

Welcome

S2 into S3 – 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
- Angela Buchanan – Acting Head Teacher





S2 into S3 Option Choices Information Evening

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



Changing World of Work & Career Management Skills

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

Changing nature of work, including WFH and hybrid approaches, requires flexibility

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



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.



Important Dos.....

Do:

- **Pick subjects you enjoy and are good at**
- **Consider future job ideas – choose subjects required or preferred for your job idea**
- **Keep your options open – choose a wide range of subjects if you have no job ideas**
- **Talk to people**
- **My WoW - Options Advice from SJA Pupils**

1. What's one piece of advice you'd give to anyone choosing their option choices?



Important Don'ts.....

Don't:

- **Only choose or not choose a subject because you like or dislike the teacher**
- **Listen to peer pressure and choose a subject because your friend is choosing it**
- **Let others choose for you – it's your future**
- **Choose a subject without taking time to do research**
- **Be afraid to ask questions – no question is a silly question!**

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



Making decisions such as option choices



Different types of careers and how to research them



Developing the types of skills that are useful in a job



Routes into careers including apprenticeships



Building and developing networks



Help with creating CVs

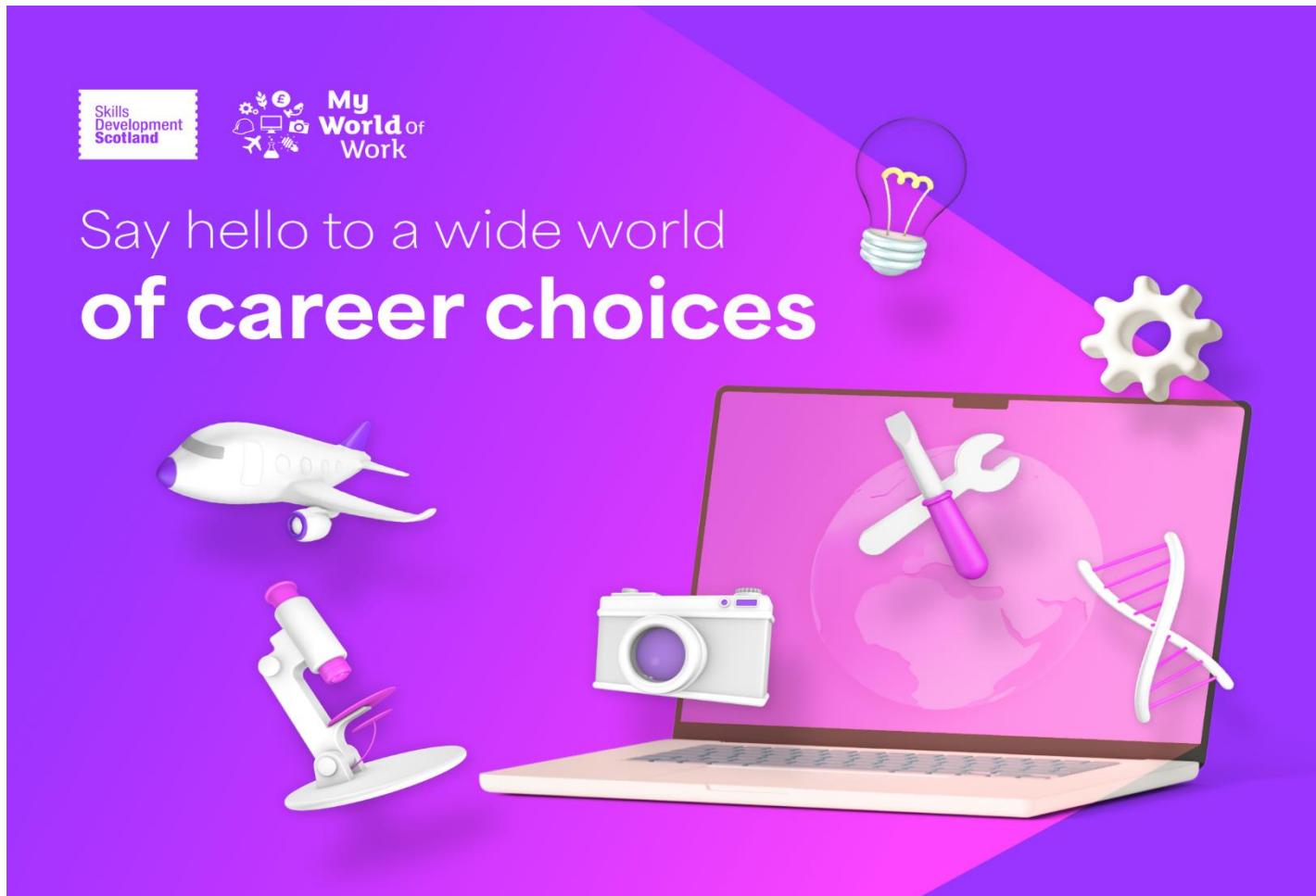


Making applications and applying for courses

My World of Work

What's out there?

How to find the right information



The graphic features a purple and pink diagonal striped background. In the top left, the Skills Development Scotland logo is next to the My World of Work logo, which includes icons for a gear, a person, a computer, a plane, and a gear. The text "Say hello to a wide world" is above the large, bold, white text "of career choices". To the right of the text is a 3D rendering of a laptop screen showing a globe with a wrench and screwdriver. A DNA helix is on the right, a microscope is on the left, and a white airplane is above the microscope. A lightbulb is floating above the globe. A white gear is also on the right side.

Say hello to a wide world
of career choices

Parent & Carer Voice Survey 2025-2026

