

# S4 into S5 Options Information



# The Options Process

- ▶ Old V's New
- ▶ SCQF Framework
- ▶ Subjects
- ▶ Pathways
- ▶ Progression
- ▶ Options process and key dates

# Old V's New

Old:

- ▶ Column structure
- ▶ Pick one subject from each column
- ▶ Restricted choice
- ▶ Cannot always pick your best subjects

New:

- ▶ Free choice
- ▶ Pick any 5 subjects that you studied in S4
- ▶ Less restricted choice
- ▶ Can pick your best subjects

**With both systems classes only run if there are enough pupils pick a subject and there are enough teachers available. We will try our best to match your choices but this may not always be possible.**

# SCQF Framework

- ▶ This is the system across Scotland which makes sure all qualifications are rated against one framework, from National 1 all the way up to University level and also including apprenticeships
- ▶ Range of subjects available at different levels to meet the needs of all learners – National 3 to Advanced Higher

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

# SCQF Framework – my choices?

In S5 you will study a range of subjects, usually at SCQF Level 5 or 6

## SCQF Level 5:

- ▶ National 5 (Graded A-D) – for example, English or History; these will usually have an external exam
- ▶ National 5 (Graded pass or fail) – for example, Travel & Tourism; these will have no external exam
- ▶ SQA National Qualification Level 5 (Graded pass or fail) – for example Scottish Studies; these will have no external exam
- ▶ NPA Level 5 (Graded Pass or Fail) – for example Business with Information Technology, Digital Media; these will have no external exam

# SCQF Framework – my choices?

In S5 you will study a range of subjects, usually at SCQF Level 5 or 6

SCQF Level 6:

- ▶ Higher (Graded A-D) – for example, Maths or Biology; these will usually have an external exam
- ▶ SQA National Qualification Level 6 (Graded pass or fail) – for example Creative Industries; these will have no external exam
- ▶ NPA Level 6 (Graded Pass or Fail) – for example Sports Leadership

**You should look very carefully at College and University entrance requirements as some courses only accept graded courses ie - Highers**

# S5 Expectations

This is the most important year in your school career. This is the year where you need to get your best possible qualifications.

- ▶ 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. You should study subjects to the highest level you possibly can.
- ▶ 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
- ▶ 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 courses in S5 (often more than double the content of N5 courses)

# What subjects should I pick?

In S5 you must maximise your attainment by picking as many subjects at Higher as you can. This will give you the best chance of progression to your chosen pathway after school.

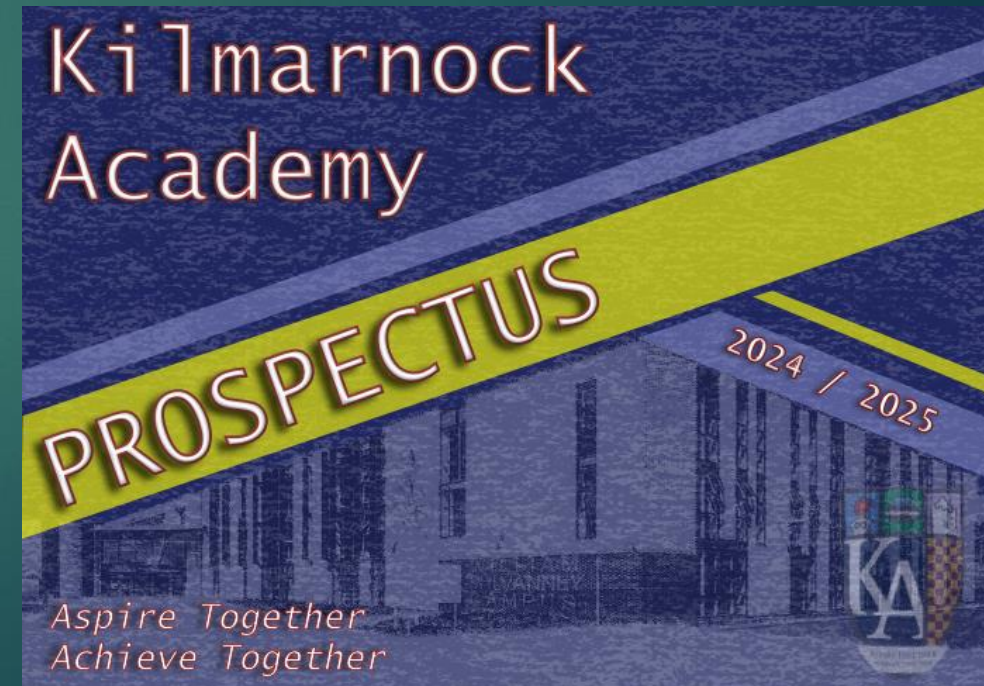
You should pick subjects in the following order

