Marx and Rousseau. Our second unit is a comparative study of the US political system and that of the UK. We compare the roles, powers and authority of the executive, legislative and judicial branches. Case studies reference events from history and the modern day. Finally,

the factors which influence and explain voting behaviours in the UK are studied.

Course assessment takes the form of an examination, which is divided into two discrete papers.

Progression

In addition to the role of politician, a politics course will prepare students for a job as a local councillor, a political researcher, a civil servant, a diplomat, a social research officer, an opinion pollster and a public affairs consultant, to name but a few. Working for a charity or within the field of international relations would be possibilities.

Politics is a discrete subject available for further study at college and university. Politics is often studied at university level along with another subject such as international relations, history, geography, philosophy, economics or a modern language. The knowledge and skills gained through Higher Politics is also very useful for the study of law.

PRACTICAL CAKE CRAFT National 5

Overview

This course is designed for students who wish to acquire cake baking and finishing skills.

The course also makes an important contribution to general education through developing a range of essential skills which stand candidates in good stead for their future.

Its contribution to vocational education is significant because it is a springboard for a range of careers in the hospitality industry.

Entry Requirements

An interest in the creative and artistic aspects of the course is important for success.

Course Details

There are two units in the course:

- Cake Finishing
- Cake Baking

Various cakes will be made during the year, following a set programme. Assessment takes the form of a written examination and the creation of a final cake piece.

Progression

The course is practical and relevant to the world of work. It enables candidates to develop a range of artistic techniques and to consolidate them through practical activities.

PRACTICAL COOKERY National 3, 4 & 5

Overview of Course

The skills developed in this course will prepare students for employment in the hospitality industry, especially in a professional kitchen. Previous students of this course have secured jobs on leaving school.

39% of the job openings in Edinburgh and the Lothians between 2017 and 2027 are forecast to be in tourism, hospitality, distribution and retail.

Hospitality: Practical Cookery will also develop transferable employability skills.

industry. Increasingly, modern apprenticeships are available.

Students may also progress to further study at college or Queen Margaret University.

Course Details

Students will study three units of work:

- Cookery skills techniques and processes
- Understanding ingredients
- Organisational skills for the hospitality industry

The course is a mix of practical and theory lessons. Each unit is tested by practical assessment and end of unit tests. All levels are finally assessed in a practical examination. National 5 students will also sit a written examination.

Progression

The hospitality industry suffers from a shortage in workers. Employment opportunities exist in various areas, including restaurants, coffee shops and hotels, and within the wider leisure

PRACTICAL ELECTRONICS: National 4 & 5

Overview of Course

Our modern world relies on electronics, whether it be smartphones, microwaves or electric cars. In this course, students will build confidence in electronic theory, design, simulation and assembly techniques. During the course, students will explore how engineering technologies, including emerging technologies, impact on our environment and society.

Tasks are carried out which require care and precision skills which are highly valued in other fields of work. Other transferable employability skills that are developed include: problem solving; the capacity to work under pressure and to deadlines; the ability to organise and manage time; the ability to learn new skills and the capacity to show initiative and be self-motivated.

The course will provide a solid foundation for students considering further study or employment in electronic or electrical engineering and related disciplines.

Course Details

The course involves a range of practical activities in electronics assembly and testing but also includes activities in analysis, problem solving and simulation, and in the design and evaluation of circuits and systems. Students will study the electronic design, simulation and construction of protoboard-based circuits and soldered stripboard circuits.

Course-specific Entry Requirements

The practical electronics course has considerable value in its own right as a STEM subject, but is also a complementary practical school experience for those studying Engineering Science, Physics or other science course.

Progression

Successful completion of an electronics course prepares students for careers such as: electrical and electronics engineer, electrician, electronics engineering technician, measurement and control engineer, refrigeration and air conditioning engineer, rail engineering technician, office equipment service technician, security systems technician, satellite systems technician and audio-visual technician.

Further and higher education courses are available in electronics, engineering, construction and automotive repairs.

