

# Welcome

## S4/5 into S5/6 – Personalisation and Choice



# School Prayer

God our Father, creator of the world,  
you sent your son Jesus to be one of us  
and to show us how to live in the way of love.  
Inspire us with the Holy Spirit, who lives in our hearts.  
St. Joseph, guide our families and us on the path of life.  
Support us by the example of our house patron saints.  
Help us to live out our school values  
by following your example of love every day of our lives.  
St Joseph, pray for us.



# Programme

- Kate Faulds – Careers Adviser, Skills Development Scotland
- Joe Kane – Head Teacher



# Programme

- SDS Advice
- Regional Skills Assessment
- SCQF Framework and Subject 'levels'
- Progression – With Examples
- College Provision
- Foundation Apprenticeships
- S6



# Option Choices & Pathways Information Evening

**Kate Faulds**  
**Careers Adviser**  
**St Joseph's Academy**

# The World of Work is changing

Jobs exist today which didn't even exist five years ago, and this will continue to be the case.

What is important is that your young person is able to use their career management skills and find the right career path for them.



# Career Management Skills



# Meta-skills



## Self-management

### Focusing

You can maintain interest and concentrate on a task for a period of time, and not be distracted.



### Integrity

You are guided by your own principles and values and are considered trustworthy, open and honest by others.



### Adapting

You can respond confidently and constructively to new ideas and experiences and unexpected challenges.



### Initiative

You are confident in your own abilities and judgement. You can take decisions and have responsibility for your own actions.



## Social intelligence

### Communicating

You have the ability to openly share information in the best way that helps everyone understand your thoughts and ideas.



### Feeling

You can see things from other people's point of view and this helps you understand their feelings and motivations.



### Collaborating

You are good at building and maintaining relationships with other people so everyone can work together to achieve shared goals.



### Leading

By having a sense of direction and purpose, you can encourage and motivate others to work towards agreed tasks and goals.



## Innovation

### Curiosity

Being curious is the desire to learn or know something in order to increase your understanding of an opportunity or problem.



### Sense-making

You can determine the deeper meaning of what is being expressed and organise information into an understandable form which is easier to use.



### Creativity

Using your imagination, you are able to think of new ways of addressing problems and this enables you to visualise solutions.



### Critical thinking

You are able to process, analyse and evaluate information to solve complex problems and form an opinion after careful thought.





# Support and conversations we have in school

## SDS careers advisers might speak to your young person about:



Finding out about their self, strengths and skills



Routes into careers including apprenticeships



Making decisions such as option choices



Building and developing networks



Different types of careers and how to research them



Help with creating CVs



Developing the types of skills that are useful in a job



Making applications and applying for courses

# Routes & Pathways

Apply for  
Further Education

Entrepreneurship

Apply for  
a Modern  
Apprenticeship/  
Training

Return to school/  
Plan for University

Seek  
employment



# Build on school qualifications

- Take time to explore options available in school
- Ensure you know essential/useful subjects for future career plans
- Consider new subjects/courses e.g. Creative Thinking, Foundation Apprenticeship or a college option

# COLLEGE PATHWAYS

**Wide variety of courses with varied entry requirements**



**Clear progression pathways to work or further study**



**Get Qualifications after completing each level of study**



**Smaller class sizes than most university lectures**



# College

Wide variety of courses

Vocational/work focus

Entrance requirements vary depending on level of course:

HND Higher National Diploma 2 Highers or HNC

HNC Higher National Certificate 1-2 Highers or NC/NQ

NC/NQ National Certificate/National Qualification  
National 4 or 5

Apply directly to colleges from **December/January** – online through individual college websites

# University

- Degree – at **LEAST** 4 Highers or HNC/HND – check individual university websites for detailed information
- Vocational or interest-based course usually requiring 4 years of study
- Evidence of motivation & relevant work experience
- Be aware of admissions tests - UCAT (Medicine/Dentistry) and LNAT (LLB Law at University of Glasgow)
- Aim high, be aspirational but also realistic with course choices
- If in any doubt about achieving grades, consider college as a back-up

