

Grange Academy

S3 into S4 Personalisation and Choice

2023/24



1 Introduction

Please find relevant information related to this year's Personalisation and Choice (Options) process for pupils moving from S3 into S4. In the coming weeks you will make your choices for your next year of study. During this time you should give yourself the opportunity to reflect on the following:

- your own strengths and interests
- the importance of keeping an open mind about possible pathways
- how to find and use career resources in school

2 Senior Phase and Progression

S4 marks the beginning of what is known as the Senior Phase. In S4, you are usually presented for a qualification at one of three levels:

National 3

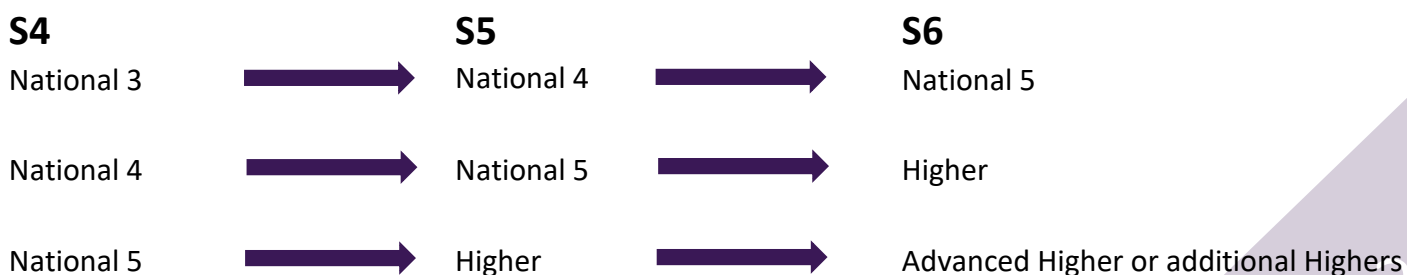
This qualification continues at the level of content covered at Third Level in the Broad General Education. There are no final exams and all of your work is marked in school. A National 3 qualification is graded Pass or Fail.

National 4

There is no exam in a National 4 course. Your work is assessed in school and you can either pass or fail a course. If you pass a National 4 course in S4 then you may progress to the National 5 course in that subject during S5. In some cases progression to National 5 in the same subject may not be the best course of action. Sometimes supplementary National 4 qualifications may be better suited to your needs. Each case can be examined and discussed with Principal Teachers (Pupil Support and Curriculum) on a pupil by pupil basis.

National 5

National 5 courses are on offer in all curricular areas. In nearly every subject you will sit an exam at the end of S4. The marks you gain in this exam will be added to coursework tasks (assignments/folios etc) to determine your final grade. The course is graded using the letters A, B, C, D and F. Progression from an 'A' or 'B' at National 5 will usually allow pupils to undertake Highers in S5.



In Grange Academy we offer a 'free choice' model, where pupils select subjects without the restriction of options columns.

There are two factors when selecting subjects:

- You should not select a subject that you did not study in S3 (unless it is a subject, such as Health Sector, which is appearing for the first time in S4)
- Only in exceptional circumstances should you select to study three subjects within a curricular area (Sciences, Social Subjects etc). At this stage it is important not to narrow your curriculum too much – additional information can be found below.

In total, pupils in S4 will study **seven** subjects plus PSE and Supporting Attainment periods. All pupils are obliged to study Maths and English until the end of S4. This means that you will select five other subjects during the options process.

For pupils involved in the **SFA Performance School** – two columns will be blocked off to enable you to access the requirements of the Performance School. In addition to Maths and English you will study **three** additional subjects.

For **Hearing Impaired** pupils – one column can be allocated for you to work with staff in the Hearing Impairment Department. In addition to Maths and English you will study **four** additional subjects.

Science Combinations

Very few, if any, University level courses state the need for three Sciences as an entry requirement. The overwhelming majority of courses seeking a Science qualification from school leavers state Chemistry as a necessary Science. In general, pupils wishing to study engineering would select Physics alongside Chemistry and those wishing to study Medicine, Dentistry etc would take Biology alongside Chemistry.

