



S2 into S3 Pathways

Course Choice Information



Introduction

S3 is an important year within Curriculum for Excellence. It is the final year of the S1 – S3 Junior Phase and the final year of the broad, general education that we aim to offer all of our pupils during this stage of their learning. It has a clear purpose which is to provide:

A broad and general education with increasing personalisation and choice ensuring a strong platform for later learning.

The Forfar Academy S1-S6 learner journey is set out below. You can see that in S3 you will be continuing to work at the Curriculum for Excellence levels but also begin to develop the skills and knowledge you will require for success in the Senior Phase (S4-6) by starting work on National 3, 4 and 5 outcomes.





To ensure you continue to study a broad range of subjects in S3 you will see that everyone continues with English and Maths as well as the “core” subjects.

You then chose one subject from each of the curriculum areas as shown in the table below.

Finally, to allow you to further personalise your curriculum you chose 2 other subjects including Modern Languages or any of the other subjects on offer.

1. Every Learner studies ...	2. Learner chooses 1 subject from each Curricular Area:	3. Learner chooses 2 other subjects:
English (4 periods)	Expressive Arts (3 periods)	Option 1: Choose Modern Languages (3 periods) + one other subject (3 periods) Option 2 Choose two other subjects (3 periods each) Option 3 Choose one other subject (3 periods) + Youth Achievement (3 periods)
Maths (4 periods)	Art and Design	
Core PE (2 periods)	Drama	
Social Education (1 period)	Music	
Philosophies (1 period)	Dance	
	Health and Wellbeing (3 periods)	
	Food & Nutrition	
	Technologies	
	Physical Education	
	Science (3 periods)	
	Biology	
	Chemistry	
	Physics	
	Social Subjects (3 periods)	
	Geography	
	History	
	Modern Studies	
	Technologies (3 periods)	
	Business	
	Management and Admin & IT	
	Computing Science	
	Engineering Design and Technology	



When making your choices for S3 it is very important that you also think about your learner journey into S4. At the end of S3 you make your final choices for the National Qualifications you will be studying for in S4. Because you will have started some of the preparation for these qualifications in S3 you will be continuing with some of the subjects you chose in S3. The different pathways for S4 are explained in the S4 tables below.

Pathway 1

Learner chooses 7 SQA subjects (National 3/4/5):

- ✓ Maths
- ✓ English
- ✓ 5 other subjects studied in S3



Pathway 2

Learner chooses 6 SQA subjects (National 3/4/5):

- ✓ Maths
- ✓ English
- ✓ 4 other subjects studied in S3
- ✓ Wider qualification options e.g. College/School based



Pathway 3

Learner chooses 5 SQA subjects (National 3/4/5):

- ✓ Maths
- ✓ English
- ✓ 3 other subjects studied in S3
- ✓ 2 wider qualification options e.g. College/School based



Frequently Asked Questions

How should I decide which subjects to take from the personalisation and choice options?

These are important choices and we want you to make choices that will give you the best chance of success as you move into the Senior Phase (S4-6) and when you continue your journey after school. So play to your strengths, think about the feedback from your reports and parents' evenings, and think about what you enjoy. Of course you will be thinking about subjects that you plan to continue with beyond S3 into the Senior Phase from S4. You might also have some ideas about possible future careers and that will influence the subjects you choose.

Will I have to take National Exams in the subjects I choose for S3?

Some of the work you will complete in S3 will be designed to give you a head start with your S4 National Qualifications so it makes sense to continue some of these subjects into S4. Look again at the different pathways in the S4 tables. You will be "suspending" some of the subjects you did in S3 when you make your choices for S4. This means you will not study those subjects in S4 but could return to them in S5 or S6 as part of your choices then. Most pupils will therefore continue with subjects they chose in S3 into S4.

Can I still do Modern Languages?

Yes, you can choose to continue with French and you also have the option of choosing Spanish. If you want to choose a Modern Language you should write the language you wish to study as choice six or seven on the form that follows.

Can I choose a subject in S4 that I didn't do in S3?

Most pupils will therefore continue with subjects they chose in S3 into S4. In exceptional circumstances it may be possible to pick a subject in S4 that you didn't do in S3. Whether or not this is possible will depend on you having a clear reason to request a change, how well you did in that subject area in S1/S2, whether other subjects you are doing will help you with the new subject and your motivation to catch up with any work you missed by not doing the subject in S3. Any decision like this will require careful thought and discussion between you, your parents and your Pupil Care & Support teacher.

How do I find out about the S3 courses to help me make my decision?

Information about the different courses that are offered in S3 can be found in this guide along with "progression pathways" which show you the subjects and different qualifications studying that subject will lead to in the Senior Phase (S4-S6). You'll also see some of the careers pathways that studying that subject can lead to.





Who should I speak to if I need further advice?

For further advice and guidance about the process and making decisions about choices you can speak to your Pupil Care & Support Teacher. They are the point of contact for parents to speak to as well regarding anything to do with the choices you will also be focusing on these choices in Social Education time where they will be plenty of support and advice on making the right choices. Don't forget there is lots of great advice available through the My World of Work website at:

<https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/>

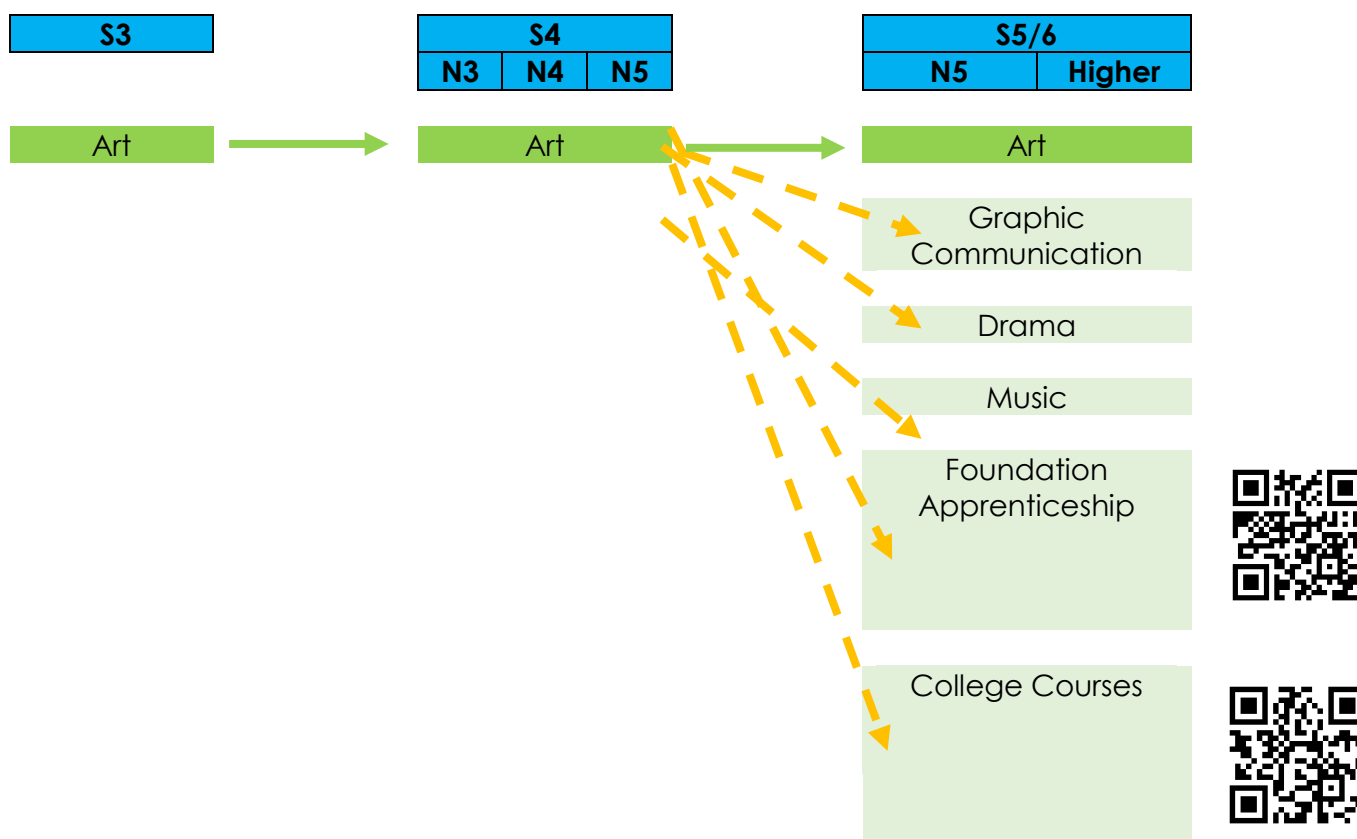


Courses on Offer

Art and Design

The S3 Art and Design course is a broad general course that covers both expressive and design outcomes. Pupils will build practical skills in class experimenting with a variety of different techniques and media towards national coursing in S4. Work produced in S3 (where appropriate) will also be considered to form part of folios for SQA presentation.