# APPRENTICESHIP PATHWAYS

**Over 80 different  
types of Modern  
Apprenticeship**



**Earn while you  
learn. Work &  
get Qualified**



**Qualifications  
SCQF level 5 to  
SCQF level 12**



**Get the  
qualifications  
and experience  
employers want**



# Apprenticeships: the basics

## Foundation Apprenticeships

- You spend time at college or another learning provider while getting work experience.
- Lasts 1 to 2 years.
- **Is an option choice**, usually in S4 or S5.
- Offers a qualification at SCQF Level 4, 5 or 6 (same level as a Nat 4, Nat 5 or Higher).

## Modern Apprenticeships

- You earn a wage by working while also spending time at college or university.
- Lasts 1 to 4 years.
- Is open to anyone at the age you can leave school.
- Offers a qualification, ranging from SCQF Level 4/5 to SCQF Level 11.

## Graduate Apprenticeships

- You earn a wage by working while also spending time at college or university.
- Lasts 2 to 5 years.
- Is open to anyone at the age you can leave school.
- Offers you a qualification up to master's degree level.



# My World of Work

What's out there?

How to find the right information



# Parent & Carer Voice Survey 2024-2025

## Feedback on Skills Development Scotland's (SDS) career service:

Parents and carers are key influencers over young people's career ambitions and choices.

SDS work in close partnership with the school to support our young people to make informed career choices and they would value feedback from parents and carers on their services. You can do this by taking part in a short survey.

All responses are confidential and anonymous, and the results will be used to inform SDS services.

The survey should only take about 10 minutes to complete.

Survey link will be available on school app and website.



## The research findings are used to....



Inform the **design and improvement** of SDS services for parents as a key influencer of young people's career choices.



Inform the way SDS **communicates** with parents to inform them of service offers.



Increase SDS **understanding of parents' awareness** and understanding of the range of post school pathways and options open to young people.



**Develop resources/information** to enable parents to support young people in their career choices.

# Get in touch!

Kate Faulds  
Careers Adviser

In school Monday - Friday

Drop in over interval and  
lunch

Contact me on:



07500 097 503



kate.faulds@sds.co.uk



@StJoAcadCareers

# Regional Skills Assessment



# Regional Skills Assessment

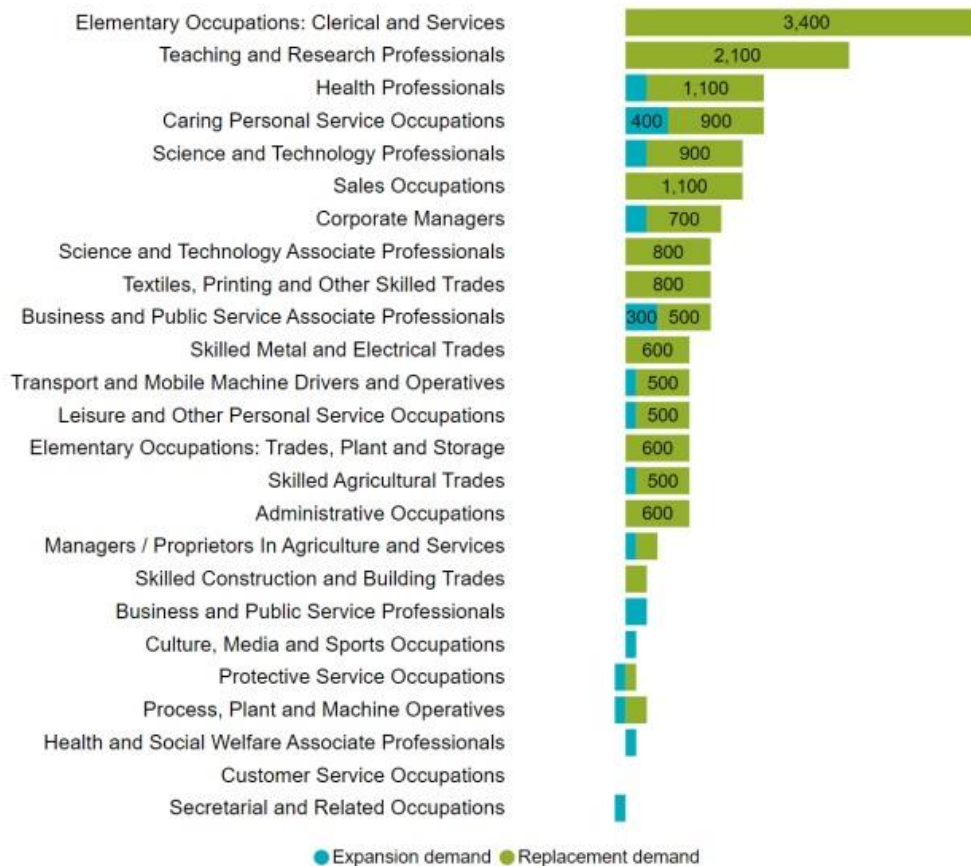
## Forecast Total Requirement by Industry (2024-2027), Ayrshire