Will I definitely get to study my first-choice subjects?

We always aim to ensure that all pupils get to study their preferred subjects in S4. However, sometimes courses do not run because of low uptake or due to timetabling constraints. Unfortunately, we do not have an infinite amount of teaching time available and cannot always guarantee that a course will run.

Generally, a course needs at least ten pupils to run. If a course is oversubscribed, we may also have to look at your intended career path before coming to a decision about whether or not we should allocate a space to you.

For some pupils, the most appropriate pathway in S4 included a course at Ayrshire College. At the time of writing, the courses scheduled to run in Session 2021/22 are shown below.

College course provision will be discussed with pupils as a potential option in light of tracking data and intended career path.

All young people wishing to attend college must complete an online application form in order to secure a place on a programme of study. School staff will provide support and guidance in relation to the application process. You may be invited for interview and Ayrshire College will decide who is accepted on to each course. Should your application be rejected, you will need to select an additional subject to study in school.

COURSE TITLE	SCQF LEVEL	DAY(S)	TIMES
Steps to Work Award – Hair and Beauty	4	Tues/Thurs	2pm – 4pm
SfW Uniformed Services	4	Tues/Thurs	2pm – 4pm
NPA Professional Cookery	4	Tues/Thurs	2pm – 4pm
SfW Early Education & Childcare	4	Tues/Thurs	2pm – 4pm
NPA Software Development	4	Tues/Thurs	2pm – 4pm
SVQ Performing Engineering Operations (units only)	4	Tues/Thurs	2pm – 4pm
C&G Introduction to Construction (units only)	4	Tues/Thurs	2pm – 4pm
SfW Automotive Skills	4	Tues/Thurs	2pm – 4pm
NPA Hospitality	5	Tues/Thurs	2pm – 4pm
NPA Sports and Fitness: Team Sports (Football)	5	Tues/Thurs	2pm – 4pm
SfW Early Education & Childcare	5	Tues/Thurs	2pm – 4pm
Mental Health and Wellbeing Award	5	Tues/Thurs	2pm – 4pm

Please note, SCQF4 courses are broadly equivalent to National 4 school courses, and SCQF5 courses are broadly equivalent to National 5 school courses.

S3 into S4 pupils interested in selecting one of the courses shown must select 'College' on their options form.

Is there any advice that I should follow when choosing my subjects?

Yes, this is an important time of your school life and you should speak to your teachers, family and our careers advisers about your thoughts and ideas. In general it is important to consider the following when making your choices:

Your skills, talents and interests

You should think carefully about your own skills and talents. Some of us are very creative, others very sporty, some enjoy problem solving, others reflective writing or number processing. Think about what you are naturally good at. It is also important to think about subjects that capture your attention or interest outwith school.

Your family

Your family knows you best and always have your best interests at heart. The advice that you receive from your family plays an important role in the subject choices that you make. Take time to talk to your family about your choices. Ask those at home to help you decide if you are not sure. Your family will also have an idea of your progress based upon your homework and school reports. Often the advice that your family can provide is crucial at this time of your life. There are some great resources available to families as they help their child make their subject choices.

Parentzone

<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/learning-in-scotland/About%20the%203-18%20curriculum>

This website has been designed by Education Scotland to support parents and carers as they strive to understand the curriculum and qualifications.

My World of Work

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

My World of Work is a Skills Development Scotland service that provides a unique mix of resources, features and job information to help people discover more about themselves and the future world of work. You can also access My World of Work from Glow. We strongly encourage parents/carers to use this site with pupils.

My Kid's Career

<http://mykidscareer.com>

This is a new website designed to assist parents/carers to understand growth industries and potential career paths in 2020 and beyond.

National Parent Forum for Scotland

<https://www.npfs.org.uk/>

The National Parent Forum for Scotland website contains a series titled 'Nationals in a Nutshell'. The online guides can be used to find out more about National 4, National 5 and Higher qualifications.