Progression Pathways



Possible Careers

- Art Gallery Curator
- Graphic Designer
- Art Therapist
- Jewellery Designer/Maker
- Illustrator
- Set Design
- Painter and Decorator
- Dress Maker
- Interior Designer
- Product Designer
- Animator
- Photographer



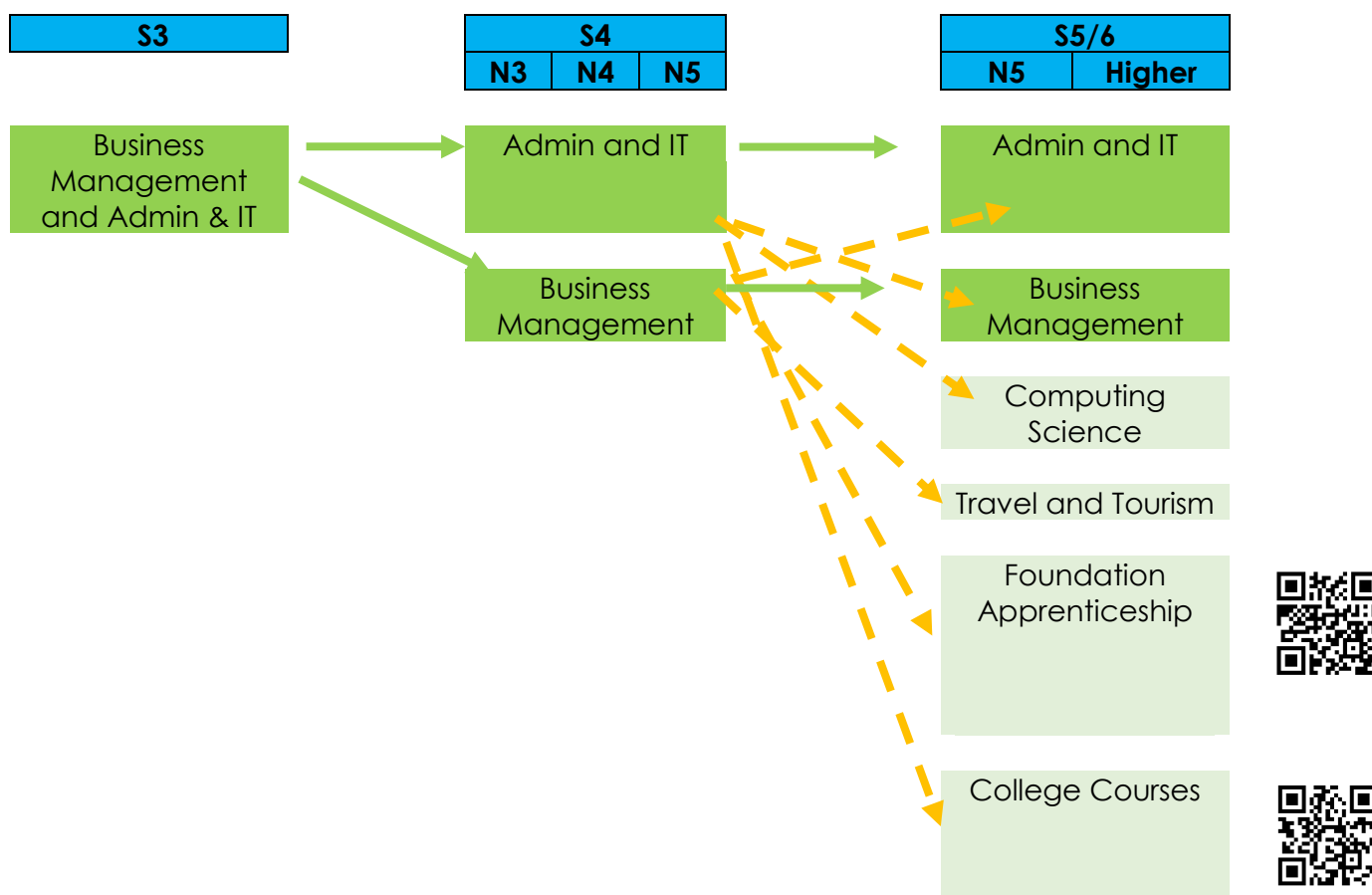
Courses on Offer

Business Management and Admin & IT

Business Management aims to develop skills such as entrepreneurial, problem-solving, decision-making and ICT which are essential in enhancing employment opportunities. Students will have the opportunity to discuss and explore current affairs impacts on business activity by investigating local business organisations.

Administrative and IT skills are essential across all areas of the economy and having a basic understanding and ability in these skills can offer wide ranging employability opportunities. Word Processing, Spreadsheets, Databases, PowerPoint, Publisher, E-mail and E-dairy are just some of the areas which we will focus on and after completing a number of practice exercises.

Progression Pathways



Possible Careers

- Entrepreneur
- Receptionist/Secretary
- Accountant
- Legal Secretary
- Sales Rep
- Database Administrator
- Administration Assistant
- Customer Service
- Management Consultant



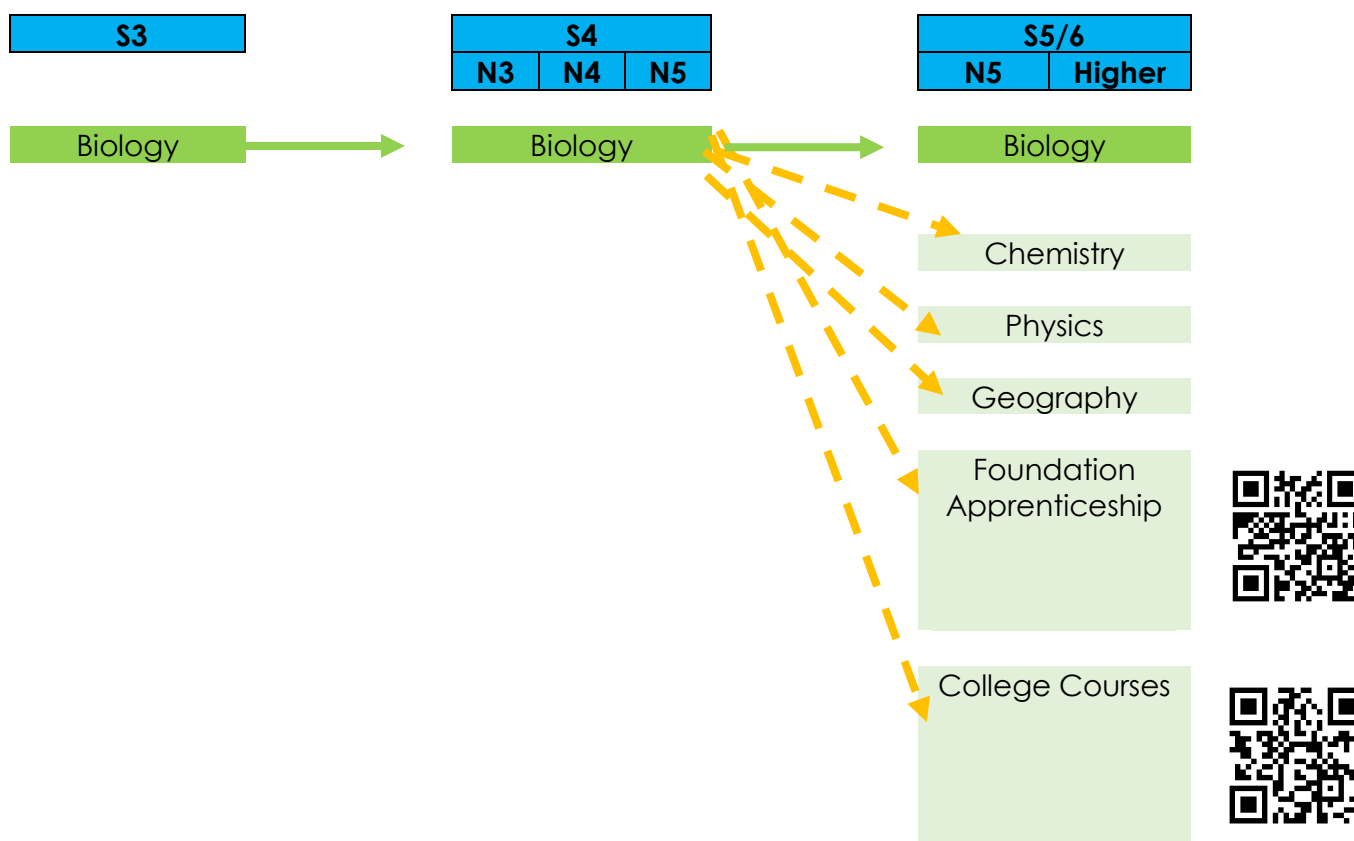
Courses on Offer

Biology

Biology is the study of all forms of life, and how they interact. We study the smallest viruses up to the largest mammals and everything in between. We look at cutting edge technology and the ethical issues involved in their use, as well as the potential for life changing advances in medicine.

Biology covers a huge range of subjects that affect our everyday life; from the basics of how our bodies and minds work to the global problems facing our society today, such as climate change and endangered animals. Biology is the cornerstone of our world and understanding the Biology of our planet functions and the impact of our actions is the first step to making positive changes for future generations.

Progression Pathways



Possible Careers

- Medicine
- Marine Studies
- Agriculture
- Lab Technician
- Dentistry
- Microbiologist
- Nurse
- Pharmacist
- Veterinary Medicine
- Dietetics
- Biomedical Scientist
- Forensic Scientist
- Geneticist
- Conservationist
- Pharmacist

