

Paths to the Future



Dalkeith High School

2026-27 Senior Phase Option Booklet

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, though subjects in which there is previous study are preferable. In such cases, pupils should discuss the plan with the principal teacher of the subject concerned and the principal teacher will sign the option form to indicate agreement. 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. Edinburgh College courses run on a Tuesday and Thursday, from 1.30 p.m. to 4 p.m., and a few other courses will be available outwith these times. Check the college or school website for links. A range of Foundation Apprenticeship courses is on offer for pupils in S5 and S6. Further details can be accessed under 'Course Choice' on the school website.
- Attendance at another school - most likely St David's or Newbattle - might be necessary for a few courses. Students from other schools may be taught at Dalkeith. Inevitably, travelling students may miss time from other subjects, though the aim is always to keep the disruption to a minimum.
- 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. AH students will receive 6 study periods, the study counting as a subject in a column.
- For the first time, an online Advanced Higher offer will be in place for Midlothian students. Further information can be found in the MACO Booklet.
- 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.

In S4, all students will continue to study Maths and English for 5 periods each per week. In addition, pupils will select five further subjects, all of which will be allocated 4 periods per week.

In S5/6, students will study between five and seven subjects. Level 6/7 courses will be allocated six periods per week, while level 4/5 subjects will run for four, save for English and Maths, where the hope is to devote 6 periods to these core level 4/5 subjects. Wherever a student selects a level 5 subject in S5 or S6, a wider achievement course must also be taken. It is hoped to offer the following wider achievement courses next session:

Personal Finance
 Mental Health and Wellbeing
 People and Society
 Leadership
 Customer Service
 Barista Skills
 Beekeeping

Finally

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

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

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,

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. In addition, 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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 Courses

Edinburgh College offers courses specifically for pupils in Midlothian schools. These are the courses:

Course	Who for?	Host Venue(s)
L5 Construction	S4 students who have completed the in-school SCP L4 course in S3	Edinburgh College: Midlothian Campus
L4/5 Future Skills: Engineering Innovation	S4 students interested in automotive, mechanical and electrical engineering and sustainable EV technologies	Edinburgh College: Midlothian Campus

In addition, pupils may apply for suitable courses from the Edinburgh College offer that is open to all Lothian schools, **provided that the course runs at Midlothian or Milton Road campus**. Information about the courses running Lothian-wide can be found on the Edinburgh College website. Access here: [College Courses for School Pupils](#)

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

Details of the college courses are available on the Edinburgh College website and under ‘Course Choice’ on the school website.

In addition, Midlothian offer a level 6 Foundation Apprenticeship in IT: Hardware. Again, there are links to information on the school website.

If after reading through the college and FA 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 may be limited in number.

Criminology: NPA Level 5

Overview

This National Progression Award (NPA) introduces learners to criminology, including its history, the role of the media and crime prevention. It develops knowledge and understanding of the way crime and criminal justice operates and provides bite-sized chunks of learning. It covers areas such as crime in the community and crime scenes.

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

Studying Criminology will prepare students for employment in a range of fields such as Law, Policing, Social Work, Military, Research roles as well as a range of further study options.

Course Details

Criminology level 5 focuses on causes of crime, responses by the criminal justice system, and methods of prevention. In both the mandatory and optional units, learners will study the nature and extent of crime, crime in the community, forensic science and crime control strategies.

There are 3 separate units:

- 1) Crime in the Community (mandatory)
- 2) Crime scenes
- 3) One of the following: Forensic Science or History and Development of Criminology

Entry Requirements

Students of Criminology will have attained, or will be working towards, Level 5 English.

Progression

Level 5 Criminology offers progression to higher education in areas such as Psychology, Sociology, Law, Politics, Forensic Science and International Relations.

At Dalkeith High School pupils who succeed in this course may have the option to study Modern Studies, or another social subject, at Higher level. It is hoped that Level 6 Criminology will be offered some time in the future.

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: 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: 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.

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 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.

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

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.

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

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.

EXERCISE AND FITNESS LEADERSHIP: NPA

Level 6

Overview of Course

This course is for students who aspire to a career in the fitness industry. Its primary goal is to equip learners with the professional skills necessary to offer safe and effective exercise programs as a Fitness Instructor. Key aspects of the training look at how to enhance physical fitness and how to conduct fitness assessments.