# Regional Skills Assessment

## Forecast Total Requirement by Occupation (2024-2027), Ayrshire



# Areas of Growth

## By Industry

Wholesale and Retail

Human Health and Social Care

Accommodation and Food/Service

Administrative and Support Services

## By Occupation

Clerical and Services

Teaching/Research

Health Professionals

Care Sector Employment



# SCQF Framework



# THE SCOTTISH CREDIT AND QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

This Framework diagram has been produced to show the mainstream Scottish qualifications already credit rated by SQA and HEIs. However, there are a diverse number of learning programmes on the Framework, which, due to the limitations of this format, cannot be represented here. For more information, please visit the SCQF website at [www.scqf.org.uk](http://www.scqf.org.uk) to view the interactive version of the Framework or search the Database.



SCQF Levels	SQA Qualifications		Qualifications of Higher Education Institutions	SVQs/MAs	
12			↑	Doctoral Degree	Professional Apprenticeship
11				Masters Degree, Integrated Masters Degree, Post Graduate Diploma, Post Graduate Certificate	Professional Apprenticeship SVQ 5
10				Honours Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate	Professional Apprenticeship
9			Professional Development Award	Bachelors / Ordinary Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate	Technical Apprenticeship SVQ 4
8		Higher National Diploma		Diploma Of Higher Education	Technical Apprenticeship SVQ 4
7	Advanced Higher, Awards, Scottish Baccalaureate	Higher National Certificate		Certificate Of Higher Education	Modern Apprenticeship SVQ 3
6	Higher, Awards, Skills for Work Higher		↑		Modern Apprenticeship Foundation Apprenticeship SVQ 3
5	National 5, Awards, Skills for Work National 5				Modern Apprenticeship SVQ 2
4	National 4, Awards, Skills for Work National 4	National Certificate	National Progression Award		SVQ 1
3	National 3, Awards, Skills for Work National 3				
2	National 2, Awards				
1	National 1, Awards				

# Senior Phase Curriculum – SCQF Levels

Over the past few years our Senior Phase curriculum offer has been extended with the introduction of a number of new courses.

Subject departments offer National Qualifications ranging from National 3 to Higher, with a few offering Advanced Higher.

In addition, pupils have the opportunity to choose courses aligned to Developing the Young Workforce (DYW).

Our School College Partnership remains on offer and young people have the opportunity to engage in vocational qualifications delivered at SCQF Levels 4 - 7.



# Subject Choices



# Structure of S5-S6 - Qualifications

## S5

5 subjects

National/SCQF 4

National/SCQF 5

Higher/SCQF 6

Wider Achievement

College Provision

## S6

Up to 5 subjects

National 5/SCQF5

Higher/SCQF6

Advanced Higher/SCQF7

College Provision

Wider Achievement

Foundation

Apprenticeships

# National 5s

Application of Maths

Biology

Chemistry

Drama

French

German

Modern Studies

PE

RMPS\*

Art

Business Management

Computing Science

English

Geography

History

Music

Physics

Spanish

# Highers

Administration and IT

Biology

Computing Science

ESOL

German

Modern Studies

Physics

RMPS

Application of Maths

Business Management

Drama

French

History

Music

Politics (S6)