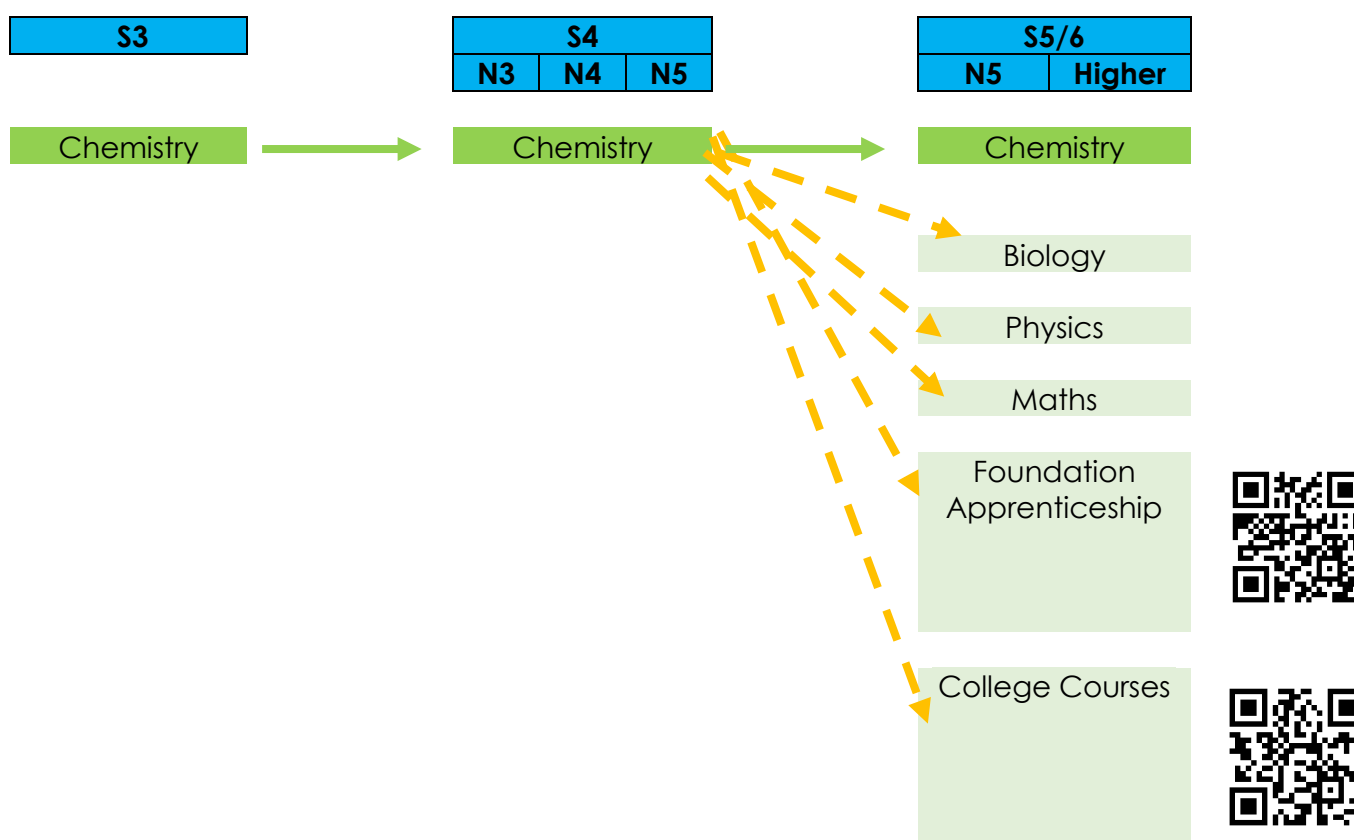


Courses on Offer

Chemistry

Chemistry is the study of all matter and the elements from which it is made. You already know quite a lot about the world of chemistry. We all do. Our lives depend on chemistry in action - in our bodies, our food, our phones, our whole environment. Chemistry is the key to life, but it is also at the heart of technological change and progress. Everyday materials such as plastics, paints and dyes are the result of chemical research. Artificial fibres, new drugs and even the microchips which run computers could not have been developed without the skill and knowledge of chemists.

Progression Pathways



Possible Careers

- Research Scientist
- Biochemist
- Teacher
- Brewery Worker
- Dietician
- Pathologist
- Radiographer
- Nurse
- Sports Science
- Teacher
- Doctor
- Vet
- Environmental Conservationist
- Pharmacist



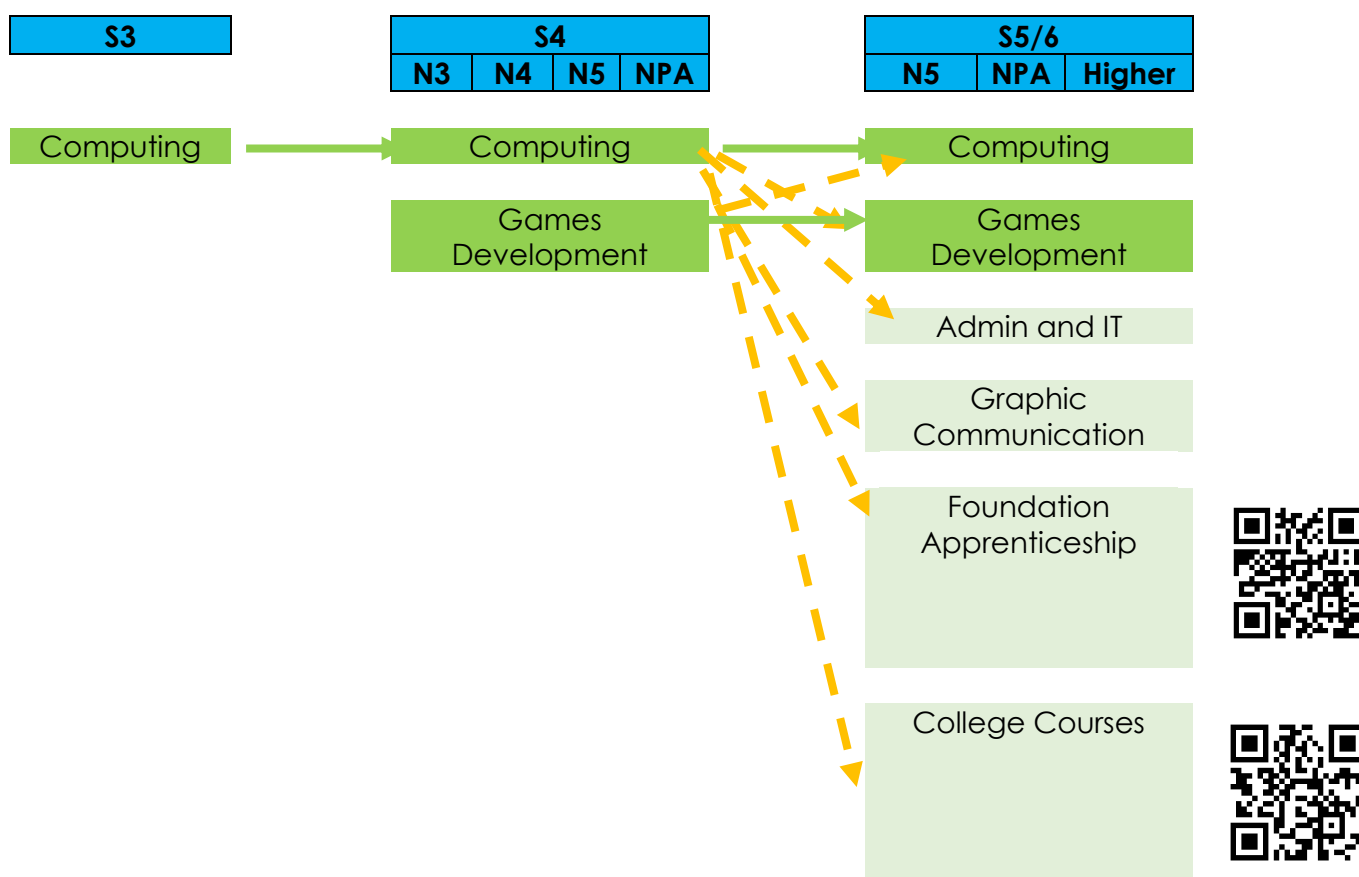
Courses on Offer

Computing Science

Computing Science underpins all aspects of our everyday life; it shapes the world in which we live and its future, and computer scientists play key roles in meeting the needs of society. Computer scientists are at the forefront of developments in every field of work - science, communications, entertainment, education, business and industry – and the potential for change is extraordinary!

Computer Games Development is a rapidly growing industry and with Dundee a leader in this field we want to be able to offer our pupils every opportunity to make a career in that industry. We offer the course as an NPA at level 4, 5 and 6. We hope to inspire the next generation of people who create world famous video games.

Progression Pathways



Possible Careers

- System Analyst
- Software Engineer
- IT Consultant
- Games Development
- Mobile App Developer
- Cyber Security Specialist
- Database Administrator
- Web Designer
- Social Media Manager
- Data Engineer



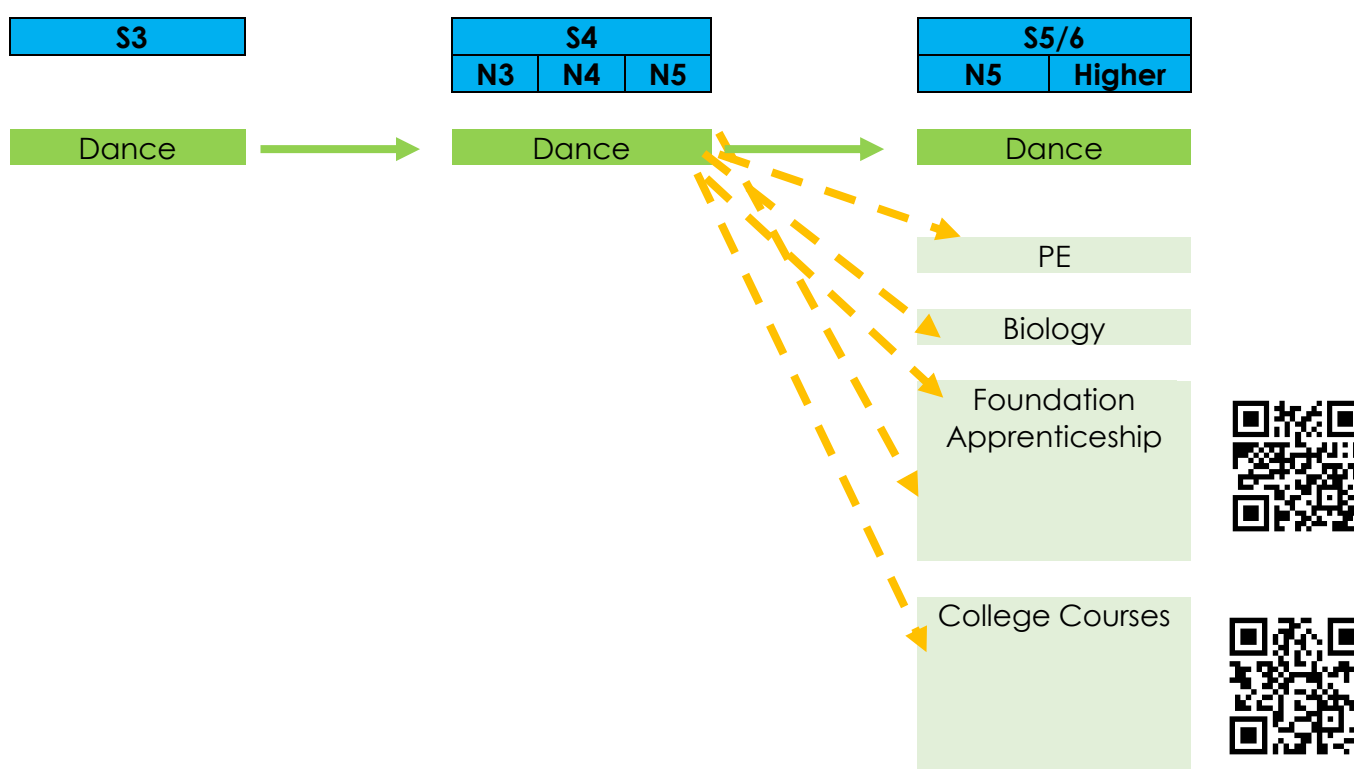
Courses on Offer

Dance

The S3 Elective Dance course offers pupils a progression from S1-2 BGE PE and acts as a gateway into National 4/5 and Higher courses. The main purpose of the course is to equip learners with introductory knowledge, understanding and practical skills in Dance.

