



Making choices in S5 for S6

6 January 2026

**Managing Transitions
Working Together**

**A Humphries
Depute Head Teacher**



S5 INTO S6 KEY DATES

Curricular & Careers Evening – Tuesday 6 January 2026
(parents & carers)

Subject Information Session – w/c 2 February 2026
(pupils only)

Options Interviews – w/c 23 February 2026
(pupils only)

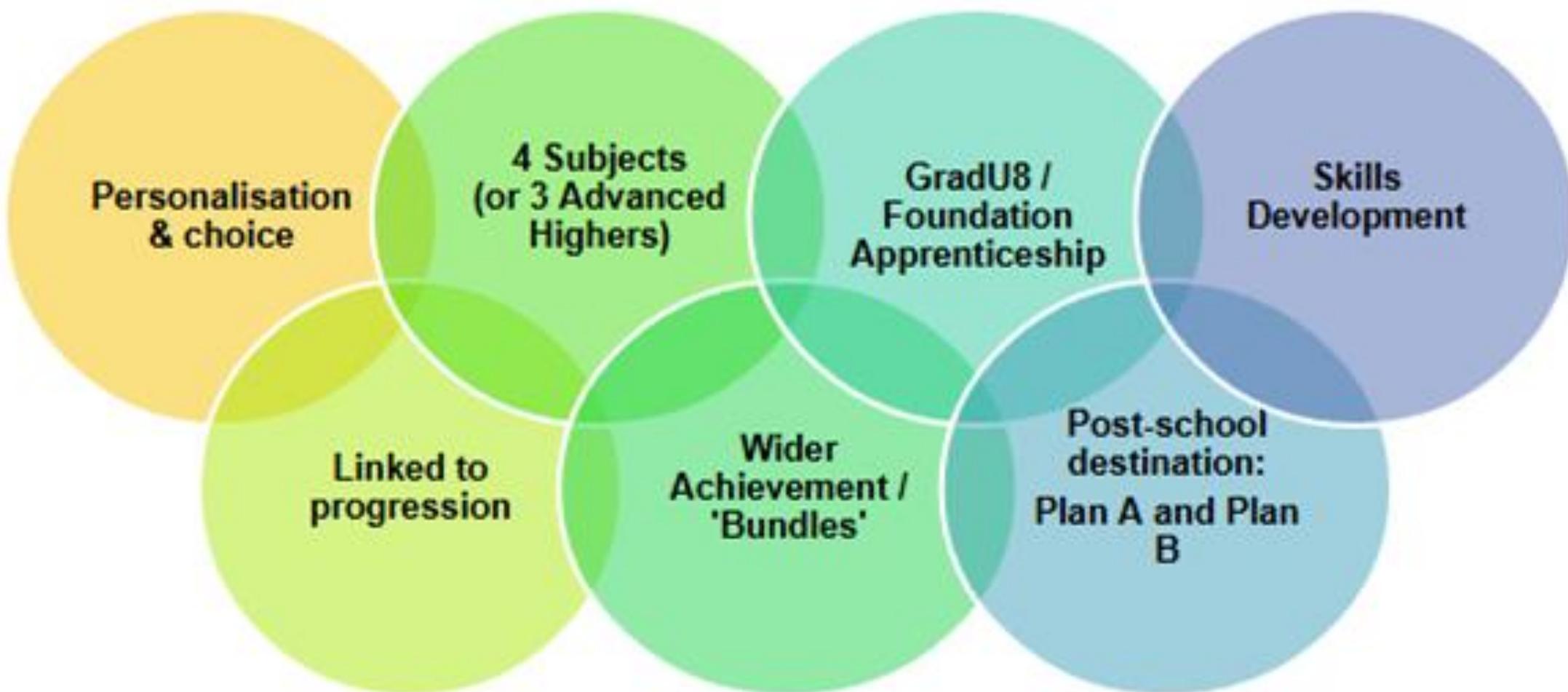
Full Report Issued – Tuesday 24 February 2026

Option Form Deadline – Friday 6 March 2026

**Important
Dates**



THE S6 CURRICULUM





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 4 » Level 5

Level 5 » Level 6

Level 6 » college/apprenticeships/training

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



S6 Curriculum

Timetable structure

- Minimum of 4 subjects (or 3 Advanced Highers)
- 1 period of PSHE
- 1 Elective period
- Tutor every morning
- Up to 6 non-contact periods – study, volunteering, work experience

Levels available

- National 5 (not as many subjects offered at N5 as in S4)
- Higher
- Advanced Higher
- SCQF Level 5 / 6 courses

Recommended progression

- Achieve an A/B at Higher for progression into Advanced Higher
- 5 Highers at A/B >> 3 Advanced Highers
- Higher subjects can be 'crashed'



Additional Courses for S6

Personal Finance & Barista (Level 5)

Cyber Security (Level 5 / 6)

Advanced Higher Drama

Environmental Science (Higher)

Laboratory Skills (National 5) + Scientific Technologies (Level 6)

Scottish Studies (Level 5 / 6)

Advanced Higher Mathematics of Mechanics

Mental Health & Wellbeing (Level 6)

Exercise & Fitness (Level 6)

Practical Metalwork (National 5)

Sports Development (Level 5 / 6)

SLC virtual offer - awaiting final confirmation of courses being offered.

