

# Welcome

## S3 into S4 – 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 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
- Angela Buchanan – Acting Head Teacher



# Structure of S4/ National Qualifications



# Structure of S4-S6 - Qualifications

## S4

7 subjects

National 3

National 4

National 5

Wider Achievement

## S5

5 subjects

National 4

National 5

Higher

Wider Achievement

## S6

Up to 5 subjects

National 5

Higher

Advanced Higher

Wider Achievement



# Current S3 Structure

- At least one Modern Language or SfL Tutorial
- Maths
- English
- Core PE, Core PSE, Core RE
- Two Sciences
- Two Technologies
- Two Social Subjects
- Two Arts/Wellbeing



# Moving into S4

- Maths
- English
- Core PE, Core PSE, Core RE

Subjects listed above remain Core and compulsory for all pupils

## Plus five from:

- Modern Language(s)
  - Two Sciences
  - Two Technologies
  - Two Social Subjects
  - Two Arts/Wellbeing
- 
- Narrowed down to **five subjects only**

# Structure of S4-S6 - Qualifications

S4

7 subjects

National 3

National 4

National 5

Wider Achievement i.e.  
SCQF and SfW Awards



# SCQF3/National 3

- Assessed in school and graded as either a pass or fail
- No examination
- Broadly set at work equivalent to that of late S2 or early S3
- Progression is to National 4



# SCQF4/National 4

- Assessed in school and graded as either a pass or fail
- No examination
- Broadly set at work equivalent to that of late late S3 with elements of N5 content
- Progression is to National 5



# SCQF5/National 5

- Exams and Coursework tasks combined to give an overall graded award at either A, B, C, D or F
- Examinations, coursework tasks/projects
- Progression is to Higher (if attaining an 'A' or 'B' at National 5)



# Learner Pathways

- Some pupils will complete seven National 5 courses (aspirational policy in terms of levels)
- Some pupils will take a combination of National 4 and National 5 courses
- Some pupils will go to College and study six subjects, often a combination of National 4 and National 5
- Some pupils will study one or two National 3 awards with a combination of National 4 and National 5 in other subject areas



# Free Choice Model

- List of subjects
- You select five to take in S4
- School staff then attempt to create a schematic/timetable that allows as many pupils as possible to be placed in their chosen subjects
- The process of timetabling accounts for options from S2-S6
- Can have a direct impact on staff retention and recruitment
- Free choice is not the same as a restricted column-based model where pupils need select from a small list of pre-selected subjects in each of five columns
- However, free choice models are still restricted by the realities of timetabling, for example
  - Two of your five chosen subjects only occur once on the timetable and must be timetabled at the same time
  - Lack of uptake creates unviable sections

# Free Choice Model

- Are there any restrictions on the choices I can make?

Yes

- ✓ You cannot elect to take on a subject in S4 that you are not studying in S3
- ✓ By extension, this means you cannot take three Science subjects
- ✓ You cannot select PE (Aesthetics) and PE (Team Sports) as they are the same qualification delivered via different activities

*\*Recruitment challenges in some areas i.e. Tech, HE can dictate availability of courses*

# Areas for consideration – pupils, parents & carers



## UG 2026 SCOTS LAW LLB

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

## FOR ENTRY IN 2026

You should refer to the entry requirements for both subjects and the degree award when applying for a [joint honours degree programme](#). The higher entry requirement (where applicable) and additional requirements must be met for both subjects.

## Summary of entry requirements for Scots Law

## SQA Higher entry requirements

- AAAAB is the minimum requirement from S5 to be reviewed for an S6 offer
- Offers are not guaranteed to applicants who meet the minimum from S5
- Typically offers will be made at AAAAAA by the end of S6. B at Advanced Higher is equivalent to A at Higher
- Additional requirements: Higher English and Advanced Higher Humanities
- Satisfactory completion of [LNAT](#).

Law, UofG

requirements

Fees &amp; funding

Careers

Ap

## Entry requirements

Required subjects are shown in brackets.

Mech.  
Engineering,  
Strathclyde



## Highers

[Standard entry requirements\\*](#): AAAAB

(Maths A, Physics A)

[Minimum entry requirements\\*\\*](#): AABB

(Maths and Physics or Engineering Science)

## Advanced Highers

Maths and Physics recommended





# HNC Sports Coaching and Development

**i** This course isn't currently open for applications, but you can still register your interest.

**Qualifications**

Higher National  
Qualifications

**SCQF Level**

SCQF Level 7

**Study mode**

[Various options](#)

**Campus**

Ayr, Kilmarnock,  
Kilwinning

**Start date**

August 2026

**Duration**

36 weeks

[Register Interest](#)

**More information**

Student Funding and  
Money Support



College life



Tuition Fees



Know your SCQF  
Level



Contact the  
Information Hub



## Attendance/Duration

Full-time, one year

## Overview

Unlock your potential in the sports, exercise, or leisure industry with our HNC Sports Coaching and Development course. Tailored for sports and fitness enthusiasts, this one-year program equips you with the knowledge and skills to confidently develop participant talent across a range of sports.

