

S5&S6 Transition FAQs



How many subjects can I take?

All students take 5 subjects in S5, plus Enrichment, Study and PSE. 4 subjects are taken in S6 plus PSE, (unless 3 Advanced Highers or FA with placement)

How many periods do I get?

Each subject has 5 periods per week. Some Advanced Highers have 3 or 4 periods timetabled with staff, 1 or 2 periods independent study.

Which subjects will I study in S5?

Most students will take subjects that they studied in S4, generally they lead on from those already studied. Occasionally a student will revisit a course studied in S3.

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

It is possible, but not advised in S5. 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 subject Principal Teachers. S6 is a better stage to pick up new subjects, and it is possible to join a Higher class

How do I know what the courses will be like?

The S5&6 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 or S6.

Why study 4 courses in S6?

Four courses gives 10 free periods per week, that gives a lot of time for other activities. Students who study fewer courses are rarely more successful than those who study more. Maintaining a good work ethic is a better preparation for college and university. S6 is a great opportunity to pick up something new and enjoyable.

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. It is possible to switch courses in August after results if there are available spaces.

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.

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

This link will help compare new with old qualifications <https://scgf.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?

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. Most employers list a readiness for work and skills as important. Use the [helpful links](#) for information.

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 Advisor Stuart Clark is also available for appointments.

Helpful Links

- ▶ [Support for parents and carers | My World of Work](#)
- ▶ [Where can your subject choices take you? | My World of Work](#)
- ▶ [A to Z of National Qualification \(NQ\) subjects - SQA](#)
- ▶ [Planit : Career Areas \(planitplus.net\)](#)
- ▶ [Career paths | My Kids Career](#)
- ▶ [Apprenticeships | Apprenticeships.scot: Work, Learn & Earn](#)
- ▶ [Courses Archive - North East Scotland College \(nescol.ac.uk\)](#)
- ▶ [What and where to study at a University, College or Conservatoire \(ucas.com\)](#)
- ▶ [Opportunities for All Aberdeenshire, Facebook group](#)
- ▶ [Developing the Young Workforce NE](#)