Please note, the above courses will only run if there is sufficient uptake

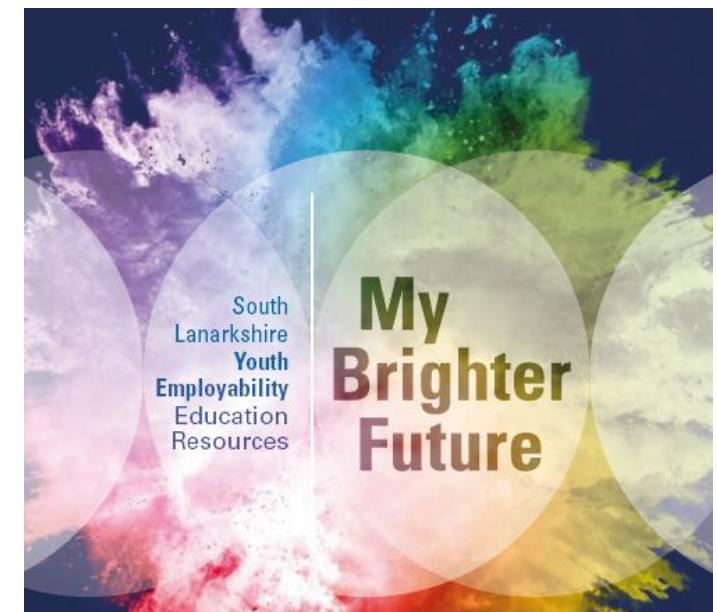


Vocational courses

GRADU8 college programme – Friday out of school per week studying for a SCQF Level 5 qualification in:

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

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.





Vocational courses cont...

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.

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



Wider Achievements

- Elective Programmes & opportunities within school
- Extra-curricular activities/clubs out with school
- S6 Leadership roles
- Roles of responsibility / Pupil Councils
- Work placement / Part time Employment
- Volunteering & other community based activities (2 Period pay-back)





2 Period 'pay-back'

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Volunteering opportunities:
Local Primaries
Abbeyfield Care Home
Support for Learning
Department
Bespoke Arrangements



**DEVELOPING
OUR YOUNG
WORKFORCE**

Successful Learners	Confident Individuals
Skills for Learning	Personal Skills
Digital Technology	Communication Skills
Responsible Citizens	Effective Contributors
Interpersonal Skills	Innovation
Employability Skills	Leading and working with others



Options form

- Pupils will be given an options form when they meet with their Pupil Support teacher
- Pupils take the form home to discuss with their parents.
- Parents should sign the form and note any changes.
- Pupils return their form to their Pupil Support teacher.
- Year Heads upload subject choices on system and timetable creation begins.
- Due to staffing and timetable constraints, it is not always possible to guarantee subject choices. Any issues/changes will be discussed with pupils and parents. If there is a solution, we will do our best to find it!!



Which subjects will I choose?

- *Ability*
- *Needed for career choice*
- *Interest*
- *Enjoyment*
- *Constraints - class viability, over subscription, unusual combinations, staffing*





Important decisions for young people

- Listen to advice
- Talk to others - family/friends/Pupil Support Teacher and careers advisor
- Do your research - what do you need to get to where you want to go?
- Be realistic but ambitious(!)
- Make choices for the right reasons
- You cannot change or drop a subject halfway through S6





Further information

Detailed course information on all subjects available in S4, including GRADU8, will be available on the school website from 17 January 2025. If you would prefer a printed copy, this is available at the school office.

The following websites should be familiar to pupils through PSHE 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/>

SQA – A to Z of National Qualification subjects: <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45777.html>



HERE TO HELP

- *Mrs Smith - Principal Teacher Pupil Support (AV)*
- *Mrs Neil- Principal Teacher Pupil Support (DU)*
- *Miss Harvey- Acting Principal Teacher Pupil Support (KY)*
- *Ms R McGinlay - Principal Teacher Pupil Support (LE)*
- *Mrs Breddy - Principal Teacher Pupil Support (LO)*

- *Phone : 01357 524040*
- *Email: office@strathaven.s-lanark.sch.uk*
- *www.strathaven.s-lanark.sch.uk*