Pupils will be required to create a solo performance which they would have to perform in front of their teacher and classmates. Pupils will also be assessed on their choreography skills.

Progression Pathways



Possible Careers

- Dancer
- Actor
- Pop Musician
- Choreographer
- Dance Teacher
- Yoga Teacher
- Arts Administrator
- Stunt Performer



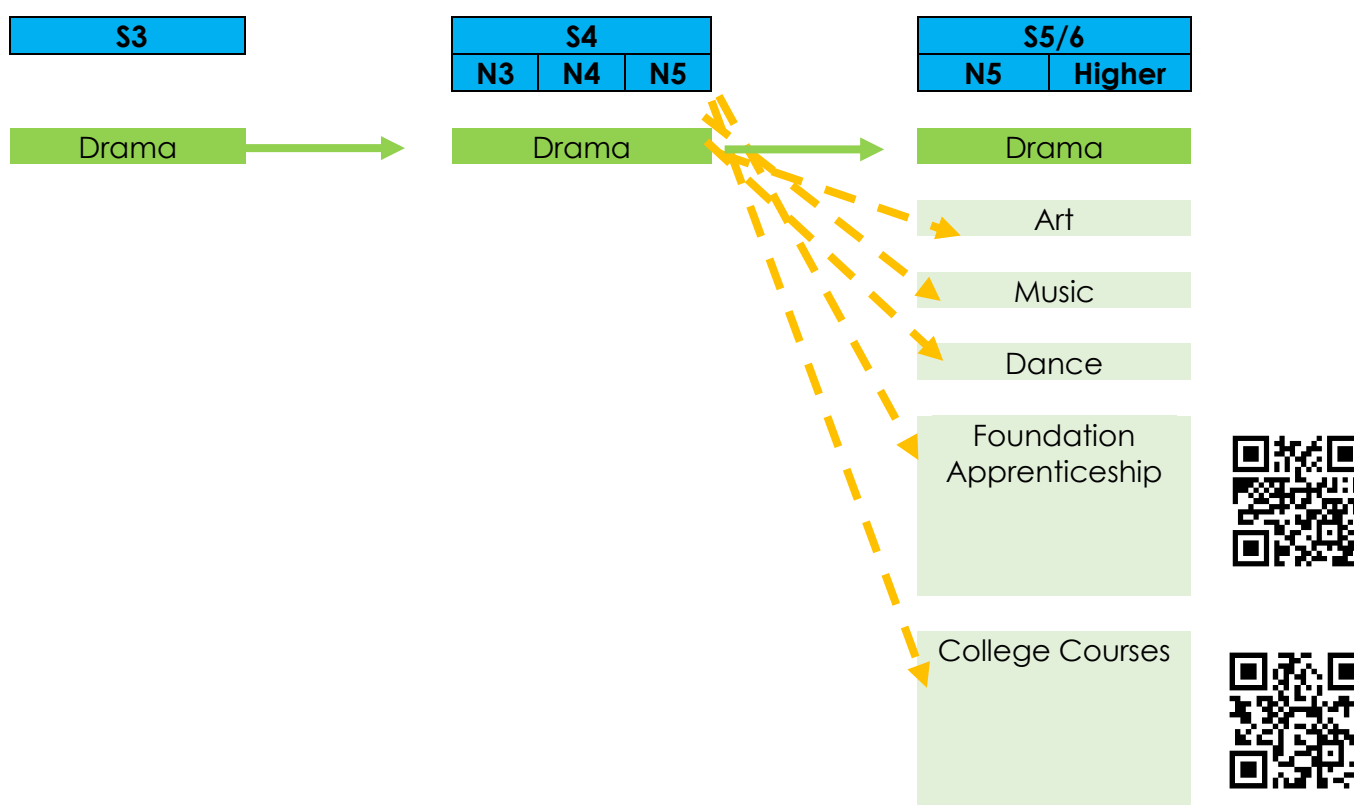
Courses on Offer

Drama

Drama develops skills and knowledge that are essential to modern life and to the world beyond school. It is difficult to imagine any job that does not involve communication with other people and the study of Drama helps to develop confidence, clarity of thought and self-assurance when dealing with and speaking to others.

The Drama course will provide you with rich opportunities to be creative and to experience inspiration and enjoyment. Creating and presenting are key skills for all learners. Your acting and presenting skills will be developed through participating in scripted and improvised drama. Exploring real and imaginary situations helps you to understand the world and your place in it. You will develop the capacity to evaluate your knowledge and understanding through the exploration of technical aspects of theatre and scripts as well as commenting on your own work and the work of others.

Progression Pathways



Possible Careers

- Acting
- Costume Designer
- Police Force
- Camera Operator
- Lighting Designer
- Stage Management
- Producer
- Theatre Director
- Sound Engineer



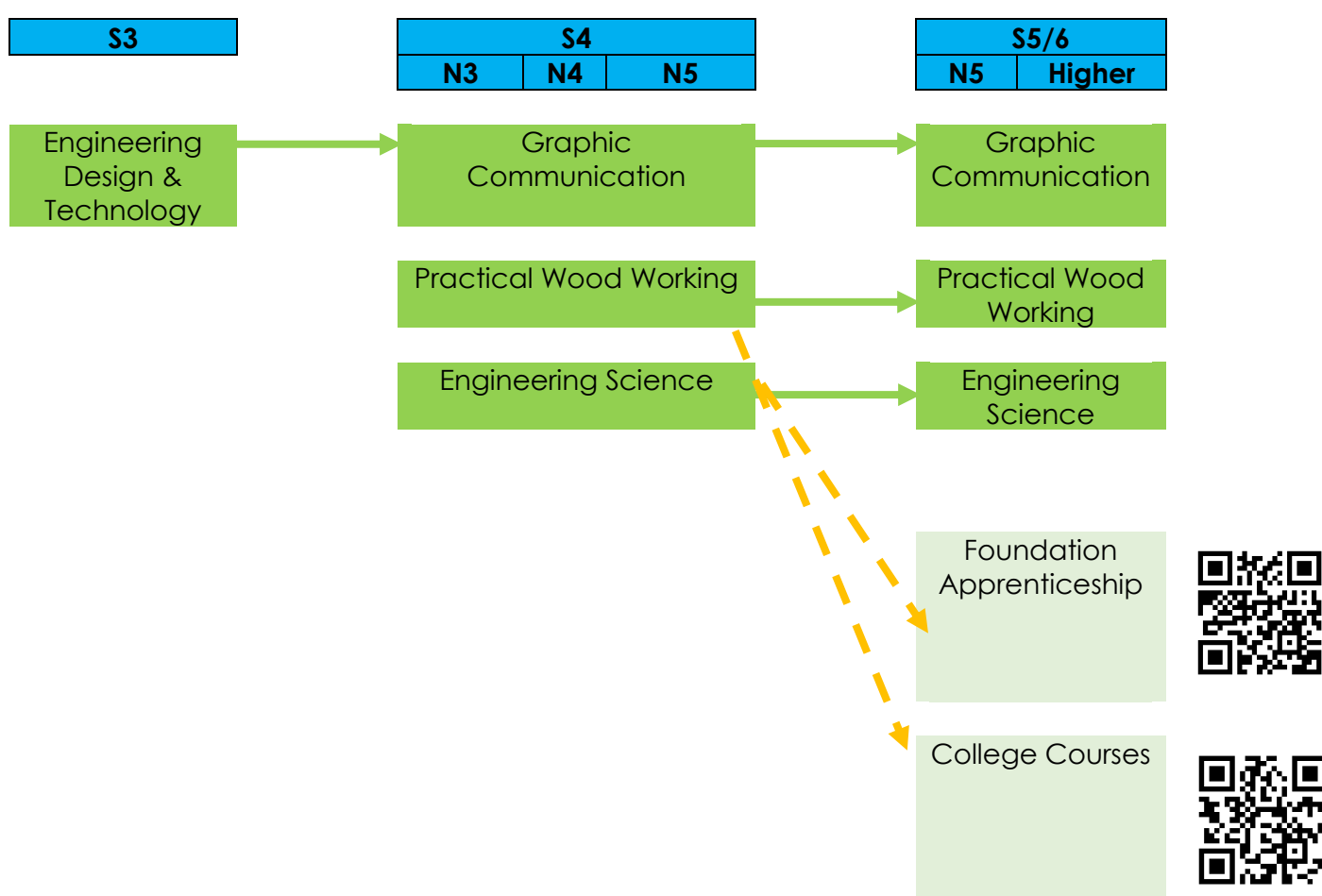
Courses on Offer

Engineering Design & Technology (EDT)

EDT is suitable course for learners with an interest in Engineering Science, Graphic Communication and Practical Woodworking, with a cross cutting theme in Design. It will appeal to those wanting to progress to higher levels of study or a related career in these disciplines.

Pupils will engage with emerging technologies and traditional craft techniques that will build skills and attributes needed to succeed in the 21st century world of work.