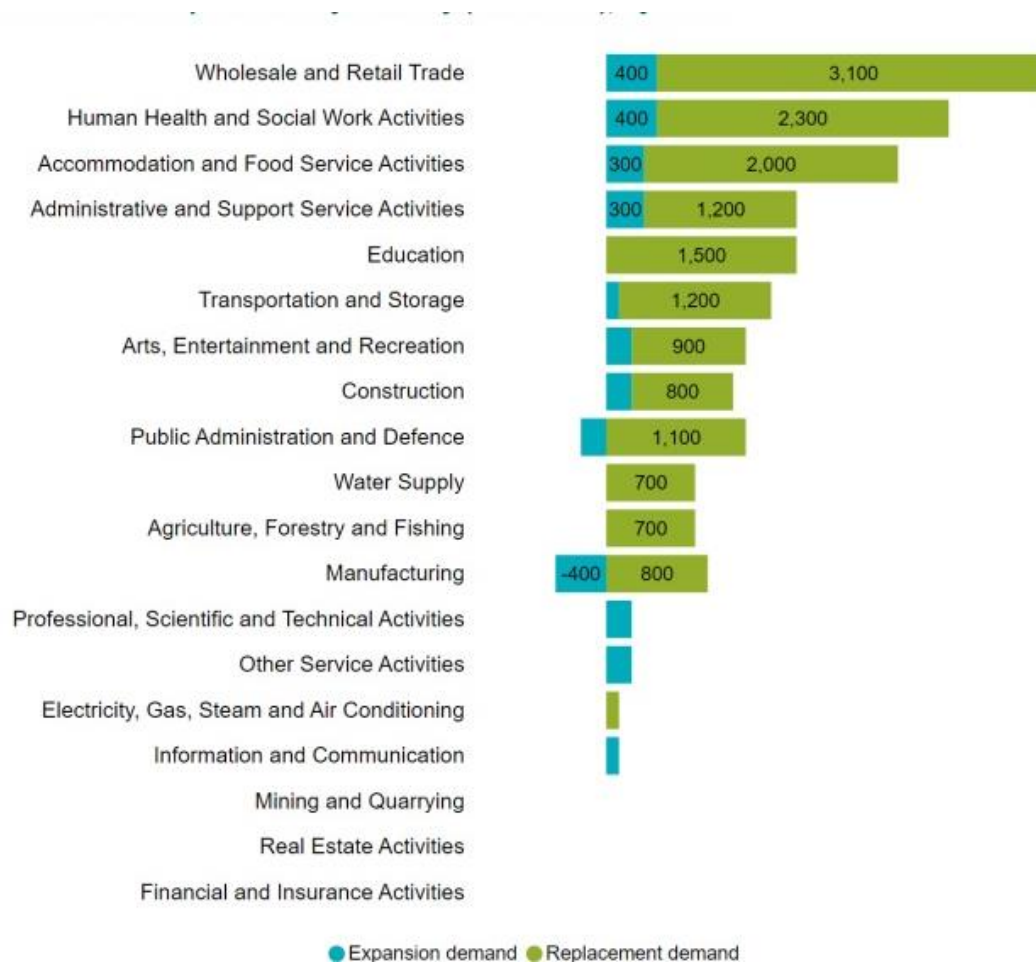
## Entry Requirements

- genuine interest in sport and fitness
- two Graded Highers (A-C) OR a pass in a relevant NC course at SCQF Level 6
- interview with us
- membership in the PVG scheme – the College will arrange this.

If you have no formal qualifications, but life experience, we'll consider you.



# Regional Skills Assessment



<https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/media/j0if4bqs/rsa-regional-report-ayrshire.pdf>

# Regional Skills Assessment

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



<https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/media/j0if4bqs/rsa-regional-report-ayrshire.pdf>

# Areas of Growth

## By Industry

Wholesale and Retail

Human Health and Social Care

Accommodation and Food/Service

Administrative and Support Services

## By Occupation

Health Professions

Clerical and Services

Teaching/Research

Care Sector Employment

# Attainment Statistics – National SQA Data

Subject	Grade(s)	2023	2024	2025
Applications of Mathematics	A to C	61.90%	59.30%	62.10%
Biology	A to C	72.90%	64.50%	65.70%
English	A to C	86.30%	84.30%	85.60%
Mathematics	A to C	62.40%	68.10%	69.30%
Physical Education	A to C	95.20%	94.90%	96.00%
Applications of Mathematics	A	25.20%	25.60%	29.10%
Biology	A	34.20%	28.00%	28.80%
English	A	39.80%	37.10%	40.50%
Mathematics	A	28.30%	39.80%	39.70%
Physical Education	A	54.30%	47.60%	47.80%

Statistics shown refer to data released in 2025, and available from

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/114507.html#attainment-in-graded-national-qualifications>

This data is released in late January every calendar year and updated here in advance of Information Evenings.