PRACTICAL WOODWORKING: National 4 & 5

Overview of Courses

This course is largely workshop-based. The course helps students to develop safe working practices and to become proactive in matters of health and safety. The skills that students acquire are valuable for learning, for life and for the world of work.

Students are encouraged to be resilient and resourceful as they plan activities to complete a project. Other transferable employability skills developed include: the capacity to work under pressure and to deadlines; the ability to organise and manage time; the ability to learn new skills and the capacity to show initiative and be self-motivated.

fitter, window fitter, furniture designer, prop maker, set designer, French polisher and picture framer.

Woodworking qualifications will help, as appropriate, with entry to college courses in engineering, construction, furniture making and automotive repairs.

Course Details

Students are taught how to use a range of tools, equipment and materials safely and correctly. Students will develop skills in reading drawings and diagrams, and measuring and marking out material. Students will also plan activities through to the completion of a finished product.

The National 4 course is assessed internally as students build skills and work on their product. The National 5 course assessment takes the form of written examinations and assessment of the practical project.

Progression

Successful completion of a woodworking course prepares students for jobs such as: carpenter, joiner, cabinet maker, roofer, builder, construction manager, kitchen

RELIGIOUS, MORAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL STUDIES: Higher and National 3, 4 & 5

Overview

The purpose of the RMPS courses is to develop knowledge and understanding of the religious, moral and philosophical issues that affect the world today. Religious and non-religious perspectives will be studied. Students will be encouraged to evaluate the different beliefs, arguments and ideas and to explore the questions that emerge.

In following RMPS courses, students will develop the transferable employability skills of critical thinking, problem solving, debating, researching, evaluating, presenting and listening. Employers in the following areas value such skills: human resources, journalism, law, politics, medicine, teaching, the police, social work, psychology, the charity sector.

Course Details

For each challenging topic studied, students of RMPS investigate and research, compare and contrast, think critically and evaluate and, finally, express reasoned views.

The National courses consist of three areas of study:

- Islam – key beliefs and how Muslims put beliefs into practice
- Morality, Medicine and the Human Body – the value of life, use of embryos, end of life care, euthanasia, assisted dying
- The Problem of Suffering and Evil – types of suffering and evil,

explanations of suffering and evil, problems of beliefs about God

The Higher course looks at:

- Islam
- Morality and Justice – causes of crime, purposes of punishment and responses to crime (including custodial, non-custodial sentences and capital punishment)
- Origins – study of scientific and religious theories about the origins of the universe and life

Progression

In general terms, RMPS courses will develop skills which are useful in careers in the civil service, journalism, law or any career involving the evaluation and analysis of moral issues and viewpoints.

National RMPS qualifications provide access to college courses and a Higher qualification is valuable for anyone moving on to university, particularly those planning to study philosophy, religious studies or theology. The study of medical ethics could also make RMPS appropriate for those wanting to pursue a course in medicine.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: NPA level 4

Overview of Course

This course helps young people who enjoy science to develop practical science skills as well as employability skills. Skills developed include:

- Working safely and expertly in a lab environment
- Working as a team as well as on own
- Communication
- Problem solving
- Organisation and time management
- Acting on own initiative
- Self-motivation

Young people with this qualification will have the employability skills and knowledge needed for a job in a STEM industry. Pupils in S4 who do not wish to study physics, chemistry or biology are advised to choose this subject.

Course Details

There are five sections in this course. They are: Chemistry and Society; Electronic and Telecommunications; Biotechnological Industries; Science Practical Skills; The Science of Renewable Energy.

Course-specific Entry Requirements

This course is for any pupil who enjoyed science in S1 to S3 and who wants to continue with a course that gives a bit of physics, a bit of chemistry and a bit of

biology, all within an exciting, modern context.

Progression

Students will be suitably prepared for college study or for a job or apprenticeship as a:

- joiner, electrician, plumber etc.
- lab technician
- recycling operative
- engineer

Many more possibilities arise from this course.

Scottish Studies Award: level 6 / 5/ 4

Overview of course

This course will appeal to a wide range of learners who wish to broaden their understanding of Scotland. The course will be taught in smaller groups, allowing young people to pursue studies at a level appropriate to the individual. The class will be taught by pupil support staff.

