



Frequently Asked Questions

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Can I take the same subject twice, for example do double PE?

No, it is important that all young people try to have a varied, balanced timetable, studying subjects from across the full curriculum. You should only select each subject once. You can however study different subjects offered by the same faculty, for example Design & Manufacture and Graphic Communication, or Art & Design and Digital Media, or Geography and History.

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Do you have to continue with English and Maths?

Yes, at least until the end of S4. Literacy and Numeracy are the building blocks of your school curriculum and learning. It is very important that all young people achieve qualifications in both English and Mathematics to the best of their ability. Additionally all employers or further education establishments look for young people to have qualifications in these two subjects. Consequently young people are encouraged to continue studying both English and Mathematics until they have achieved at least a National 4 award along with the National 5 Literacy and N5 Numeracy standalone units. There may be a small number of students who having achieved the above standard choose to study alternate subjects in S5 or S6 where this will lead to more advanced qualifications. For example, a child who excels in English and Social subjects but struggles with Maths may be better to study 5 subjects that they can do at Higher level rather than 4 Highers and N5 Maths.

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How will I know what level I will be studying the subjects I pick at?

Pupils in the Broad General Education will be continuing to work through the BGE levels as they progress into S2 and S3. In senior school courses you can discuss this with your class teachers and with your Pupil Support teacher if you are unsure of what level to pick. The head of each faculty will also look at the levels of the pupils in their department and ensure that everyone is progressing appropriately on to the correct level based on each student's prior learning and attainment.

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Can I pick a new subject that I haven't studied before?

We wouldn't recommend this course of action particularly for new S4 or S5 students. Young people are far more likely to achieve to the best of their ability if they continue with subjects they have studied before. There are a few exceptions to this rule, for example 'Other Courses' in the Kilmarnock Academy Prospectus. For pupils in S6, the situation is different. Many young people will take the opportunity to 'crash' a new subject or revisit a subject that they may not have studied since S3, decisions around the viability of this will be based upon their prior learning and achievement. You should read carefully the Prospectus for the entry requirements for each subject if you are considering picking a subject you have not studied before.

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Can I study one or more subjects at Advanced Higher level this year?

You can elect to study at Advanced Higher level if you are an S6 pupil with a very strong pass at Higher in the subject that you would like take. We may offer in-house Advanced Higher courses these will run dependent on a number of things; the numbers of students wanting to do a subject, staff availability and accommodation availability. The workload to achieve an Advanced Higher is significant consequently we usually recommend that young people selecting two or more Advanced Highers also take a study column. A number of subjects are available through SWEIC which is a virtual learning campus.



What happens if I am keen to do an Advanced Higher or a subject that Kilmarnock Academy doesn't offer?

As a school we liaise with other schools in the local area and make consortia arrangements to deliver some Advanced Higher subjects. It is fairly normal practice for young people from our school to attend St Joseph's or Grange Academy to complete an Advanced Higher, equally young people from those schools often join Kilmarnock Academy to undertake advanced study. This is a situation that we look at on a case by case basis, examine the likely impact on your learning in your existing subjects in order to travel to and attend at another establishment for several periods per week. The school and education authority cannot pay for any travel costs incurred in taking up such a place.



What is YASS and how does it work?

YASS stands for Young Applicants in Scottish Schools, this is a series of standalone units offered by the Open University. These courses are offered at SCQF level 7, equivalent to a unit at Advanced Higher level or first year university. The Open University offer a diverse range of courses each year. Young people complete this learning as a distance learner, online and have access to online resources and support. Pupils intending to select YASS as one of their options need to be expected to achieve 4 or 5 Highers at mostly A passes from S5 and be a motivated learner able to work on their own initiative.



What do I do if I am interested in a school-college course?

Firstly, look at the Ayrshire College website and check you meet the requirements for the course you are interested in. Courses can be found here: www1.ayrshire.ac.uk/schools/school-college-courses-apply/ You should speak to your Pupil Support Teacher or Mrs Wallace if you have any questions about courses. They will be able to advise you on next steps. If you are applying for a course at levels 5, 6 or 7, you should apply online via the Ayrshire College website (at the address above). At your options interview, let your Pupil Support Teacher know that you are applying for a school-college course. You must be fully committed to completing this course as if you do not get accepted on a course or 'drop out' you may not be able to pick up a subject that suits you.



If I have a question. Who should I speak with?

If you have questions about a particular subject you should speak to your class teacher.

If you have questions about your feelings, or if you have any general concerns you should speak to your Pupil Support Teacher.

If you have a question about your college work or college applications you should speak to your Pupil Support Teacher or Mrs Wallace

If you have a question about the option process you should speak to your Pupil Support Teacher, Head of House or Mrs Mossie.

If you have a question about SQA you should speak to Mr Johnston.