Spanish

Art and Design

Chemistry

English

Geography

Maths

PE

Psychology (S6)

# Other SCQF Courses

NPA Criminology (SCQF5)

Personal Finance

Creative Thinking

Sports Recreation/Leadership

Health Sector

Music Theatre



# Advanced Highers

Art and Design

Biology

Chemistry

English

French

History

Maths

Music

Physics

Spanish

PE



# S5 University Place Pathway

## Advice and Guidance



## General Advice for those wishing to go to University

- Study five Highers in S5 where possible, but no less than four if you intend to accumulate enough Highers to meet entry requirements for University courses
- If wanting to pursue a career in law, medicine, dentistry, optometry or veterinary studies, you must attain five strong (often A grade) Highers in S5
- For many courses, four strong Highers may be enough to secure entry to the course of your choice
- Commit the next year of your life to serious studying and familiarise yourself with the entry requirements for courses you are interested in
- Understand the increased demand of Higher courses (often more than double the content of N5 courses)



# How do I prioritise subjects in S5?

- Those subjects listed as entry requirements for the university course(s) of your choice (presuming you pass National 5 in S4)
- Those subjects where you are predicted to attain an 'A' or a 'B' pass at National 5 level
- Those subjects you are good at
- Those subjects you enjoy



# Progression Data



# Progression Statistics – National SQA Data

In the following subjects, progression from a 'C' at N5 to a pass at Higher is **realistic** for **at least 50%** of pupils:

Art and Design                      50% attaining a 'C' went on to pass Higher

Modern Studies                      56% attaining a 'C' went on to pass Higher

Music                                      63% attaining a 'C' went on to pass Higher

Music Technology                      64% attaining a 'C' went on to pass Higher

PE    57% attaining a 'C' went on to pass Higher

RMPS                                        50% attaining a 'C' went on to pass Higher



# Progression Statistics – National SQA Data

In the following subjects, progression from a 'C' at N5 to a pass at Higher is **less likely** for most pupils:

Application of Maths      46% attaining a 'C' went on to pass Higher

Business Management      46% attaining a 'C' went on to pass Higher

Drama      48% attaining a 'C' went on to pass Higher

History      47% attaining a 'C' went on to pass Higher

Geography      44% attaining a 'C' went on to pass Higher



## Progression Statistics – National SQA Data

In the following subjects, progression from a 'C' at N5 to a pass at Higher is **not likely** for most pupils:

Biology                      31% attaining a 'C' went on to pass Higher

Chemistry                    26% attaining a 'C' went on to pass Higher

Computing                    20% attaining a 'C' went on to pass Higher

English                        29% attaining a 'C' went on to pass Higher





## Progression Statistics – National SQA Data

In the following subjects, progression from a 'C' at N5 to a pass at Higher is **not likely** for most pupils:

ESOL	8% attaining a 'C' went on to pass Higher
French	17% attaining a 'C' went on to pass Higher
Maths	22% attaining a 'C' went on to pass Higher
Physics	38% attaining a 'C' went on to pass Higher
Spanish	23% attaining a 'C' went on to pass Higher



# Worked Examples



## Example – S4 Attainment

N5	English	B
N5	Maths	B
N5	Chemistry	A
N5	PE	No award
N5	Design and Manufacture	A
N5	Physics	B
N5	Modern Studies	C



## Example – S4 Attainment into S5 choices

N5	English	B	S5 Choices
N5	Maths	B	Higher English
N5	Chemistry	A	Higher Maths
N5	PE	No award	Higher Physics
N5	Design and Manufacture	A	Higher Chemistry
N5	Physics	B	Higher Design and Manufacture
N5	Modern Studies	C	

You may love PE, but using the sample data set above, it would be foolish to progress in PE at the expense of subjects where your attainment in S4 was significantly better!