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.





Get in touch!

Kate Faulds
Careers Adviser

In school Monday - Friday

Drop in over interval and
lunch

Contact me on:



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@StJoAcadCareers

RESPECT

EQUALITY

AMBITION

COURAGE

TRUTH

SERVICE

Structure of S3/ Progression to National Qualifications



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Structure of Schooling

S1-S3

Broad General Education

S4 – S6

Senior Phase

Structure of Schooling



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



S3 – Periods Per Week

33

S3 - Core

Maths	4 Periods per week
English	4 Periods per week
Modern Languages (French, German or Spanish)	3 Periods per week (4 periods if two)
RE	2 periods per week
PE	2 periods per week
PSE	1 period per week

16/33



S3 Personalisation and Choice

Social Subjects

History 2 periods per week

Geography 2 periods per week

Modern Studies 2 periods per week

Travel and Tourism 2 periods per week

20/33



Select Two of the above



Personalisation and Choice Sciences

Biology 2 periods per week

Chemistry 2 periods per week

Physics 2 periods per week

Basic Science of Life 2 periods per week

Introduction to Electronics 2 periods per week

24/33



Select Two of the above



Personalisation and Choice

Arts and Wellbeing

Art and Design	2 periods per week
Drama	2 periods per week
Music	2 periods per week
PE (Team Sports)	2 periods per week
PE (Aesthetic)	2 periods per week

28/33

Select Two of the above (only 1 x PE)



Personalisation and Choice

Technologies

Administration, Business and IT 2 periods per week

Computing Science 2 periods per week

Practical Woodwork 2 periods per week

Graphic Communication 2 periods per week

Music Technology 2 periods per week

College Course 3 periods per week***

33/33

**Select Two of the above
Technical Subjects - TBC**



Personalisation and Choice

Flexible Period

Dual Linguists*

33/33

College*

Numeracy or Literacy (TBC)

Select One of Above



College

Available within the Technologies column. If you select College, you only select one other Technology.

- Barista/Hospitality
- Early Education (Childcare)



National and SCQF 3, 4, 5 – S4 and Beyond

S4

7 subjects

National 3/SCQF3

National 4/SCQF4

National 5/SCQF5



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

[Entry requirements](#) [Fees & funding](#) [Careers](#) [Applying](#)

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)