Course Details

The Scottish Studies Award provides opportunities for learners to develop their knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the country in which they live.

This, in turn, may provide opportunities for learners to reflect on, and build, their own sense of identity as residents of Scotland and the wider world.

Progression

The Scottish Studies Award could lead to vocational training or employment in a variety of sectors, including tourism, hospitality and the creative, cultural and heritage industries.

SPANISH: Higher and National 4 & 5

Overview of Course

In an increasingly multicultural world, a modern language qualification is highly valued and respected by universities and employers alike. The qualification shows that a student possesses skills in creative and critical thinking, as well as the ability to communicate effectively. Moreover, because language students have to adapt to unfamiliar situations and new cultural ideas, such students are well-equipped to learn new skills and to handle fresh challenges.

The study of a language contributes to the development of cultural awareness, as it enables learners to make connections with different people and cultures and to play a fuller role as global citizens. A language course also contributes towards the development of literacy as a student will reflect upon how that foreign language relates to the student's own native tongue.

The Higher course offers a smooth transition from National 5. It allows learners to build upon previous learning and to develop detailed and complex language skills in the meaningful, real-life contexts of society, learning, employability and culture.

Course Details

Language skills are built gradually through the levels as students listen, talk, read and write in the contexts of society, culture, learning and employability. Students engage with a variety of topics relevant to society today: the environment, the media and film studies, lifestyles, holidays and tourism, part-time jobs, music etc.

Students are assessed in all four skills, with each worth 25% of the final grade.

Progression

As businesses compete in a global economy, employers are increasingly aware of the value of foreign language skills. The ability to speak a foreign language, and the transferable skills acquired in the learning process, make students with a language qualification stand out from the crowd.

Career opportunities exist for language specialists as translators, interpreters or teachers, or in employment within the travel and tourism and hospitality industries. A modern language qualification is also highly valued by employers in law, in retail and in engineering, in the media and broadcasting, business, in journalism, in the oil industry, in politics, the forces, import/export businesses, transport and distribution, the civil service, or the diplomatic services.

A Higher language qualification will contribute towards entry for most, if not all, university courses. Courses in marketing and business often allow for the study of a language as well.

SPORT & RECREATION: Skills for Work National 4 & 5

Overview of Course

In this course students benefit from a range of practical and theoretical experiences that will help them develop their skills for life, learning and work. The experience and knowledge gained will benefit students when seeking employment.

Students will learn to speak confidently in front of others and how to work co-operatively in a team. They will learn about customer care and dealing with clients; about health and safety issues; how to self-evaluate; how to have a positive attitude to learning; and how to give feedback to others.

Course Details

Students:

- have the opportunity to plan, deliver and evaluate their own coaching of classmates and younger pupils
- learn how to organise and develop a physical training plan for a client by adopting the role of a Fitness Instructor
- learn about how to make themselves more employable through planning career pathways and developing interview skills and a CV
- experience a real work environment through completing a work placement in school or in the community; in order to allow a genuine experience, this placement can be completed outwith school hours

To achieve the full course award, pupils must pass all four units. Pupils will be assessed through observation, conversation and portfolio.

Course-specific Entry Requirements

Students will benefit from having a sport in which they train or compete, or which they watch, regularly.

Progression

The transferable skills developed will benefit pupils when applying for college / university courses and will prepare students for employment in the sport and recreation industry and the employment market more broadly.

Possible employment areas include:

exercise science, sport psychology, education, medicine, coaching, gym instruction, personal training

TRAVEL & TOURISM: Skills for Work Nat 4 & 5

RETAILING: Skills for Work National 5

Overview of Courses

These courses will develop the skills required to work within the travel and tourism and retailing industries. 39% of the job openings in Edinburgh and the Lothians between 2017 and 2027 are forecast to be in tourism, hospitality, distribution and retail.

Specialist knowledge, as well as the transferable employability skills of literacy and numeracy, communication, customer service, time-management and team working will be developed within these courses.