Progression Pathways



Possible Careers

- Architect
- Interior Designer
- Structural Engineer
- Furniture Designer
- Carpenter
- Mechanical Engineer
- CAD Technician
- Blacksmith
- Plumber
- Welder/ Fitter
- Electrical Engineer
- Electrician
- Auto Mechanic
- Civil Engineer
- Brick layer



Courses on Offer

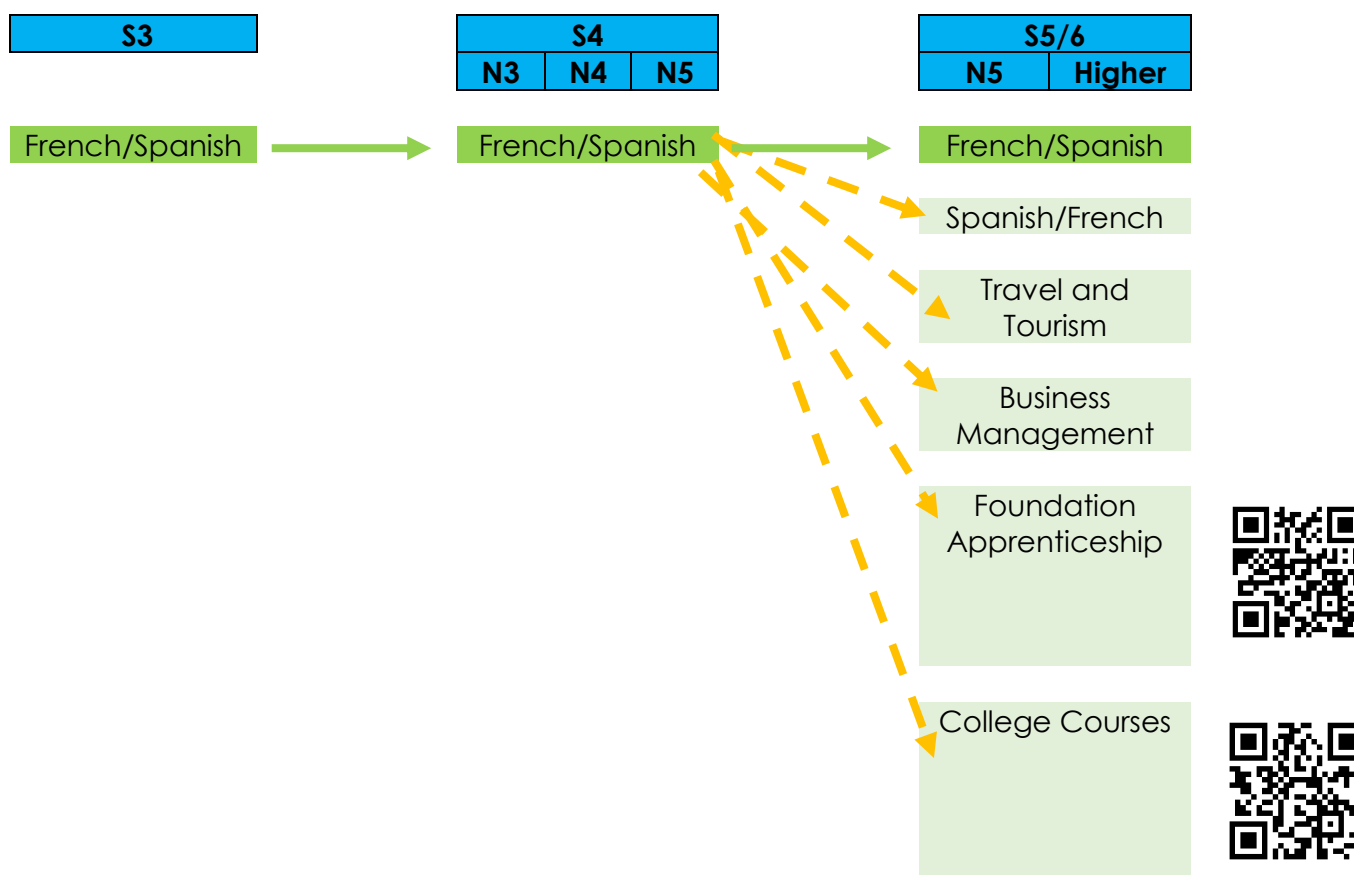
French and Spanish

Learners who choose to continue studying French in S3 will build on the significant work they will have done in S1 and S2, in terms of vocabulary, grammar and the skills they have developed in Reading, Listening, Talking and Writing. The S3 French course will help learners to become more comfortable in their handling of language and allow them to express themselves more confidently in French.

Learners can also choose to study Spanish in S3 and the course will enable young people to learn a new language. They will use the skills they have already developed in S1 and S2 allowing learners to continue Spanish as a National qualification if appropriate.

Young people will learn topics from the four contexts of Society, Learning, Employability and Culture.

Progression Pathways



Possible Careers

- Air Cabin Crew
- Tourist Guide
- Travel and Tourism
- Translator
- Interpreter
- Hospitality
- Law
- Events Manager
- Teacher

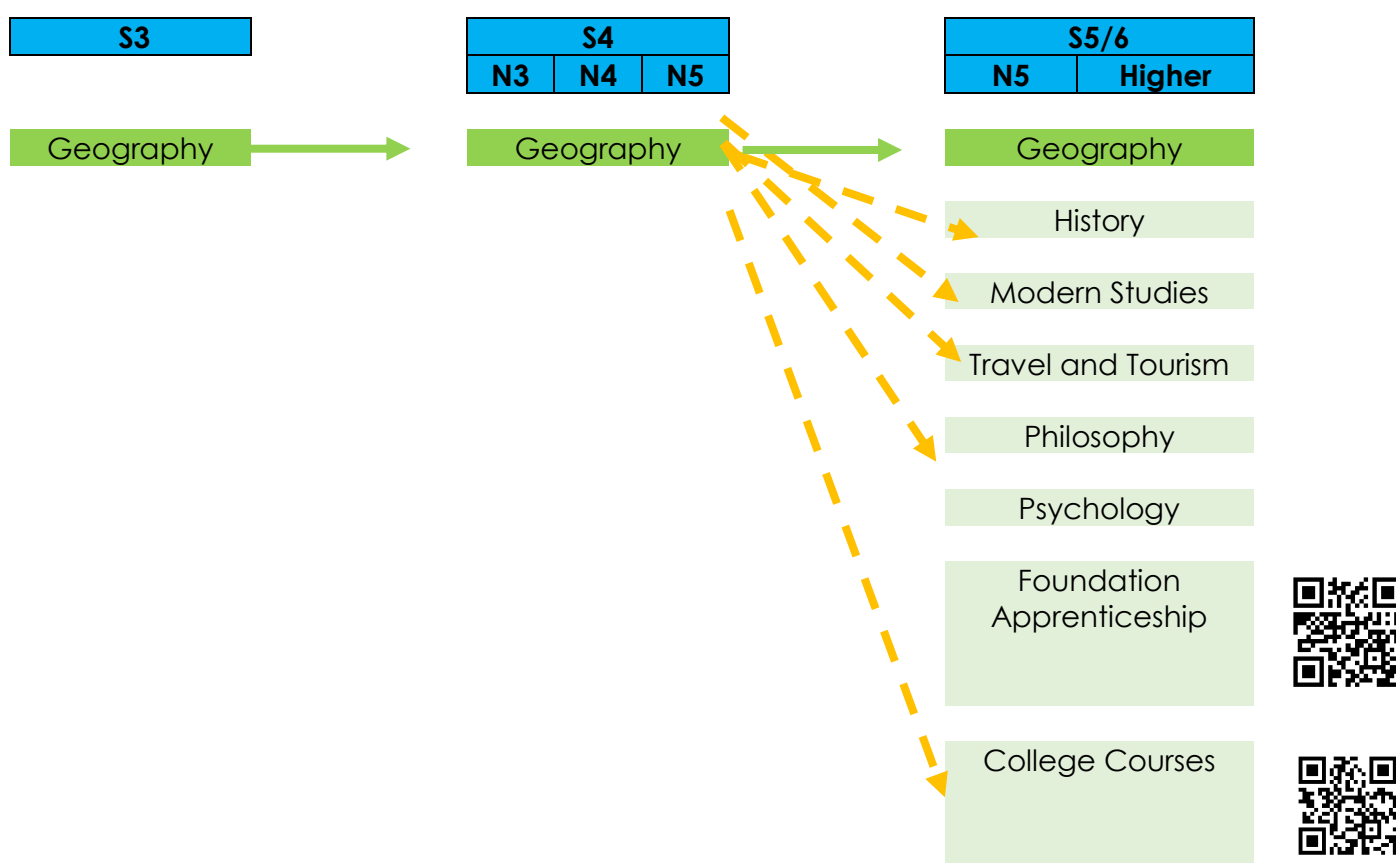


Courses on Offer

Geography

Studying Geography aims to provide pupils with an integrated working knowledge of the Earth's people, places, environmental processes and economies across various local and global landscapes. The subject offers the chance to delve into some of today's most pressing issues, while continuously building confident literacy and numeracy skills through a variety of investigations. Pupils will improve their digital literacy skills through the frequent use of technology to enhance teaching and learning, often providing opportunities to achieve a deeper understanding of the world we live in. The S3 Geography course provides pupils with the chance to collect and interpret their own data; investigate world populations; study the rivers of the world; enhance their understanding of climate change and advance their knowledge of natural hazards through learning about tropical storms.

