

S3 into S4 Transition FAQs



How many subjects can I take?

All students take English and Maths, plus 4 further subject choices.

6 subjects in total for National qualification, plus core PE, RMPS, PSHE.

How many periods do I get?

English and Maths 3 periods per week, plus 4 choices which are given 5 periods per week. Core 1/2 periods per week

How many subjects will I study in S5?

Most students will take 5 subjects in S5, they can be N4, N5, or Higher. Generally they lead on from those already studied in S4.

How do I know what the courses will be like?

The S4 curriculum guide is available on Year Group Teams, and the school website. Speak to your teachers and your older friends, but remember what works for one student may not be the same for you. Try to choose your subject because you enjoy the work, not because of friends or teachers. Almost all the courses have a continuation in S5 for qualification, but there may be new subjects that you can pick up in S5/6.

Can I change my mind?

It is possible to change your mind, but student choices inform the construction of the timetable, once it is set, it may not be possible to move into the class of your choice if it is full or happens at a time that clashes with your other choices.

Can I choose a different subject that I am not currently studying?

There are some new courses offered in S4, that lead from S3 courses. Picking a totally different subject is possible, but not advised. It is important to make good choices at this stage to build towards your experience, skills and qualifications. If a student feels they need to change subject, this can be done in discussion with Principal Teachers.

My parents did a different qualification in S4, how do they find out about Nationals?

This link will help compare new with old qualifications: <https://scqf.org.uk/media/zd0f4ka3/old-v-new.pdf>

How do I know what courses I need for the job or course what I want to do?

Most employers list a readiness for work and skills as important. Requirements for jobs can be found on My World of Work, or by looking at adverts. Entry requirements for courses at colleges and universities change annually. Highers are the standard for university admission, these can be gained in S5 and S6. College can be entered at different levels and can lead to a degree link course. It is important to investigate these if you have a definite career idea. A broad range of courses in S4 will help to build towards requirements for work, college or university.

Who can I speak to about this?

Speak to your family network and your older friends, they have experience. You can speak with your Guidance Teacher or Subject Teachers about your choices. The Careers Adviser Stuart Clark is also available for appointments.

Where do I enter my choices?

The online form will be available on Glow launchpad and through year group Teams. If you make a mistake or change your mind you can make a second submission before the deadline.

When do I submit my choices?

Choices should be submitted after Parents' evening on January 19th and before the deadline Monday 24th January. There is no advantage to submitting early, but we do request you submit on time, thank you.