



The Senior Phase

Managing Transitions: Working Together

S3 into S4 Subject Choices Information

Parent/Carer Presentation

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Format

1. Aims of the Senior Phase
2. Senior Phase Entitlement
3. Progression Pathways
4. S4 Experience
5. Choosing Subjects
6. Additional Courses
7. Vocational Courses
8. Options Process
9. Further Information
10. Contact



Aims of the Senior Phase

- ❖ **The Senior Phase in Scottish secondary schools is from S4 to S6. The aim of the Senior Phase is to ensure that all pupils continue to develop as confident and responsible young people.**
- ❖ **Pupils embark on appropriate programmes of study in S4/5/6 in order to gain qualifications that:**
 - reflect their academic potential
 - develop skills and knowledge
 - provide for progression within school
 - provide for progression beyond school



Senior Phase Entitlement

All young people in Scotland have an entitlement to a senior phase of education which:

- provides specialisation, depth and rigour**
- prepares them well for achieving qualifications to the highest level of which they are capable**
- continues to develop skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work**
- continues to provide a range of activities which develop the four capacities**
- supports them to achieve a positive and sustained destination on leaving school**



Progression Pathways

The progression pathway within the Senior Phase is outlined below:

National 4 » National 5
National 5 » Higher
Higher » Advanced Higher

We also offer some courses in S4 that young people have not studied in S1-S3. These give a wider range of opportunities and include:

Skills for Work courses
SCQF courses
Winter Leavers Programme
GradU8 Programme



S4 Experience

We are currently planning for our new S4 curriculum, due to begin in June 2023. Between now and **Friday, 17 February 2023**, we require all current S3 pupils to indicate which subjects they wish to study in S4. These subjects will lead to certification at National 3/4/5 or SCQF Level 3/4/5.

As a school, we have agreed that pupils moving into S4 will have seven subjects of four periods each, two periods of core PE, one period of core RME and one period of PSHE.



S4 Experience cont...

All pupils will study English and Mathematics plus five other chosen subjects. S4 courses are designed to follow on from work completed in S3 and the majority of pupils will continue with seven subjects that they have studied in S3, while dropping the other one subject studied in S3.

Evidence to consider for deciding appropriate level of study:

- **Prior attainment – S3**
- **Classwork/Homework/Coursework**
- **Assessments**
- **Professional Judgement**



Choosing Subjects

- ❖ **English & Mathematics are compulsory in S4 for all pupils**
- ❖ **Almost all pupils will then choose their 5 'best' subjects to continue into S4**
- ❖ **Ensure subjects link to a career plan**
- ❖ **Consider skills and knowledge already developed through study in S3**
- ❖ **Some pupils may wish to pick up one (or more) of the additional courses we offer in S4 (more information on next slide). In this case, for every additional subject chosen, a pupil would drop another of their S3 subjects. For example, if they wanted to pick up 1 additional subject, they would drop 2 of their current S3 subjects.**



Additional Courses S4

- ❑ Environmental Science (National 4 or National 5): <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45726.html>
- ❑ Practical Cookery (National 4 or National 5): <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45681.html>
- ❑ Enterprise & Employability (National Progression Award: SCQF Level 4 or Level 5): <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/38581.html>
- ❑ Skills for Work: Energy (National 5): <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/69530.html>
- ❑ Skills for Work: Hospitality (National 5): <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/64840.html>
- ❑ Skills for Work: Health Sector (National 5): <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/69504.html>
- ❑ Mental Health & Wellbeing (SCQF Level 4 or Level 5): <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/83453.html>
- ❑ Photography (National Progression Award: SCQF Level 4 or Level 5): <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/63341.html>



HFT pathway from S3

Many of our pupils will have chosen to study Health and Food Technology in S3. As they reach the end of the BGE (S1-S3) in this subject, should they wish to continue studying in that department, they have two options:

- Practical Cookery (National 4 or National 5):
<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45681.html>
- Skills for Work: Hospitality (National 5):
<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/64840.html>

If a pupil is unsure of which of these they are most suited to/would enjoy the most, they should speak to their HFT teacher and/or their Pupil Support teacher.



Supporting Pupils to Choose Subjects

Information for pupils will be posted on the S3 Pupil Information Google Classroom. If you or your child would like to discuss any issue with regard to their options, please contact the appropriate Pupil Support teacher. Pupils will have the opportunity to meet with their Pupil Support teacher to discuss subject choices during the week beginning Monday, 30 January 2023.

The S4 Subject Choices form will be an online Google Form and will be uploaded to the S3 Pupil Information Google Classroom, along with instructions for completion. This form should be submitted by Friday, 17 February 2023 at the latest.

The following websites should be familiar to pupils through PSE and can help with the subject choices process:

Skills Development Scotland: <https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/>

My World of Work website: <https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/>



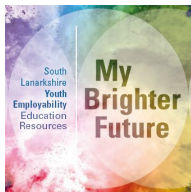
Vocational Courses

Pupils can also consider vocational study alongside their school subjects. These vocational subjects are delivered in partnership with South Lanarkshire Council, mostly through local college partnerships and are called the GRADU8 programme:

GRADU8 programme – One day out of school per week studying for a qualification in:

Beauty Skills, Construction, Early Education & Childcare, Engineering Skills, Hair & Barbering, Health & Social Care, Hospitality, Make-up Artistry, Uniformed & Emergency Services, Sport & Recreation, Work Experience and Winter leavers.

Pupils can get more information on these courses by speaking to their Pupil Support (guidance) teacher who has a detailed brochure on all GRADU8 programmes.





Vocational Courses cont...

GRADU8 programme:

This is an excellent opportunity for pupils potentially doing a mixture of National 4 and National 5s.

GradU8 programme is beneficial for pupils who are planning on leaving school at the end of S4 and the chosen course is specific to their career pathway. More information on GRADU8 is available on the following video:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=8-XDq8oWDHo&feature=youtu.be>



Options Process

- ❑ PSE lessons focussed on options and careers
- ❑ Tracking Reports issued Friday, 16 December 2022
- ❑ Senior Phase Choices Information Presentation
- ❑ Subject Choice information booklet (website):
<http://strathaven.s-lanark.sch.uk/s3/>
- ❑ Guidance interviews begin Monday, 30 January 2023
- ❑ Subject choice sheet issued on S3 Year Group Google Classroom on Tuesday, 31 January 2023
- ❑ Subject choice sheet returned on Google Form by Friday, 17 February 2023



Further Information

If you require further information regarding subjects and courses, we have placed a document titled “[Senior Phase Subject Courses 2023 - 2024](#)” on the S3 area of our school website:

<http://strathaven.s-lanark.sch.uk/s3/>

If you would prefer a printed copy, this is available at the school office.

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TOGETHER WE



The Senior Phase

Managing Transitions: Working Together

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STRATHAVEN LEARNING COMMUNITY

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