Progression Pathways



Possible Careers

- Geoscientist
- Gamekeeper
- Surveyor
- Quantity surveyor
- Conservation Officer
- Renewable Energy
- Data / Statistical Analyst
- GIS Professional
- Remote Sensing

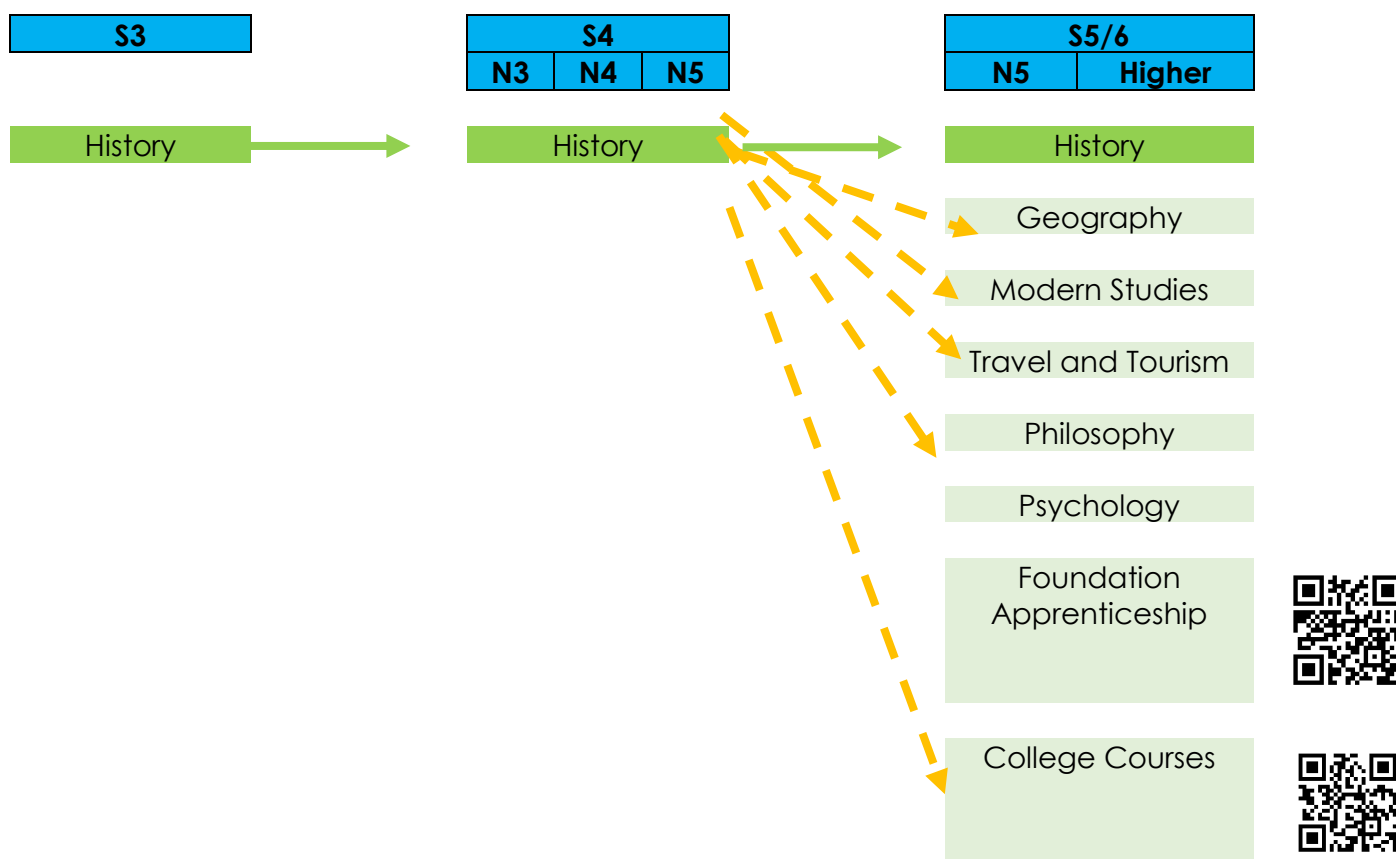


Courses on Offer

History

Researching the past helps pupils understand the causes of present day issues. Pupils will take part in investigations, class discussions, individual and cooperative learning to research historical events and people. Discipline-based knowledge and understanding of historical events helps candidates to function as effective contributors to society. They develop important attitudes such as: confidence; an open mind and respect for the values, beliefs and cultures of others; openness to new thinking and ideas; and a sense of responsibility and global citizenship. The course emphasises the development and application of skills. Evaluation of a wide range of sources develops thinking skills. Using and synthesising information develops skills in literacy.

Progression Pathways



Possible Careers

- Museum assistant
- Archivist
- Archaeologist
- Conservator
- Librarian
- Journalist
- Media Researcher
- Writer
- Diplomatic Service Officer

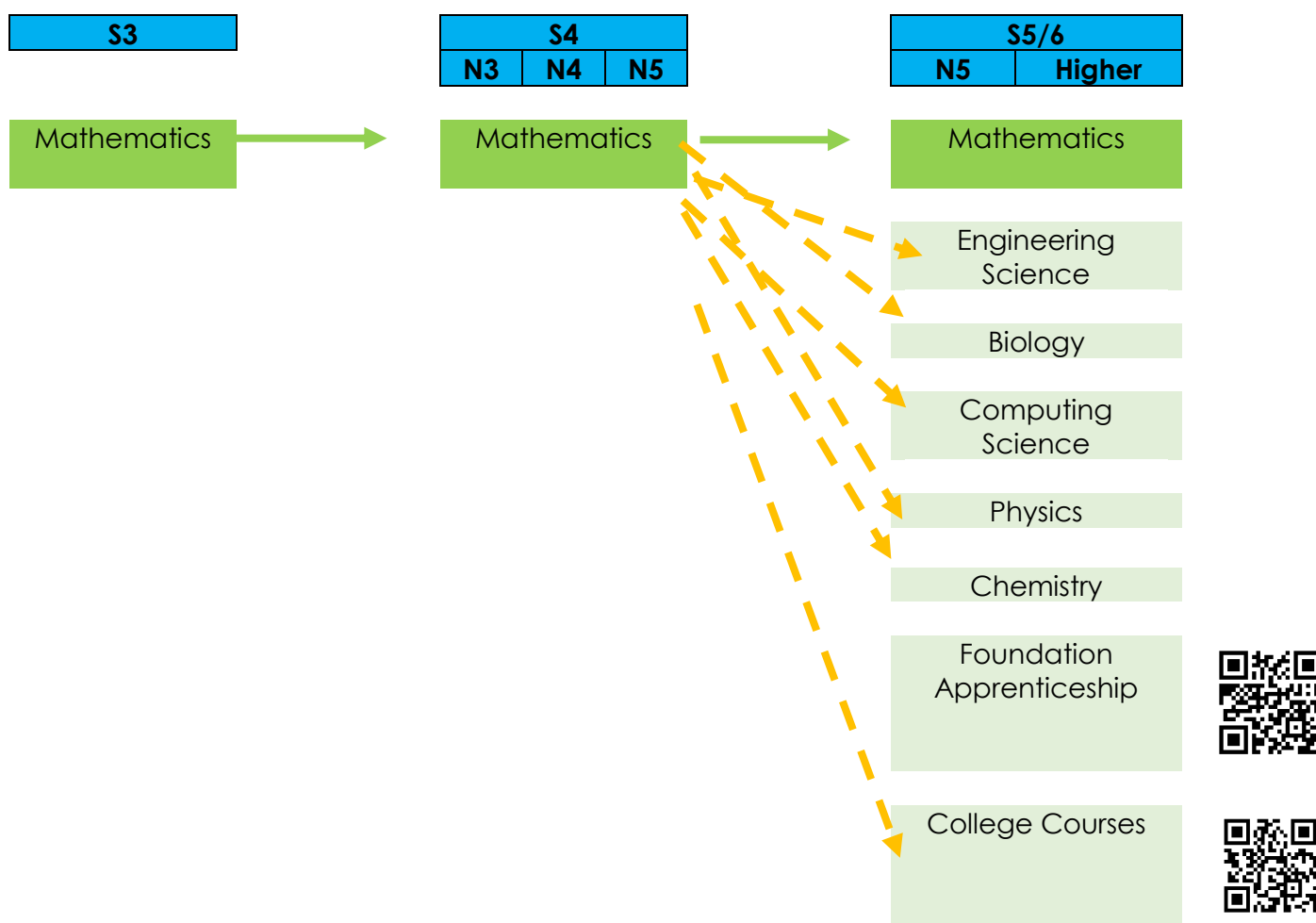


Courses on Offer

Mathematics

The Mathematics course enables learners to select and apply mathematical techniques in a variety of mathematical and real-life situations. Learners interpret, communicate and manage information in mathematical form.

Progression Pathways



Possible Careers

- All careers involve Maths!
- Farmer
- Mechanic
- Bricklayer
- Joiner
- Scientist
- Computer Programmer
- Armed forces
- Banker
- Plumber
- Postman
- Spray painter/painter
- Electrician