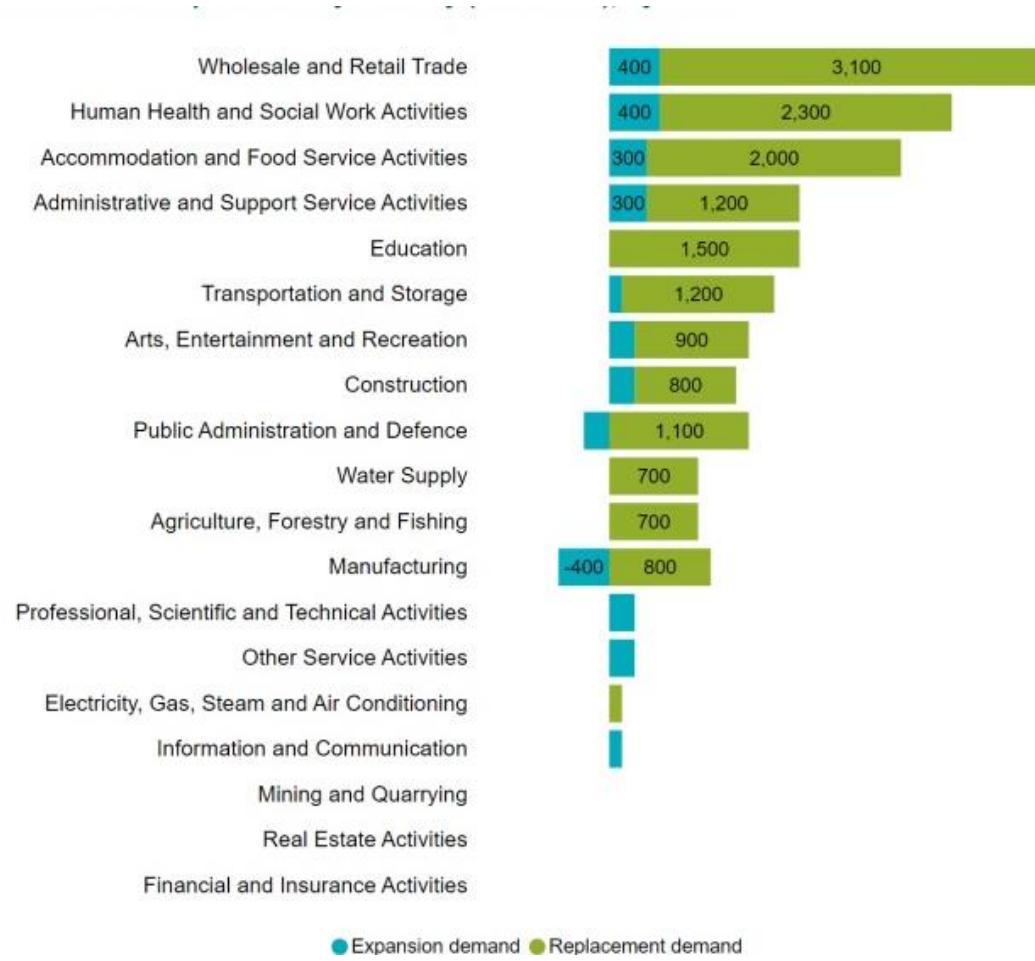
Advanced Highers

Maths and Physics recommended



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Regional Skills Assessment



Regional Skills Assessment

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



● Expansion demand ● Replacement demand

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



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

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 I change my mind?



S2 into S3 Personalisation and Choice Form – Completed during one-to-one interview

Pupil Name:

Career Aspiration:



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Modern Languages <i>(Circle one language or one combination)</i>	Social Subjects <i>(Circle two)</i>	Science <i>(Circle two)</i>	Arts and Wellbeing <i>(Circle two)</i>	Technologies <i>(Circle either two school courses, or one school course plus one college course)</i>	Flexible Period <i>(Select one)</i>
French	Geography	Basic Science of Life	Art and Design	School Courses	Two languages
OR	History	Biology	Drama	Administration, Business and IT	
Spanish	Modern Studies	Chemistry	Music	Computing Science	College/DYW
OR	Travel and Tourism	Introduction to Electronics	PE Games Performance Pathway (<i>Football, Volleyball, Basketball, Handball, Badminton, Tennis</i>)	Music Technology	Other
German		Physics	OR	Practical Woodwork (subject to staffing)	
OR			PE Movement Performance Pathway (<i>Gymnastics, Dance, Cheer and Netball</i>)	Graphic Communication (subject to staffing)	
Both French and Spanish				College/DYW Programme	
OR				Early Education (Childcare)	
Both Spanish and German				Barista/Hospitality	Other choices will be confirmed later in the session but are likely to be:
OR			(You can only choose one PE option in this column)	Select either two School Courses, or one School Course and one College/DYW Course	Numeracy Literacy
Both German and French					

Pupil Signature:

Parent/Carer Signature:

Pastoral Signature: