



# Senior Phase Curriculum

L Barr, Depute Head Teacher S5/6



# Senior Phase (S4-S6)

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
- supports them to achieve a positive and sustained destination on leaving school.

Subject choice in S5/6 should allow pupils to gain qualifications that:

- reflect their academic potential
- develop skills and knowledge
- provide for progression within school
- provide for progression beyond school.

# SCQF Framework



## SQA Qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework



SCQF Levels

SCQF Levels

12

12

11

11

10

10

9

9

8

8

7

7

6

6

5

5

4

4

3

3

2

2

1

1

Doctorate\*

Masters\*

Honours Degree\*

Ordinary Degree\*

Higher National Diploma

Higher National Certificate

Advanced Higher  
Scottish Baccalaureates

Higher  
Skills for Work Higher

National 5 /  
Skills for Work National 5

National 4 /  
Skills for Work National 4

National 3 /  
Skills for Work National 3

National 2

National 1

SVQ 5

Professional  
Development  
Awards

SVQ 4

SVQ 3

SVQ 2

SVQ 1

Awards

National  
Progression  
Awards/  
National  
Certificates

\*Benchmark qualifications of higher education institutions





# Progression pathways

The progression pathways within the Senior Phase are outlined below:

## **National Qualifications**

National 4 » National 5

National 5 » Higher

Higher » Advanced Higher

Higher/Advanced Higher » University

## **Non-NQ Courses**

Level 5 » Level 6

Level 6 » college / apprenticeships/training

**Pupils can select all subjects from either pathway or a mix of subjects across pathways.**



# Choosing subjects

- Ensure subjects link to a career plan – research what is required for Plan A / Plan B
- Consider skills and knowledge already developed
- Use tracking data/report for levels achieved / likely to achieve
- How many subjects at Advanced Higher / Higher / National 5 / Level 5 / Level 6 combine to provide an appropriate level of academic challenge





# S5 Curriculum

## Curriculum structure

Five subjects of six periods

1 period of Physical Education / 1 period of Personal, Social and Health Education

Tutor Time every morning

## Levels

National 4 >> National 5

National 5 >> Higher

Level 5 / 6 courses with no previous experience

## Progression into Higher subjects

5 Highers - almost all National 5 at A/B grades

3+ Highers - almost all National 5 passes, some at A/B

1+ Highers - 1 or more National 5 pass





# S6 Curriculum

## Curriculum structure

- Minimum of 4 subjects or 3 Advanced Highers
- 1 period of PSHE, 1 Elective period, Tutor Time every morning
- Up to 6 non-contact periods – study, volunteering, work experience
- Virtual courses – SLC offer, Mandarin, YASS offer

## Levels

National 5 >> Higher

Higher >> Advanced Higher

Level 5 / 6 courses with some / no previous experience

## Progression

Achieve an A/B at Higher for progression to Advanced Higher

5 Highers at A/B >> 3 Advanced Highers

Higher subjects can be 'crashed'



# New Courses for S5/S6

Applications of Maths (Higher and National 5)

Cyber Security (Level 5/6)

Environmental Science (Higher)

Photography (Higher and Level 5)

Practical Cookery (National 4/5)

Scottish Studies (Level 5/6)

Exercise and Fitness (Level 6)

Mental Health and Wellbeing (Level 6)

Personal Finance (Level 5)

Games Development (Level 5/ 6)

Laboratory Skills (National 5)

Scientific Technologies (Level 6)

Practical Metalwork (National 5)

Sports Development (Level 5 / 6)

Events management (Level 6)

**Detailed information on all courses available on school website**

<http://strathaven.s-lanark.sch.uk/making-choices-subject-booklets-for-session-2024-2025/>





# Vocational Courses for S5/S6

**Pupils can also consider vocational study alongside their school subjects:**

**GradU8 college programme** – 1 day per week at South Lanarkshire college/ Glasgow colleges:

Hair and Barber, Construction, Health and Social Care, Early Education and Childcare, Make-up Artistry, Beauty, Hospitality, Engineering, Sport and Recreation, Uniformed and Emergency Services.

**GradU8 Works programme** – pupils will access a local work experience placement from September to Easter in an employment sector that is of interest. All placements will be risk assessed and have an allocated supervisor.

**Foundation Apprenticeship** - attendance is usually 2 afternoons over S5/S6 or 2 days in S6 at South Lanarkshire or Glasgow based colleges:

Accountancy, Business Skills, Children and Young People, Engineering (Civil and Mechanical), Engineering Systems, Creative Digital Media, Financial Services, Health and Food Science, ICT Hardware, ICT Software, Scientific Technologies, Social Services and Health Care.

**Details can be found in the brochure My Brighter Future published by South Lanarkshire Youth Employability Education Resources.**



# Wider Achievements

- Elective programmes and opportunities within school
- Extra-curricular activities / clubs out with school
- S6 Leadership roles
- Roles of responsibility / Pupil Councils
- Volunteering and other community based activities
- Work placement / Part-time Employment



# Subject choice information and support

- Careers information in Google Classroom and school website (Our School – Year Group Information)
- Subject Choice information booklet

<http://strathaven.s-lanark.sch.uk/making-choices-subject-booklets-for-session-2024-2025/>

## My World of Work website

<http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/parents>

<https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/my-career-options/where-can-subject-choices-take-you>

- UCAS website

<https://www.ucas.com/>

- Jennifer Graham, Skills Development Scotland [Jennifer.Graham@sds.co.uk](mailto:Jennifer.Graham@sds.co.uk)





# Key Dates

<b>2 February</b>	<b>S4 Assembly and choice sheet issued / S4 Full Report to parents</b>
<b>From 15 Feb. (TBC)</b>	<b>S4 Pupil interviews with guidance teacher</b>
<b>1 March (TBC)</b>	<b>S4 Subject Choice form returned</b>
<b>19 February (TBC)</b>	<b>S5 Assembly and choice sheet issued</b>
<b>23 February</b>	<b>S5 Full Report to parents</b>
<b>26 February (TBC)</b>	<b>S5 Pupil interviews with guidance teacher begin</b>
<b>4 March</b>	<b>S5 Subject Choice form returned</b>
<b>3 June</b>	<b>New timetable starts for current S4 and S5 pupils</b>

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**TOGETHER WE**



# Senior Phase Curriculum

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**STRATHAVEN LEARNING COMMUNITY**

CHAPELTON GILMOURTON GLASSFORD KIRKLANDPARK SANDFORD WESTER OVERTON STRATHAVEN ACADEMY