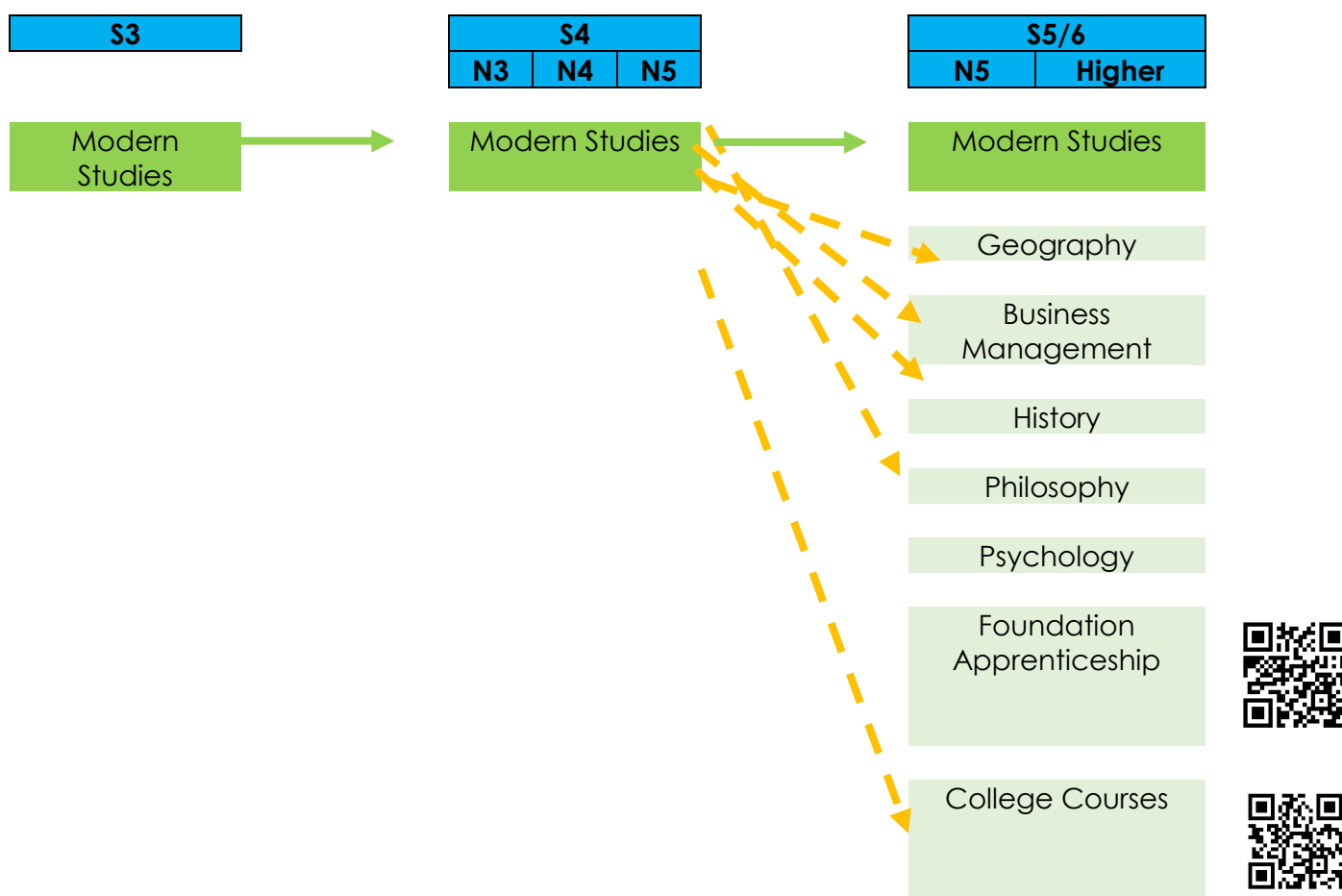


Courses on Offer

Modern Studies

Learning Modern Studies helps to create and develop informed, active citizens who are able to compare their world with other societies and cultures. The study of Modern Studies aims to provide pupils with an awareness of the social and political issues on a national and international scale. It is an exciting and fast moving subject and a variety of topics are studied. Students will become effective and responsible contributors to a democratic society by developing an understanding of current affairs including politics, the media and social and international issues. Students will develop their literacy and numeracy skills and will also improve their digital literacy.

Progression Pathways



Possible Careers

- Journalist
- Police Officer
- Politics
- Civil Service
- International Relations
- Law
- Media & advertising
- Armed Forces
- Management and HR
- Teaching
- Business

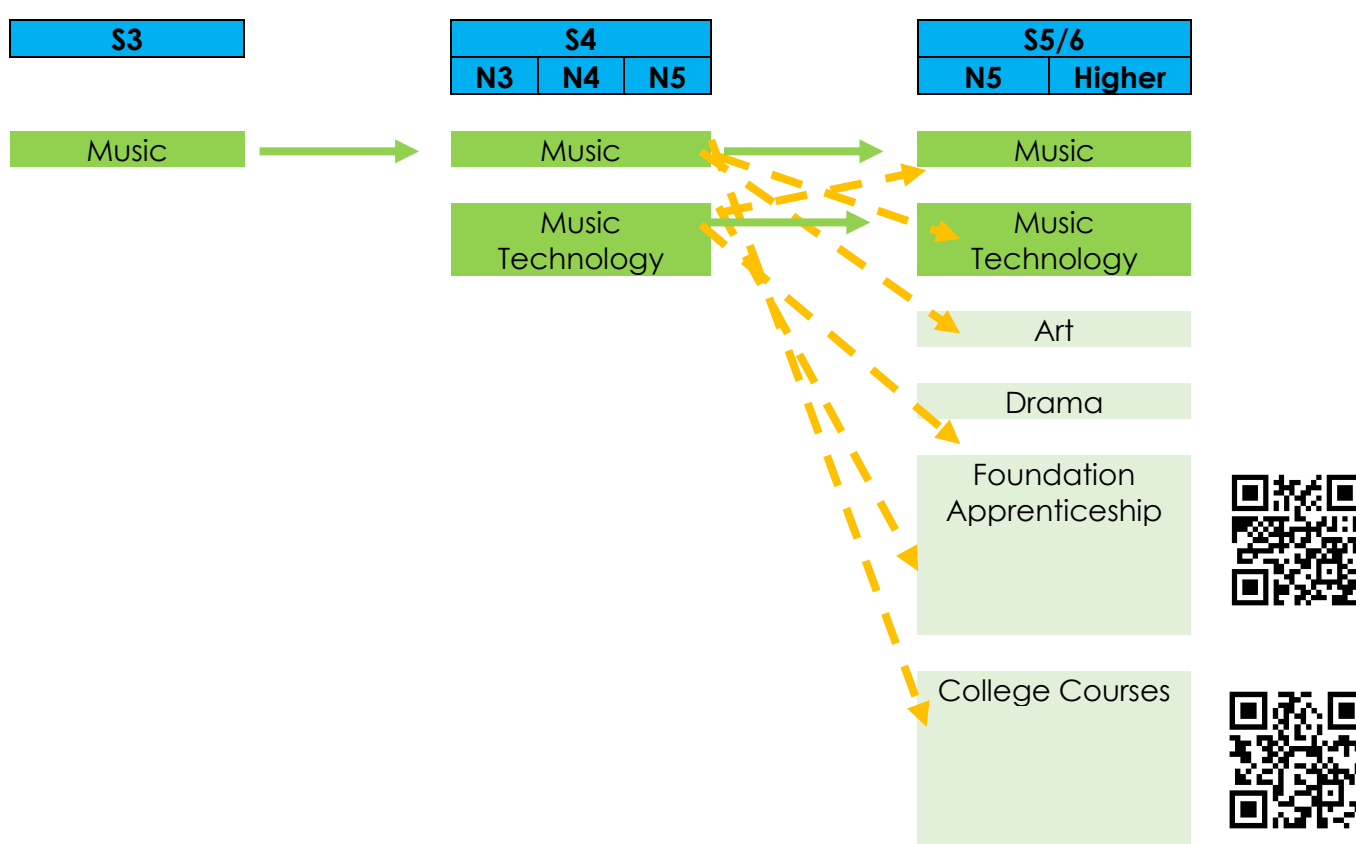


Courses on Offer

Music

The S3 course provides a pathway to National 3/4/5 Music and Music Technology in S4. The work completed in class offers all students the opportunity to perform, listen to and compose music in a number of individual and group situations. Practical skills are further developed throughout the year playing solo and group performances, while theory and the appreciation of music are taught through listening and composition tasks. Confidence is built through individual and group performances and all learners have the opportunity and the choice of instruments to specialise in.

Progression Pathways



Possible Careers

- Performer
- Music Therapist
- Sound Engineer
- Composer
- DJ
- Broadcasting/Film/TV
- Music Publisher
- Event Manager
- Sound Engineer
- Radio Producer



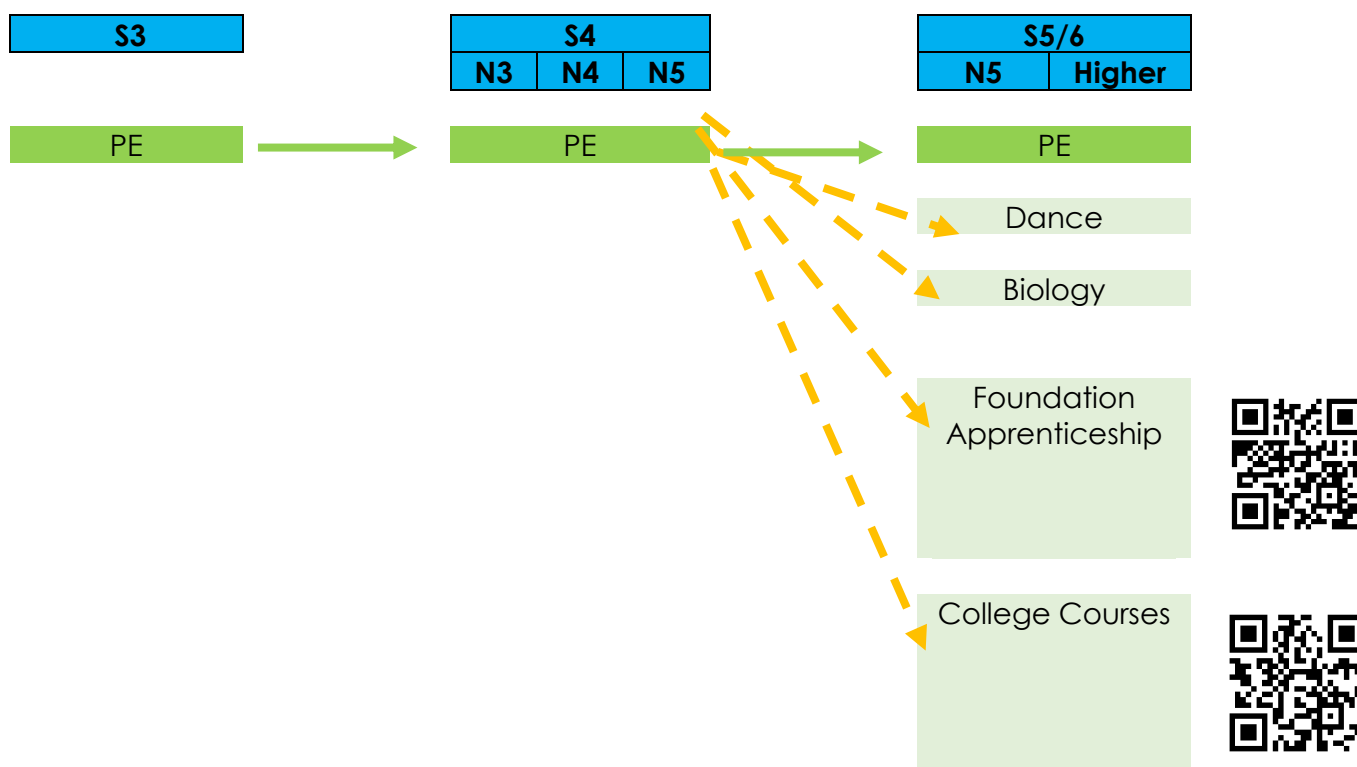
Courses on Offer

Physical Education

The S3 Elective PE course offers pupils a progression from S1-3 BGE PE and acts as a gateway into National 4/5 and Higher courses. This course offers a broad range of games based and aesthetic activities such as Football, Basketball, Rugby, Badminton, Swimming, Gymnastics and Dance. Through these, pupils will develop their physical movement skills and abilities whilst also learning about how different Mental, Emotional, Social and Physical factors impact on performance.