# S5 Broaden Portfolio of Attainment Pathway

## Advice and Guidance



## General Advice for those wishing to broaden their portfolio of qualifications in S5 and S6

- Some pupils may feel that sitting some Highers in S5 and others in S6 is the best pathway to follow to access university courses
- Where you have attained an 'A' or a 'B' in National 5 course, we strongly encourage you to progress to Higher in S5
- This may mean you will mix Highers and National 5s next session
- You must ensure that you understand the entry requirements for the course you are interested in



## Example – S4 Attainment

N5 Maths D  
N5 English B  
N5 History A  
N5 Art C  
N4 Biology Pass  
N5 Chemistry C  
N4 Music Pass



## Example – S4 Attainment into S5 choices

N5	Maths	D	S5 Choices	
N5	English	B	Higher	English
N5	History	A	Higher	History
N5	Art	C	Higher	Art
N4	Biology	Pass	N5	Maths (Repeat)
N5	Chemistry	C	N5	Music or Biology
N4	Music	Pass		

Given that a 'C' pass for N5 Art often leads to a Higher, while a 'C' in Chemistry may be more difficult to convert, we would advise that you take Art as your third Higher and consider Chemistry in S6. Trying to take four Highers in one sitting may result in pressure or stress that leads to poorer attainment overall. Having a two year plan is appropriate for some learners. Higher Chemistry and Higher Maths could be picked up in S6.





# S5 School and College

## Advice and Guidance



## General Advice for those wishing to prepare to move onto college, employment, training or an apprenticeship

- Where your grades in S4 support progression to Higher qualifications, we will always recommend that you take the Higher course
- Visit the Ayrshire College website and explore potential pathways that could lead to a place on a college course in S6 or a Foundation or Modern Apprenticeship
- Consider alternative internal courses such as Creative Thinking, Music Theatre, Sport and Recreation



## Example – S4 Attainment

- N4 Maths Pass
- N4 English Pass
- N4 Biology Pass
- N4 PE Pass
- N4 Music Pass
- N5 Art B
- N4 Computing Pass



## Example – S4 Attainment into S5 choices

- N4 Maths Pass
- N4 English Pass
- N4 Biology Pass
- N4 PE Pass
- N4 Music Pass
- N5 Art B
- N4 Computing Pass

### S5 Choices

National 5 Maths  
National 5 English  
Creative Thinking  
Higher Art

College Provision related to Music, Computing or  
Biology or N5 Music, Computing or Biology in school



# Ayrshire College

## School Partnership Programme



# Ayrshire College

- Application Process
- Courses at various SCQF levels
- Will miss class delivery on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons
- School has no say in acceptance or otherwise



# College Provision – SCQF 4 and 5

- NPA Software Development
- Introduction to the Construction Industry
- Early Education and Childcare
- SVQ1 Performing Engineering Operations\*\*\*
- Hair and Beauty

# College Provision – SCQF 4 and 5

- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- NPA Professional Cookery
- NPA Hospitality
- Automotive Skills
- NPA Sport Fitness
- ESOL – Details TBC



# College Provision – SCQF 6 and 7

- NPA Software Development (SCQF6)
- HNC Applied Sciences (Infill, all day Tues/Thurs, SCQF7)
- NPA Psychology (SCQF6)
- HNC Sports Coaching and Development (Infill, all day Tues/Thurs, SCQF7)

# Foundation Apprenticeships



# Foundation Apprenticeships

- SDS Initiative designed to blend learning with work based placement
- Can lead to a Modern Apprenticeship after school
- Modern Apprenticeships offer employment with accredited training
- Engineering Year 1 (Aeronautical) – Ayr Campus, Tues/Thurs 2pm to 5pm (SCQF6)
- Engineering Year 1 (Electrical) – Kilwinning Campus, Tues/Thurs 2pm to 5pm (SCQF6)



# Foundation Apprenticeships - Considerations

- Must have a strong desire to pursue a career in Food and Drink Technology/Food Science or Social Services
- You are expected to be able to work at around Higher level (SCQF6)
- You must consider the impact of missing two full days of school on your attainment in school based courses
- Travel costs will be covered by East Ayrshire
- Application process