Personal motivation and strong communication skills are essential for success.

science; sports development and coaching; physiotherapy; sports management; and, specifically, towards the HNC/D Fitness, Health and Exercise course.

Course Details

Students should note that a large component of the course is theory work.

There is no SQA examination.

Course-specific Entry Requirements

1. Higher PE A – C pass
2. Sport and Recreation N5 pass

Progression

Students may find employment as the following: leisure attendant; fitness instructor; group class instructor; freelance personal trainer.

Those who wish to further their studies will find that the course counts towards entry to post-school qualifications in the following areas: sport and exercise

FASHION & TEXTILE TECHNOLOGY: National 3, 4 & 5

Overview of Course

This course is suitable for young people with a passion for fashion. The course develops the fashion and textile skills required for further study in the area.

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.

In the future, it is hoped to offer Higher as progression within the school. Post-school, further education courses in the areas of fashion and textiles are available. Thereafter, a successful career in the textile industry is open to hardworking students.

Course Details

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

The course comprises three units:

- Fashion and Textile Choices
- Fashion/Textile Development
- Textile Technologies

The course includes practical activities that lead to the production of fun textile items.

Successful completion of the course requires students to show they can evaluate the projects in which they are involved. The course includes an assignment and a written exam.

Progression

FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIPS: Level 4, 5 & 6

Course	Host Venue(s)
Level 5 Hospitality	Dalkeith Campus (Dalkeith High School or St David's High School)
Level 6 Accountancy	Dalkeith Campus (Dalkeith High School or St David's High School)
Level 6 Business Skills	Dalkeith Campus (Dalkeith High School or St David's High School)
Level 6 Creative and Digital Media	Dalkeith High School
Level 6 IT Hardware	Straiton Business Park
Level 6 Scientific Technologies	Beeslack/Penicuik, Lasswade and Newbattle High Schools
Level 6 Social Services: Children & Young People	Dalkeith Campus (Dalkeith High School or St David's High School)
Level 6 Social Services: Healthcare	Lasswade/Newbattle High Schools

See the school website for links to further information about these courses, or click here: [MACO Brochure](#)

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.

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

Health Sector: SfW Level 5

Overview of Course

As well as providing an introduction to working in the health sector, this course is designed to provide learners with opportunities to develop core skills; and skills for learning, life and work.

The health sector includes the National Health Service (NHS, primary and secondary care); independent healthcare; complementary therapies; the life sciences and retail pharmaceutical industries; as well as the community and voluntary sector.

The health sector is a growth industry across Scotland, offering a wide variety of employment opportunities at a range of levels. The NHS is a major employer in Scotland and currently employs over 160,000 people. The demands placed on the NHS are increasing, through changes in demographics combined with an ageing workforce.

Scotland has one of the largest life sciences industries in Europe, and has a worldwide reputation, particularly in research and development, and in manufacturing. The growing life sciences industry currently employs over 30,000 people in a wide variety of job roles.

The general aims of this course are to:

- help learners to develop employability skills
- allow learners to experience vocationally related learning
- encourage learners to develop a good work ethic, including effective time management and a positive attitude

- encourage learners to take responsibility for their own learning and development
- facilitate progression to further or higher education, training and/or employment
- help build learners' confidence

Course Details

5 units consisting of:

- Working in Health Sector Settings
- Employability Skills in the Health Sector
- Medical Devices and Pharmaceuticals
- Improving Health and Well-being
- Physiology of the Cardiovascular System

Course-specific Entry

Requirements

Health Sector can be a good progression for pupils who have enjoyed their time in the sciences but would prefer to attempt a level 5 course that is based on assessment gathered over the year rather than an exam.

Progression

Learners who complete the course will be able to progress into further education, training and employment.

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.