- ▶ Those subjects listed as entry requirements for the university or college course(s) of your choice (presuming you pass National 5 in S4 with an A or B). This will ensure you gain the best qualifications you can and have the best chance of success.
- ▶ 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



# Subjects

- ▶ You will pick any **5 subjects**, this must be **from the subjects you have studied in S4**, with the exception of a few subject. You will also pick one short course to study for one period a week. This will help you build essential skills
- ▶ There is information about every subjects in the Kilmarnock Academy Prospectus 2024/ 2025. You should read this very carefully it contains information on:
  - ▶ Subjects available
  - ▶ SCQF Level
  - ▶ Entry Requirements
  - ▶ Course Content
  - ▶ Progression



# What subjects are available to pick?

- English
- Maths
- Applications of Maths
- Geography
- History
- Modern Studies
- Scottish Studies
- Travel & Tourism
- Politics
- Criminology & Legal Studies
- Biology
- Human Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Health Sector
- PE
- French
- Spanish
- Gaelic
- Gaidhlig
- Music
- Music Technology
- Drama
- Art & Design
- Creative Industries
- Digital Media
- Photography
- Administration & IT
- Business Management
- Design & Manufacture
- Graphic Communication
- Leadership
- Personal Development
- Milk Bar
- Performing Engineering Operations
- College Courses

# Should I pick a subject if I get a 'C' at National 5?

Some subjects have better chance of progression from a C at National 5 than others. If you get a 'C' at National 5 in the following subjects there is a greater than 50% chance of passing Higher. For other subjects the chances of passing at higher are much smaller and we would not recommend you pick these. You will be given advice about this during your options interview.

- ▶ Administration & IT
- ▶ Art & Design
- ▶ Geography
- ▶ Graphic Communication
- ▶ Modern Studies
- ▶ Music
- ▶ Music Technology
- ▶ PE

# Example - Progression

## 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

## S5 Choices:

Higher English

Higher Maths

Higher Physics

Higher Chemistry

Higher Design & Manufacture

# Example - Progression

## S4 Attainment:

N5 English - B

N5 Maths - D

N5 History - A

N5 Art - C

N4 Biology - Pass

N5 Chemistry - C

N4 Music - Pass

## S5 Choices:

Higher English

Higher History

Higher Art (C has good progression rate)

Level 6 Leadership or PD

N5 Applications of Maths

# Example - Progression

S4 Attainment:

N5 History - D

N5 Art - C

N5 PE - B

N4 English - Pass

N4 Maths - Pass

N4 Biology - Pass

N4 Geography - Pass

S5 Choices:

Higher PE

Higher Art

Level 6 Scottish Studies


Level 5 Health Sector

College Course

# The Options Process & Key Dates

From tomorrow the KA Prospectus will be on the school blog.  
Read this carefully and begin discussions at home and with your teachers about subject choices

- ▶ Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January – 6pm: Options information evening for parents/ carers and pupils
- ▶ Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January – S5 Curricular Pathway forms issued. These provide all the information you require on subjects available, what level they are at and how to make your choices.


**S5 CURRICULUM PATHWAY FORM**

|      |                 |  |  |
|------|-----------------|--|--|
| NAME | WELLBEING CLASS |  |  |
|------|-----------------|--|--|

What Career are you thinking of? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your intended school leaving date?    December 2024    June 2024 (end of S5)    December 2025 (end of S6)

**Pick any 5 subjects from the list below. This must be from the subjects you are currently studying in S4. You cannot pick any new subjects except those from the Other Courses section**

Before you make your choices read the Kilnarnock Academy Prospectus (scan the QR Code below) which gives information about all the subjects, including what level they are offered at and the entry requirements for each level. This form should be completed after you have had your individual meeting with your Pupil Support Teacher then taken home and signed.

The subjects available are detailed below with the level (L5 = SCQF Level 5 or National 5; L6 = SCQF Level 6 or Higher)