# Full Time College Courses

## Leaving School

**See Ayrshire College or School website**



# S5 pupils moving into S6

## Expectations



# Our Expectations

- Complete support for uniform policy, including blazer (applies to S5 as well)
- 100% attendance where possible
- Desire to demonstrate leadership by example via mentoring opportunities
- Commitment to the wider life of the school/school events
- Focussed, committed pupil leaders



# Caritas

- Delivered during core RE time
- Commitment to the faith life of the school and your local parish/church/faith based environment
- Document hours of service
- Faith in Action
- SCES Award





# YASS

- Open University Modules delivered Online
- Broadly at SCQF7 level (Advanced Higher, first year of University)
- Self directed online
- Does not contribute directly to UCAS but does count towards Open University study and wider attainment profile
- Variety of courses in a range of areas
- More information here – [YASS Blog](#)



## S6 Pathways

**I need to attain specific qualifications in S6 to be able to apply for university or college**



# Advice and Guidance

- Study at least four subjects
- Meet with Miss Faulds to figure out what you require
- Prioritise subjects where you attained well in S4 but did not take the subject on in S5



## S6 Pathways

**I have already attained what I require for college**



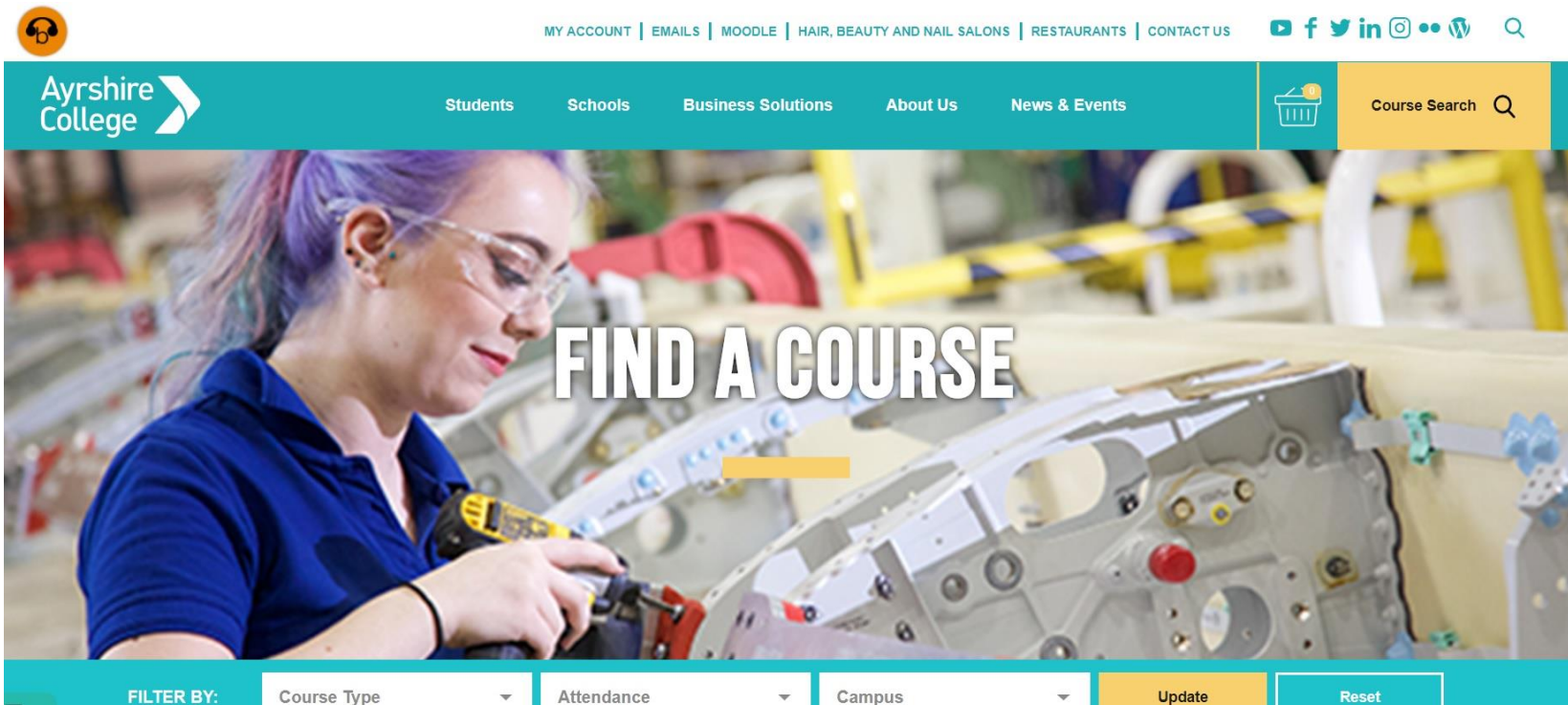
# Advice

- If you are already able to secure a place at College next session, it may be best to consider taking up the offer of a place
- While we would be delighted if you stayed on, we often find that those pupils already aware of the security of a college place can lose interest in school based learning
- However, we recognise that the leadership opportunities on offer may be appealing. Commitment and dedication are necessary to benefit from these opportunities



Check full time courses here:

<http://www1.ayrshire.ac.uk/find-a-course/all-courses/>



The screenshot displays the Ayrshire College website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the college logo on the left and a menu of links: MY ACCOUNT, EMAILS, MOODLE, HAIR, BEAUTY AND NAIL SALONS, RESTAURANTS, and CONTACT US. To the right of these links are social media icons for YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, and YouTube, along with a search icon. Below the navigation bar is a teal header with the Ayrshire College logo and a navigation menu containing: Students, Schools, Business Solutions, About Us, and News & Events. On the right side of this header is a yellow 'Course Search' button with a shopping cart icon and a search icon. The main content area features a large banner image of a young woman with purple hair, wearing safety glasses and a blue polo shirt, working on a white aircraft fuselage. Overlaid on this image is the text 'FIND A COURSE' in large, white, bold letters. Below the banner is a teal filter section with the text 'FILTER BY:' followed by three dropdown menus: 'Course Type', 'Attendance', and 'Campus'. To the right of these dropdowns are two buttons: 'Update' and 'Reset'.