LEAPS Transitions Course: SCQF Level 7

Overview of Course

To register for the course, you should be [LEAPS-eligible](#)

The LEAPS Transitions Course is designed to give you the skills and experience needed to make a positive transition from school to university. Throughout the course, you will work with academics and students from other schools on developing first-year university-level academic skills. You will gain confidence and an understanding of what it takes to be successful at university. This is a unique opportunity to get the ‘uni’ experience before starting for real. During the course you will be enrolled at the University of Edinburgh, but the course itself will be helpful regardless of which university you hope to study at after school.

Semester one will focus on academic skills and a writing assessment; semester two will have a lecture series and a group poster assessment.

The focus will be on developing successful academic practice – in other words, how to be successful at university – and you will have the chance to work with students and academics/lecturers from a broad range of subject areas. You will not study one subject. Instead, you will study lots of subjects, while focusing on developing key academic skills.

Course Details

What will I learn?

University Level Academic Skills

- Critical thinking
- Academic writing

- Academic resources
- Discussion and presentation skills
- Academic posters
- Evidence (including referencing and plagiarism)
- Feedback
- Data skills
- Reflective practice

Independent Learning

- Self-directed study
- Time management
- Problem solving
- Self-evaluation

Digital Literacy

- University virtual learning environments
- Online academic library collections
- Learning in an online setting

How will I learn?

- Lectures (interactive presentations to everyone on the course)
- Tutorials (smaller group discussions led by a tutor)
- Workshops
- Project Work
- Library Research
- Independent study
- Coursework (weekly preparation for tutorials)
- Assessments (two formal graded assessments and additional informal formative assessments)
 - Individual Written Assessment on Academic Skills 60% (Formal)
 - Academic Poster Presentations (group work) 40% (Formal)
 - Reflective zine ‘notes for my future self’ drawing on all of the themes of the course (Informal)

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, including basic preparatory skincare
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.

Maths Progression Routes for Current S3 Pupils

The table shows recommended progression routes through the years in maths.

S3 Teacher 2025-26	S4 Course	S5 Course	S6 Course
Mr Norby Mr Gibbs	Nat 5 Maths	Higher Maths	AH Maths or Higher Apps
		Higher Apps	
Mr May	Nat 5 Apps	Higher Apps	
Mr Stirling	Nat 5 Num	Nat 5 Apps	Higher Apps
	or Nat 5 Apps	Higher Apps	
Mr Hope Mr Robinson	Nat 4 Apps	Nat 5 Apps	Higher Apps
Ms Colmeraur	Nat 3 Apps + Nat 4 Num	Nat 4 Apps	Nat 5 Apps

Maths Progression Routes for Current S4 and S5 Pupils

The table shows recommended progression routes through the years in maths.

2025-26 S4 Teacher	S5 Course	S6 Course
Mr Stirling Mr Gibbs <i>S4: Nat 5 Maths</i>	Higher Maths	AH Maths Or Higher Apps
	Higher Apps	
Mrs Harcourt-Gill Mr Hope (N5 Apps pupils) <i>S4: Nat 5 Apps</i>	Higher Apps	
Mr Hope (N4 Apps pupils) Mr Robinson Ms Colmerauer <i>S4: Nat 4 Apps</i>	Nat 5 Apps	Higher Apps
Mr Norby <i>S4: Nat 3 Apps + N4 Num</i>	Nat 4 Apps	Nat 5 Apps

2025-26 S5 Teacher	S6 Course
Mrs Harcourt-Gill Mr C Stirling <i>S5: Higher Maths</i>	AH Maths Or Higher Apps
Mr May Mr Hope Mr Gibbs <i>S5: Higher Apps</i>	
Mr Robinson Mr Norby <i>S5: Nat 5 Apps pupils</i>	Higher Apps
Mr Norby <i>S5: N4 Apps pupils</i>	Nat 5 Apps

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.

Course-specific Entry Requirements

See the next page for information.

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 teaches 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

The course 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.

Where possible, students who take Music will be provided with instrumental lessons.

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.

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.

PHOTOGRAPHY: NPA Level 4 & 5

Overview of Course

The National Progression Award in Photography develops knowledge and understanding in the area of practical and theoretical 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.

A range of transferable employability skills will be developed including: problem solving, literacy, photographic analysis 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 a large element of the course working digitally on Chromebooks to analyse photographic work, edit photographs, and document their own photographic imagery. Students will have opportunity to carry out some photographic work to enhance their skill in capturing creative compositions using their mobile phone, or school provided camera.

