

Frequently Asked Questions- S6 Options Process

1. What qualifications should my child take for a career in law/ medicine/ dentistry/ veterinary science/physiotherapy/ education etc.?

All entries are updated on university websites on a yearly basis and they do change. You should read the current requirements carefully. We have provided an information sheet to give some examples of the requirements for high tariff courses starting in 2020, however, even these requirements differ from university to university.

2. My child has no idea what subjects to do. What careers advice is available?

Pupils should sit a wide range of subjects e.g. science, social science, languages and arts if they are still unsure. **Most courses simply need Higher passes.** This is easier at Williamwood where they have eight to choose from in S4. Websites are now a good a source of information for outlining the **range** of choices available. Use:

- Planitplus careers website
<https://www.planitplus.net/myworldofwork.co.uk>
- Pupil support staff in the school
- School careers officer (if leaving school)
- University Prospectus for seeing all courses available in a university e.g.
http://www.gla.ac.uk/prospectuses/undergraduate/College_prospectus_e.g.
<http://www.glasgowclyde.ac.uk/courses>
- Websites on modern apprenticeships & school website for advertised ones.
apprenticeships.scot

3. Can my child “crash” a higher subject in S6?

Yes. “Crashing” can be done in S6 when there is more time to study and catch-up. In the first instance pupils should try to progress from their S5 subjects or from the subjects dropped in S4 as this offers the greatest chance of success. Higher courses rely on all the knowledge, understanding and skills of the previous National course however some subjects are available specifically for S6 pupils and some subjects are easier to “crash” than others.

4. How many Subjects should my child do?

All students will choose **at least 4 subjects**. Returning to school for S6 is a **full time education** option. In August, post results, pupils taking three advanced Highers will have their timetables modified should they wish it. It would be useful for student’s future prospects to take as many Highers as possible due to the demands of university entrance and the increased competition.

5. What is the value of vocational courses?

We encourage many of our students to think about routes other than university and ERC has negotiated access to a large range of interesting alternative courses to school subject qualifications. These have SCQF points (so academically equivalent to units or courses) and are often useful for college or apprenticeship applications as well as developing skills for work in students. There has been a drive across Scotland to get more students involved in these pathways and the value is that they often match career interests rather than a narrow focus on university application. We have designed our senior school timetable to reduce the impact of attending college on other school subjects. It is optional in Column D and is a good choice if your child cannot find desirable school subjects.

6. My child is struggling with a Higher subject and is likely to achieve a C grade. Can they do Advanced Higher in the subject next year?

We would advise against pursuing a subject to Advanced Higher level unless the student has a good record of success and a high final grade in the SQA examination. Pupils should choose a stronger option (usually additional Highers) unless they absolutely need the specific subject for university entrance in which case they should seek advice from their Head of Year or Pupil Support Teacher.

7. If my child does college courses, will they miss school work?

Yes, they will miss some classes and be responsible for their own catch up. This has been minimised by making most college course time at Column D and Column B time.

8. Is the Scottish Baccalaureate available?

This is an additional qualification (equivalent in UCAS tariff points to half an Advanced Higher) which creates a bridge across a group of subjects being studied and allows pupils to carry out a relevant interdisciplinary project while studying a group of Advanced Highers in sets of subjects in Science, Languages, Expressive Arts or Social Sciences. The key element is that the student works independently on a project which develops initiative, responsibility and independent learning. Please use the link below to read more about this. www.sqa.org.uk/baccalaureates

If your child is interested in this they should speak to the Principal Teacher of the subject area to discuss this and express an interest.