## S6 Pathways

**I have already attained what I require for  
university**



# Advice

- Many young people elect to begin University at the end of S6, having attained what they require in S5
- Advanced Highers or additional Highers are often one reason for staying on
- Leadership experience and the opportunity to develop team work skills is another
- Dedication and commitment is non-negotiable, it is not a year off!





# Advanced Highers

- Schools in Kilmarnock, Stewarton and Loudon often deliver at least one Advanced Higher that is accessible to pupils from the other schools in the above areas
- In the main, we have managed to deliver almost all Advanced Highers on site
- If there is another Advanced Higher subject you wish to study that is not on our options form, please discuss this with your Pastoral Care teacher during your interview. We will pass your name onto other local schools and the wider Ayrshire and Galloway online programme to try to ensure that you can access the course if running elsewhere.



# Advanced Highers

Art and Design

Biology

Chemistry

English

French

History

Maths

Music

Physics

Spanish

PE

# Advanced Highers - Challenges

- Legal obligation to deliver S1-S3 (BGE) and to give S4 and S5 students the chance to sit N4, N5 and Higher
- Same constraints allowed you to sit your subjects in S1-S5
- Uncertainty around S1 numbers, staffing and S2-S5 options means that at the moment, we can only confirm that we will offer AH Modern Languages and AH Art
- Interim update in relation to AH offering elsewhere around May



# UCAS

# Covered in August

# 2025



# Next Steps

- Time with family on My World of Work and reading the guidance issued this evening
- Discussion with family following Parents' Evening
- Preparation for your options interview over the next fortnight
- Lunchtime drop ins with MyWoW ambassadors
- Group Sessions with SDS



# Options Form and Interview

- Our current column structure has been in place for a number of years
- We use 'free choice' which means that you do not choose from columns in the first instance
- Where this presents issues for some pupils, we may revert to a column structure for those pupils
- Need will be prioritised over want (please see booklet for a detailed example)
- Interviews to take place as of tomorrow



# Questions