The course has both practical and theoretical elements where pupils will learn about gathering data on performance and how to improve identified aspects of their performance through a training programme.

Progression Pathways



Possible Careers

- Athlete
- Leisure Centre Manager
- Fitness Instructor
- Sports Coach
- Emergency Services
- Sports Development Officer/Active Schools
- Personal Trainer
- Outdoor Activities Instructor
- Sports Therapist
- Armed Forces



Courses on Offer

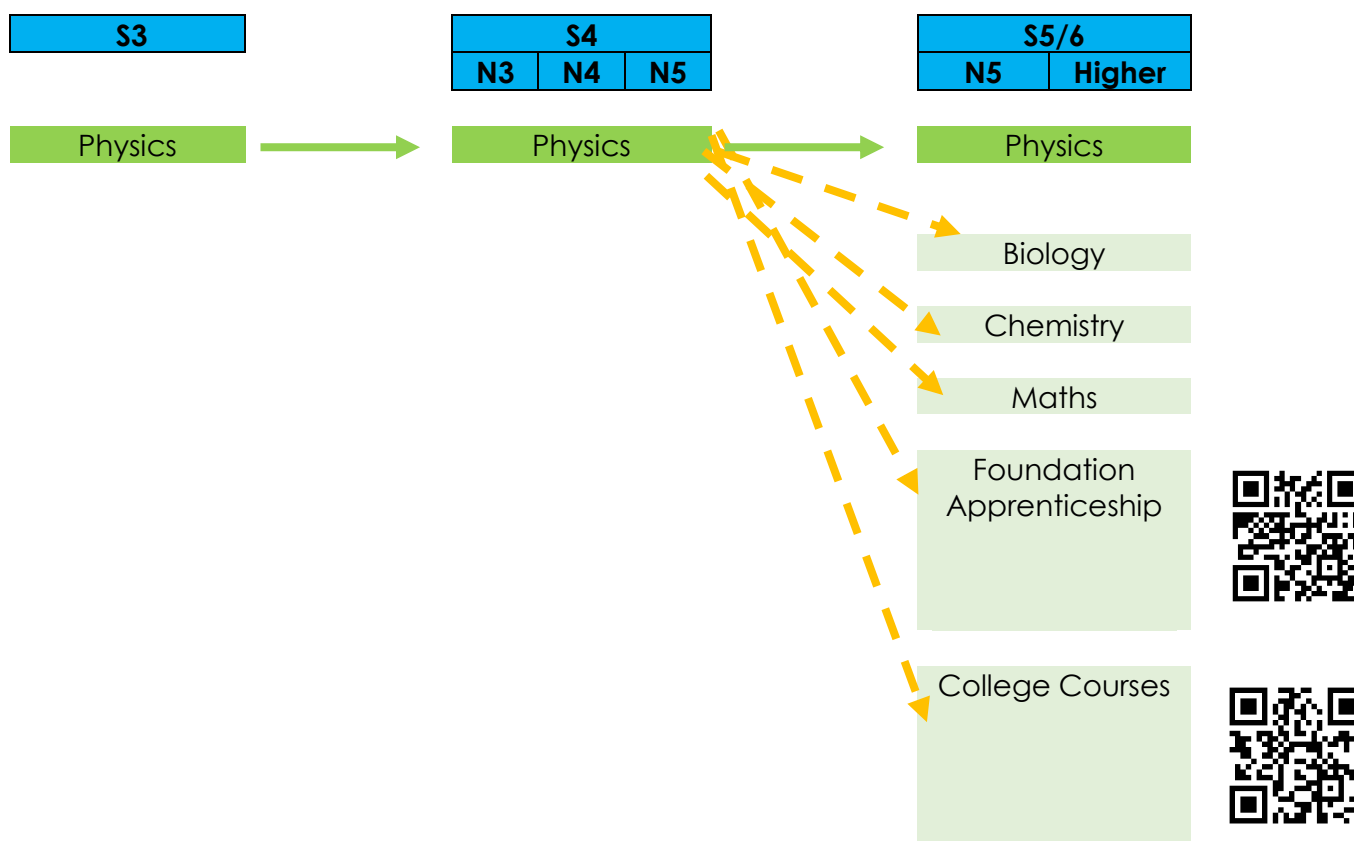
Physics

Physics is the study of matter, energy, and the interaction between them. It is the study of how things work. It is about asking fundamental questions and trying to answer them by observing and experimenting.

Physicists try to answer really big questions like:

- How did the universe begin?
- How will the universe change in the future?
- How does the Sun keep on shining?
- What are the basic building blocks of matter?

Progression Pathways



Possible Careers

- Engineering
- Aerospace Technology
- Astronomer
- Optometrist
- Teacher
- Meteorologist
- Telecommunications
- Nuclear Industry
- Doctor/Surgeon/Vet
- Radiographer
- Sports Scientist
- Lab Technician
- Sound and VFX

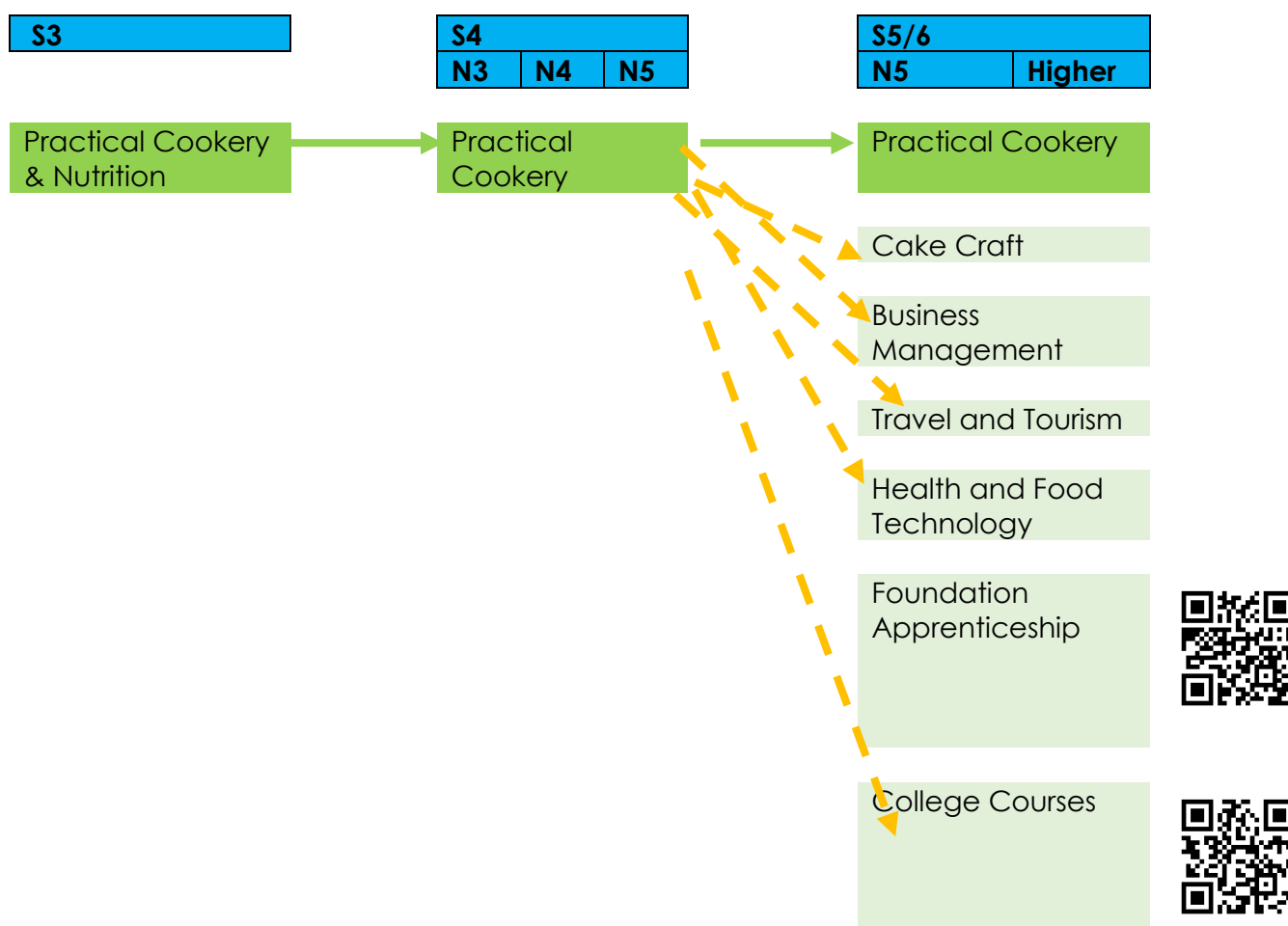


Courses on Offer

Practical Cookery & Nutrition

This is a mainly practical course, which covers a range of cookery skills, techniques and processes. Students have a practical lesson at least once a week during which in they will plan and produce a recipe. Students will develop basic cookery skills, food preparation techniques and demonstrate cookery processes in the preparation of simple dishes. To support the practical lessons and develop understanding of nutritional requirements, current dietary advice, product development and manufacturing there will be written work to be completed weekly. Students will also select from a range of ingredients taking account of health and wellbeing and sustainability. Health and Safety in the food preparation room is part of essential learning in the course.

Progression Pathways



Possible Careers

- Baker
- Chef
- Kitchen Assistant
- Kitchen Porter
- Bar Tender
- Cake Decorator
- Food Scientist
- Dietician
- Hotel Manager
- Butcher



Courses on Offer

Youth Scotland – Dynamic Youth Awards/ Youth Achievement Awards

This course offers recognition and accreditation for young people's achievements. They are learning awards that provide a framework to support quality work with young people. They are suitable for young people with a range of abilities and interests.

Projects that young people may choose to work on:

- Shared Reading
- Sports Leaders
- Fundraising/Charity Events
- Personal Development
- Community Projects eg Gardening or Cafes
- Intergenerational Work

Progression Pathways