Course Details

In Travel and Tourism, students will research customer care in the UK and worldwide. How tourism impacts on areas and economies will be investigated and new forms of tourism will be explored. Sector-specific skills, for example the planning of travel routes, will be practised.

In Retail, students will research how best to provide a customer service that meets both the needs of consumer and retailer.

Students put their retail learning into practice by running an event for which they have to plan, buy and replenish stock.

Both courses are subject to continuous internal assessment, with no examination. Students maintain a folder of evidence that, once complete, will illustrate the satisfactory completion of performance standards

Progression

Students who have previously studied these courses have gone directly from school into industry jobs.

Examples of travel and tourism jobs include: tour representative; visiting and researching tourist destinations for online companies; travel agent; working at tourist attractions; travel journalism; tour guide; marketing.

Tourism management can be studied at college or university. Often study is combined with hospitality or modern languages.

Opportunities within the retail industry are varied and could be in shops or on-line. Jobs include: sales assistant, buyer, manager, personal shopper and visual merchandiser.

Increasingly, modern apprenticeship positions are being advertised within the retail industry.

The SVQ in Retail Skills can be accessed at college. A business course at university will include the study of retail and will allow students to work at management level.

VOLUNTEERING AWARD: SCQF level 5

Overview of Course

This option provides students with the opportunity to work as a volunteer for two afternoons each week in a local organisation e.g. charity shop, children's centre, public garden or care home. Students will develop a range of skills that will help with preparations for employment: communication and customer service, organisation and time-management, and leadership.

Entry Requirements

No formal entry requirements are needed; however students must be able to show commitment and be prepared to work independently to complete the course work.

Course Details

Students first plan and organise a volunteering post with a local organisation. Students then use the experience they gain to reflect upon their own employability skills and upon the volunteering sector. Students complete a project which focuses on an aspect of the organisation with which they are volunteering. Students attend a classroom lesson one period per week during which time they complete a portfolio of work. Assessment takes the form of a review of the student's performance during the placement and an evaluation of the portfolio.

Course-specific Entry Requirements

Whilst there are no formal entry requirements for this course, students must be motivated to seek out a suitable volunteering placement.

Progression

The experience gained through volunteering adds real value to applications for employment, college or university.

YOUNG APPLICANTS IN SCHOOLS SCHEME (YASS)

Overview

YASS is a unique opportunity for S6 students in Scottish schools to bridge the gap between school and full-time university through independent learning. Run by the Open University in Scotland, and offered on a no-fee basis, YASS offers motivated and able students a chance to study in school a range of university level modules alongside their other studies.

Students will experience learning at university level and will develop important skills such as independent study, time management and how to access electronic resources. Students can pursue personal interests and ambitions in significant depth, exploring subject areas not normally available in schools (such as law, accounting, astronomy, and Chinese).

Course Details

Modules are offered in a wide range of subject areas including science, engineering, business studies, health and social care, IT and computing, mathematics and languages. Current S6 Dalkeith High School students are studying: Law in Scotland; Engineering: origins, methods, context; Volcanoes, Earthquakes and Tsunamis; The Frozen Planet; Introduction to Retail Management; Fundamentals of Accounting; and Introduction to Computing and Information Technology.

Entry Requirements

YASS works best for students who are not only academically able but who are also motivated, committed and able to cope with independent learning.

Progression

The scheme is supported by UCAS and study of a module can contribute valuable content to the UCAS personal statement. Furthermore, the skills of independent study that are developed and the taster experience of university – level learning provide excellent preparation for higher education study.

In short, taking a YASS module helps able and motivated students stand out from the crowd.

For further information on the YASS scheme and on courses available, please see:

www.open.ac.uk/scotland/study/young-applicants-schools.

Dalkeith High School
January 2024: S3 to S4 Senior Phase Option Sheet

Name: _____

Class: _____

Career interests(s): _____

Instructions for completion

Everyone must study English and Maths. Choose five further subjects, circle the level and mark the subjects in order of priority 1 to 5. No. 1 is most important to you. Then choose Reserve 1 and Reserve 2.