Your friends

Friends are important people in your lives and you will often share similar interests. However, it is important to remember that your friends may have skills and talents that are different to yours. Sometimes this means that you won't choose to take the same subjects as your friends. Even if you pick the same subject as your friend, there is no guarantee that you would end up in the same class. Be careful that you don't pick a subject just because your friend has taken a subject. You could end up studying a course that doesn't make best use of your talents and skills.

Your teachers

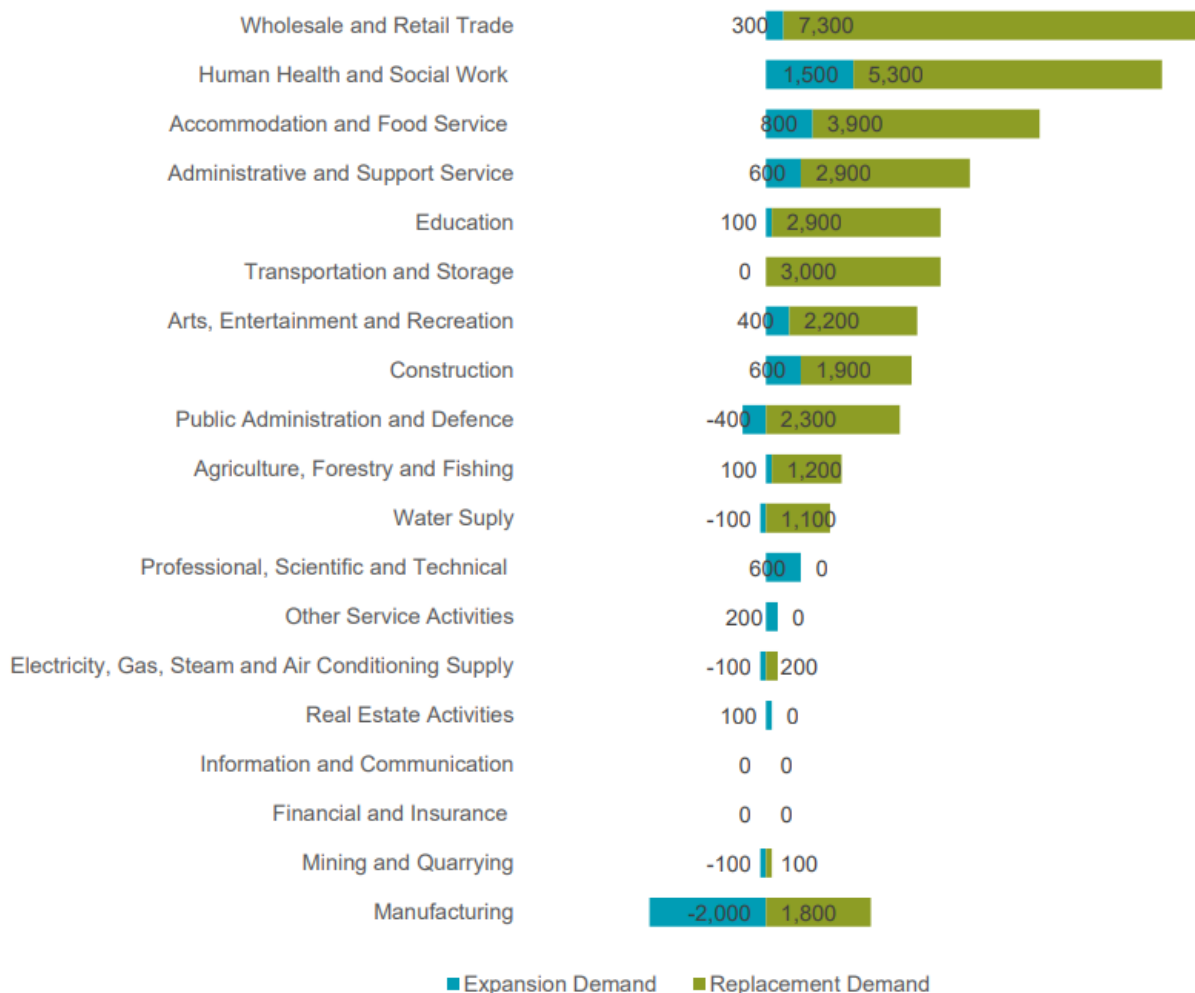
All of your teachers are highly professional and strive to offer you a first class education. Naturally, you may have teachers that you get on with very well or who bring subject content to life and inspire you. In a similar way to the influence of your friends, this is an important part of school life. However, you do not know if your teacher will be able to take your class in S4. The relationship that you have with your teacher is very important but it should not be the only factor that you consider when taking a subject on.