As well as researching the work of successful photographers, students will develop basic photographic skills and increased knowledge of specific photography techniques.

The Photography course consists of four internally-assessed units:

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

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.

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.

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.

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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.

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.

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

Session 2026-27 S5-6 Senior Phase Option Sheet

Name: _____

Class: _____

Career interest(s) and plans for getting there:

Instructions for completion

- If you wish to study five level 6/7 courses, or four level 6/7 courses and a level 5 course, choose 8 subjects. Any other combination of courses, choose 9 subjects.
- Mark the subjects in order of priority, 1 to 8/9. Number 1 is the subject most important to you.
- Where a level 5 subject is selected, you will either be allocated a wider achievement course or one of your other level 5 selections.

EXAM-BASED SUBJECTS				SUBJECTS WITHOUT AN EXAM		
	Level		Priority		Priority	
	5	6			1 to 8/9	1 to 8/9
ENGLISH						
English						
Literacy Plus						
Media						
MATHEMATICS						
Mathematics						
Apps of Mathematics						
SCIENCE				SCIENCE		
Biology				Health Sector SfW	Level 5	
Human Biology				Laboratory Science SfW	Level 5	
Chemistry				Science & Technology NPA	Level 4	
Physics						
MODERN LANGUAGES & BUSINESS STUDIES						
French						
German						
Spanish						
Administration and IT						
Business Management						
SOCIAL SUBJECTS				SOCIAL SUBJECTS		
Classical Studies				Criminology NPA	Level 5	
Geography				Travel & Tourism, & Retailing SfW	Level 5	
History						
Modern Studies						
RMPS						
EXPRESSIVE ARTS				EXPRESSIVE ARTS		
Music				Hairdressing SfW	Level 5	
Music Technology				Long Hair Design with Make-Up NPA	Level 5	
Drama				Art and Design NPA	Level 5	

Art & Design				Acting & Performance NPA	Level 6	
	5	6				
Photography Level 6				Photography NPA	Level 5	
PHYSICAL EDUCATION			PHYSICAL EDUCATION			
Dance				Sport and Recreation SfW	Level 5	
Physical Education Level 6				Physical Education NQ	Level 5	
				Exercise & Fitness	Level 6	
				Leadership NPA		
HOME ECONOMICS			HOME ECONOMICS			
Practical Cookery Level 5				Early Education and Childcare SfW	Level 5	
Fashion and Textile Tech						
TECHNOLOGIES			TECHNOLOGIES			
Design and Manufacture Level 5				Practical Woodworking NQ	Level 5	
Engineering Science						
Graphic Communication						
Practical Electronics Level 4/5						
AWARD PROGRAMMES						
				Scottish Studies	Level 4/5	
				Duke of Edinburgh's Award	Silver/Gold	
COLLEGE COURSES						
						Priority
See Edinburgh College website, and the school website, for details of courses.						
Name of college course and level:						
FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIPS (Level 6 unless specified; no exam)						
			Priority			Priority
Accountancy				Scientific Technologies		
Business Skills				Social Services: Children & Young People		
Creative and Digital Media				Social Services: Healthcare		
IT Hardware				Hospitality Level 5		
OTHER OPPORTUNITIES						Priority
Global Infrastructure & the Built Environment Level 6						
LEAPS Transition Course University of Edinburgh Level 6						
YASS (S6) Open University Level 7						
ADVANCED HIGHERS Level 7						
In-person (Dalkeith or other school)				Online (Midlothian Digital Offer)		
	Priority		Priority			Priority
English		Physics		Modern Studies		
Mathematics		Chemistry		French		
Business Management		Music		Spanish		
Physics		Art & Design		History		
Study/Portfolio column automatic for all AH subjects. Counts as choice.						

- If you want to follow a computing science course, consider selecting one of the college courses. A limited number of places may become available in another school – if you wish to be considered, tick here _____. You must still select a full complement of courses.
- Note that the running of any course depends on pupil uptake and the constraints of the timetable

Signature of parent/carer: _____

Date: _____

Signature of interviewing teacher: _____

Date: _____