Courses	Course and Levels of Study Available Through the Senior Phase (S4 to S6)					1 to 5/Res 1/Res 2
	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	
ENGLISH						
English	N3	N4	N5	Higher	AH	
Media			N5			
MATHEMATICS						
Mathematics		N4	N5	Higher	AH	
Applications of Mathematics	N3	N4	N5	Higher		
SCIENCE						
Biology	N3	N4	N5	Higher	AH	
Human Biology				Higher		
Chemistry	N3	N4	N5	Higher	AH	
Physics	N3	N4	N5	Higher	AH	
Applied Sciences			NPA			
Science and Technology		NPA				
Laboratory Science (S5 and S6)			Skills for Work			
MODERN LANGUAGES						
French	N3	N4	N5	Higher	AH	
Spanish	N3	N4	N5	Higher	AH	
SOCIAL SUBJECTS						
Administration & IT	N3	N4	N5	Higher		
Business Management	N3	N4	N5	Higher	AH	
Geography	N3	N4	N5	Higher	AH	
Modern Studies	N3	N4	N5	Higher	AH	
Politics (S5 and S6)				Higher		
Travel and Tourism, and Retailing (S5 and S6)		Skills for Work	Skills for Work			
HUMANITIES						
History	N3	N4	N5	Higher	AH	
Classical Studies (S5 and S6)				Higher		
RMPS	N3	N4	N5	Higher		
EXPRESSIVE ARTS						
Music	N3	N4	N5	Higher	AH	
Music Technology	N3	N4	N5	Higher		
Drama	N3	N4	N5	Higher/NPA	AH	
Acting and Performance (S5 and S6)				NPA		
Hairdressing		Skills for Work	Skills for Work			
Long Hair Design with Make-Up			NPA			
Art and Design	N3	N4	N5 & NPA	Higher	AH	
Photography		NPA	NPA	Higher		
PHYSICAL EDUCATION						
Dance			N5	Higher		
Physical Education	N3	N4	N5	Higher		
Sport & Recreation		Skills for Work	Skills for Work			
HOME ECONOMICS						
Early Education and Childcare		Skills for Work	Skills for Work	Foundation Apprenticeship S5/6		
Hospitality		Skills for Work	Skills for Work			
Bakery		NPA				
Hospitality: Practical Cake Craft (S5 and S6)			N5			
Hospitality: Practical Cookery	N3	N4	N5			
TECHNOLOGIES						
Design & Manufacture		N4	N5	Higher		
Engineering Science		N4	N5	Higher		
Practical Electronics (S5 and S6)		N4	N5			
Graphic Communication		N4	N5	Higher		
Practical Woodworking		N4	N5			
OUTDOOR SKILLS						
Beekeeping and the Environment (S5 and S6)		NPA & FOLA				
Duke of Edinburgh's Award (S5 and S6)				Silver and Gold Programmes		

Courses	Course and Levels of Study Available Through the Senior Phase (S4 to S6)					1 to 5/Res 1/Res 2
	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	
AWARD PROGRAMMES						
Scottish Studies	SCQF 3	SCQF 4	SCQF 5			
Volunteering (S6)		Award	Award	Award		
Foundation Apprenticeships (S5 and S6)				FA		
YASS (S6)					Open University	
College courses	See college course list on school website under 'Coursing'. Mark priority order number here:					
	Name of college course:					

ADVICE: Pupils are advised to choose subjects from those studied in S3, though there are a number of new courses available for which application is also encouraged.

INTERESTED IN FOLLOWING A COMPUTING/SOFTWARE COURSE? It is essential that you read the advice in the option booklet under 'Computing and Software Engineering Provision'. Pupils are encouraged to select one of the college courses. (Indicate in main table above.) A very limited number of places may become available in a school's computing science course - if you wish to be considered, tick here _____. If ticking here, you must still select **5** further subjects from the school and college offer.

Please note: the availability of any course depends on pupil uptake and the constraints of the timetable.

Signature of interviewing teacher: _____ Date: _____