# SQA National Ratings – ‘Difficulty ratings’ – National 5

Title	National Rating
Administration and IT	0.28
Applications of Mathematics	-0.18
Art and Design	0.20
Biology	-0.31
Business Management	0.03
Chemistry	-0.47
Computing Science	-0.25
Drama	0.78
Economics	-0.39
English	0.25
English for Speakers of Other Languages	0.67
French	-0.10
Geography	-0.37
German	0.00
Graphic Communication	-0.31
History	0.02
Mathematics	-0.36
Modern Studies	-0.16
Music	0.68
Music Technology	0.51
Physical Education	0.83
Physics	-0.53
Practical Woodworking	0.98
Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies	-0.14
Spanish	0.14

Statistics shown refer to data released in 2019, and available online from SQA



# Progression Statistics – National SQA Data

S4 'C' Pass at National 5	Progression to an 'A' to 'C' pass at Higher
Music Technology	68%
ESOL	65%
Music	56%
Business Management	54%
PE	52%
Modern Studies	52%
Geography	51%
Drama	49%
Art and Design	47%
RMPS	45%
Graphics	42%
Physics	36%
Mathematics	30%
Applications of Maths	29%
English	29%
French	27%
Spanish	27%
Computing	24%
History	24%
Biology	22%
Chemistry	21%

Statistics shown refer to data released in 2025, and available from [Progression Statistics - SQA](#)

This data is released in late January every calendar year and updated here in advance of Information Evenings.



# 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
- Not recommended for university pathway



# College Provision – SCQF 4 and 5

- NPA Software Development (SCQF4)
- Introduction to the Construction Industry (SCQF4)
- Early Education and Childcare (SCQF4)
- SVQ1 Performing Engineering Operations (SCQF4)
- Automotive Skills (SCQF4)
- Skills for Work Uniformed Services (SCQF4)
- Hair and Beauty (SCQF4)
- NPA Professional Cookery (SCQF4)
- Early Education and Childcare (SCQF5)
- SVQ 2 Performing Engineering Operations - General Engineering (SCQF5)
- Mental Health and Wellbeing (SCQF5)
- NPA Hospitality (SCQF5)
- NPA Sport and Fitness – Football (SCQF5)

# Your Choices

- Consider your own God given skills and talents
- Rely on the support of your family
- Do not base choices on the choices of your friends
- Think about your future career pathway carefully and reflect upon the options that give you the best chance of progressing to qualifications, college or employment
- Use **My World of Work**, Parentzone and Nationals in a Nutshell to help inform your choice

## Next Steps

- Time spent with family on My World of Work and reading the guidance issued this evening (accessible on the school website)
- Preparation for your options interview over the next fortnight

**S3 into S4 – Personalisation and Choice****Pupil Name:****Career Aspiration:****Completed during one-to-one interview with Pastoral Care staff.**

FIDELIS · JUSTUS · PRUDENS

All pupils will study: Maths

English/ESOL

Core PE

Core PSE

Core RE

You should then **select five** subjects to study in S4. There are three conditions:

- You cannot select a subject that you did not study during S3 unless it is an NPA, College or SCQF course
- You cannot select three Science subjects (maximum of two from Biology, Chemistry, Health Sector and Physics)
- You cannot select both PE (Teams Sports) and PE (Aesthetics – Dance)

Please **circle** the five subjects you wish to take next year.

**History****PE Games Performance Pathway****PE Movement Performance Pathway**  
(Gymnastics, Dance, Cheer and Netball)**Computing Science****Administration & IT****Geography****Biology****French****College Course\*\*****Art and Design****Modern Studies****Chemistry****Spanish****Travel and Tourism****Drama****Physics****Music Technology****Business Management****German****Music****Health Sector****Practical Electronics\*****Practical Woodwork\*****Graphic Communication\*****National 5 Dance (JAM St. subject to audition)****Sport & Recreation***\*subject to staffing**\*\*is in addition to seven school subjects*

If you wish to apply for a place on a College Course, please state the name of the course [here:-](#)

**Pupil Signature:****Parent/Carer Signature:****Pastoral Signature:**

# Common Questions

- Why can we not take three Sciences?
- Do I need to take....?
- Will my son/daughter get their first choice(s)?
- Where can I find out about....?
- Can they change their mind?
- Additional Questions