Your future

Some pupils will have a clear idea about what they want to do when they leave school. Other pupils will not yet have thought about the future or decided on a pathway. If you have a clear idea about what you would like to do then talk to your Pupil Support teacher or our Careers Adviser about what you need to take on in S4. If you are undecided then don't worry. Think about your skills and talents and make choices that will bring out the best in you.

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) release data every year which identifies trends in the 'labour market'. This means that they look at employment opportunities in a geographical area and provide advice about where there may be opportunities for work. This intelligence is a critical part of the decision making process when you begin to think about your future. Take time to sit with your parents or carers to look at this information.

Figure 12: Forecast total requirement by industry (2025-2032), Ayrshire



What happens next?

The rest of this booklet provides you with information on each subject on offer in S4. Please take time to read all pages carefully. Teachers have provided as much information as possible. Once you have read this booklet take some time to talk to your family.

Who will help me?

- Subject teachers will clarify the different learning pathways open to you in each department
- A member of the Pupil Support team will carry out personalisation and choice interviews and talk to you about the decisions that you intend to make.
- Finally, and most importantly, you will complete your options form in discussion with your parents or carers

Career Aspiration	Anticipated Leaving Date	end S4	end S5	end S6

end S4 end S5 end S6

S6

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
PSE	

Pupil Signature _____ Parent Signature _____ Grange Staff Signature _____

LANGUAGES

English	✓
French	
Mandarin	
Spanish	

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics	✓
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EXPRESSIVE ARTS

Art and Design	
Drama	
Music	

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Physical Education	
Practical Cookery	

SCIENCES

Biology	
Chemistry	
Physics	
Health Sector	
Science (National 4 only)	N4

SOCIAL STUDIES

Geography	
History	
Modern Studies	
Travel and Tourism	

TECHNOLOGIES

Business Management	
Computing Science	
NPA Games Development	
Design and Manufacture	
Graphic Communication	
Practical Woodwork	

OTHER

College (please see over)	
Hearing Impairment	
SFA Performance School 1	
SFA Performance School 2	

COLLEGE PROVISION

For some pupils, the most appropriate pathway in S4 includes College courses. Ayrshire College often confirm provision around March of each year. At the time of writing, the courses scheduled to run in session 2023/24 are shown below. College course provision will be discussed with pupils as a potential option in light of tracking data and intended career path.

COURSE TITLE	LEVEL	PLEASE SELECT ONE	APPLICATION COMPLETE?
Steps to Work Award – Hair and Beauty	4		
SfW Uniformed Services	4		
NPA Professional Cookery	4		
SfW Early Education & Childcare	4		
NPA Software Development	4		
SVQ Performing Engineering Operations (units only)	4		
C&G Introduction to Construction (units only)	4		
SfW Automotive Skills	4		
NPA Hospitality	5		
NPA Sports and Fitness: Team Sports (Football)	5		
SfW Early Education & Childcare	5		
Mental Health and Wellbeing Award	5		

GLOSSARY

SfW – Skills for Work

NPA – National Progression Award

SVQ – Scottish Vocational Qualification

C&G – City and Guilds

SCQF – Scottish Credit & Qualification Framework

Level 4 – approx. Nat 4 level

Level 5 – approx. Nat 5 level

Level 6 – approx. Higher level