| Subjects (and level offered)        | L5 |   | L6 |  | Choices (L5 + R) |  | L5 |  | L6 |  |
|-------------------------------------|----|---|----|--|------------------|--|----|--|----|--|
|                                     |    |   |    |  |                  |  |    |  |    |  |
| English                             | ✓  | ✓ |    |  |                  |  |    |  |    |  |
| Maths                               | ✓  | ✓ |    |  |                  |  |    |  |    |  |
| Application of Maths                | ✓  |   |    |  |                  |  |    |  |    |  |
| Geography                           |    | ✓ |    |  |                  |  |    |  |    |  |
| History                             |    | ✓ |    |  |                  |  |    |  |    |  |
| Modern Studies                      |    | ✓ |    |  |                  |  |    |  |    |  |
| Scottish Studies                    |    | ✓ |    |  |                  |  |    |  |    |  |
| Travel & Tourism                    |    | ✓ |    |  |                  |  |    |  |    |  |
| Politics                            |    | ✓ |    |  |                  |  |    |  |    |  |
| Criminology & Legal Studies         |    | ✓ |    |  |                  |  |    |  |    |  |
| Biology                             |    | ✓ |    |  |                  |  |    |  |    |  |
| Human Biology                       |    | ✓ |    |  |                  |  |    |  |    |  |
| Chemistry                           |    | ✓ |    |  |                  |  |    |  |    |  |
| Physics                             |    | ✓ |    |  |                  |  |    |  |    |  |
| Health Sector                       |    | ✓ |    |  |                  |  |    |  |    |  |
| PE                                  |    | ✓ |    |  |                  |  |    |  |    |  |
| French                              |    | ✓ |    |  |                  |  |    |  |    |  |
| Spanish                             |    | ✓ |    |  |                  |  |    |  |    |  |
| Gaelic                              |    | ✓ |    |  |                  |  |    |  |    |  |
| Gaelic                              |    | ✓ |    |  |                  |  |    |  |    |  |
| Music                               |    | ✓ |    |  |                  |  |    |  |    |  |
| Music Technology                    |    | ✓ |    |  |                  |  |    |  |    |  |
| Drama                               |    | ✓ |    |  |                  |  |    |  |    |  |
| Art & Design                        |    | ✓ |    |  |                  |  |    |  |    |  |
| Creative Industries                 |    | ✓ |    |  |                  |  |    |  |    |  |
| Digital Media                       |    | ✓ |    |  |                  |  |    |  |    |  |
| Photography                         |    | ✓ |    |  |                  |  |    |  |    |  |
| Administration & IT                 |    | ✓ |    |  |                  |  |    |  |    |  |
| Business Management                 |    | ✓ |    |  |                  |  |    |  |    |  |
| Design & Manufacture                |    | ✓ |    |  |                  |  |    |  |    |  |
| Graphic Communication               |    | ✓ |    |  |                  |  |    |  |    |  |
| Leadership                          |    | ✓ |    |  |                  |  |    |  |    |  |
| Personal Development                |    | ✓ |    |  |                  |  |    |  |    |  |
| Milk Bar                            |    | ✓ |    |  |                  |  |    |  |    |  |
| Performing Engineering Operations * |    | ✓ |    |  |                  |  |    |  |    |  |
| College Course *                    |    | ✓ |    |  |                  |  |    |  |    |  |

**Instructions – Please read carefully before competing this form:**

- You must select 5 subjects.
- Select your 5 subjects by completing the 'choices' column in the table opposite. **These should be numbered 1 – 5 (1 being your 1<sup>st</sup> choice, 2 your 2<sup>nd</sup> etc.)**
- Select a reserve subject. Mark this with an 'R'
- Tick (✓) the level (L5 or L6) which you plan to study the subject at in S5
- Select one Short Course from the table below. Please tick (✓) your selection.

| Select one short course (✓)                            |   |
|--|---|
| Short Course   | ✓ |
| Photography  |   |
| Citizenship  |   |
| Music for Wellbeing                                    |   |
| Basketball (Participating, Officiating and Organising) |   |
| Football (Participating, Officiating and Organising)   |   |
| Netball (Participating, Officiating and Organising)    |   |
| German   |   |
| Mental Health Award                                    |   |

Scan the QR Code to access the Kilnarnock Academy Prospectus

Please turn over for important information and to sign this form

# The Options Process & Key Dates

Week Beginning Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January – Options interviews start. You will have an individual meeting with your Pupil Support Teacher who will discuss the following:

- ▶ What
- ▶ you plan on doing when you leave school
- ▶ Your best 5 subjects
- ▶ The subjects we recommend you pick to maximise your attainment
- ▶ You will then complete together your pathways form and your PTPS will complete a spreadsheet with your choices recorded on it
- ▶ You will take your pathways form home to be signed by your parents/ carers
- ▶ Your PTPS will discuss the expectation for S5 and issue your agreement form, you will also take this home to be signed by your parent/ carer



# The Options Process & Key Dates

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February – Deadline for returning Curriculum Pathways forms and S5 agreement.

If it is not returned by this date you may not get the options you have selected as your form will not be included in the computer program that is used in the next stage of the options process.

# Where will I find out more information?

- ▶ All the information you require will be on the school blog:
  - ▶ Assembly presentation
  - ▶ Options information evening for parents/ carers and pupils presentation
  - ▶ Kilmarnock Academy Prospectus 2024/2025
  - ▶ Progression Pathways Form
  - ▶ Progression from 'C' at National 5 information
  - ▶ Frequently Asked Questions