

Welcome to our Senior Phase Options Information Evening

Thursday 26th February 2026

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Overview of evening:

- Introduction – Mrs Hayes DHT
- Our SCQF Ambassadors
- The Choices Process – Mrs Hayes
- Pastoral Care Support – Mr Carstairs PTPC

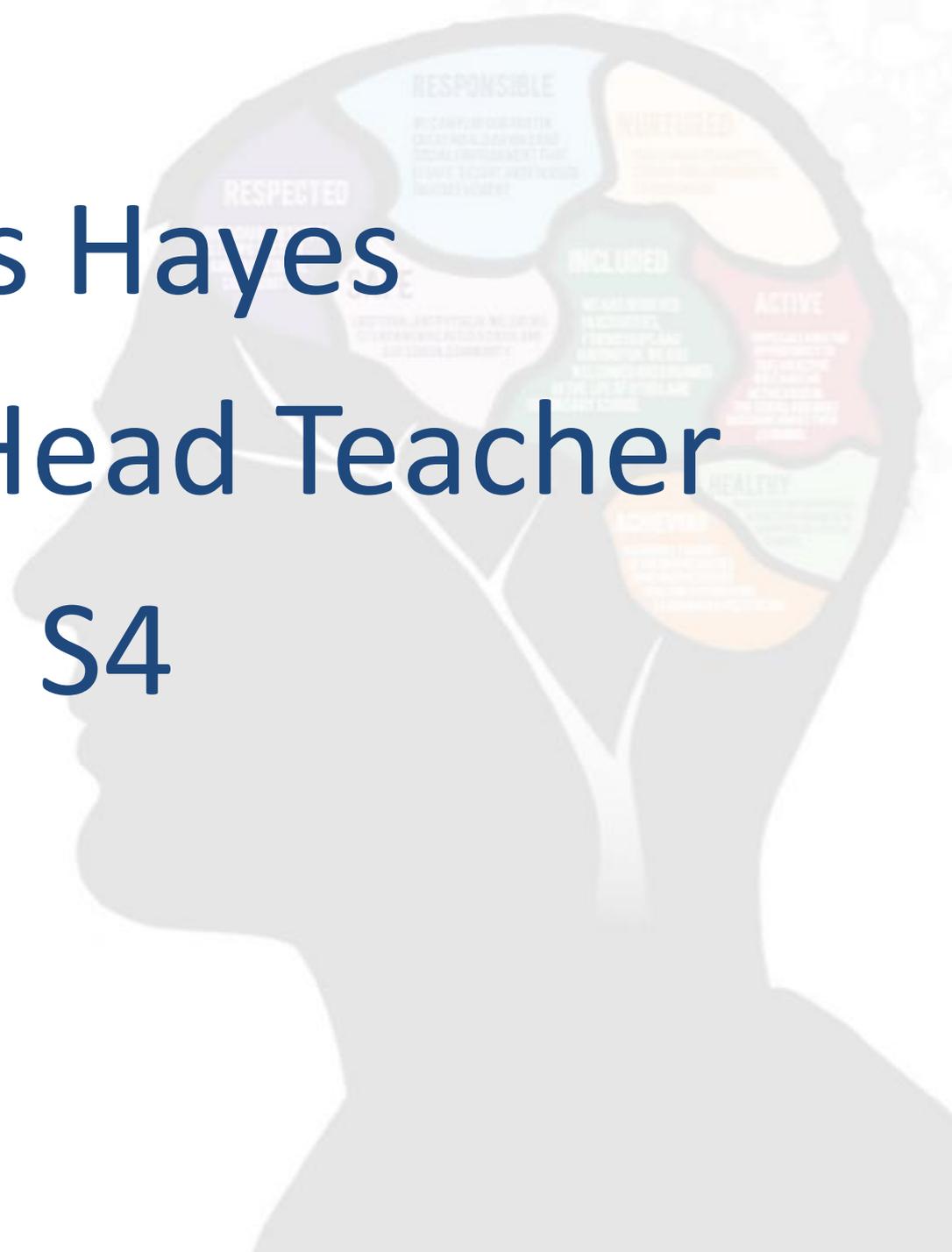
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Mrs Hayes

Depute Head Teacher

S4



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We now have **5** (almost) full teaching weeks a until the Spring break.

This is arguably the most important time of the year for our S4 students, so it is essential that we maximise every opportunity for learning over the next 25 days of teaching time.

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Top Tips to Success over the next 5 weeks:

1. High attendance – everyday counts
2. Good timekeeping – every minute counts
3. Meet deadlines for coursework / assignments
4. Access as much supported study as possible
5. Attend any core support put in place for you
6. Study timetable in place from now!
7. Remember to pace your studying – it is not a sprint!

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Supported Study – after school

N5 Supported Study	Subject	Day
Mrs Toal	Biology	Monday
Ms McEwan	Engineering Science	Monday
Mrs McIlroy	Fashion	Monday
Mr Parsons	Physics	Monday
Mr Currie	Physics	Tuesday
Mr Henderson	Maths	Wednesday
Mr McLaughlin	Chemistry	Wednesday
Mr Thomson	History	Wednesday
Mr Furniss	Computing Science	Wednesday
Ms McEwan	Design and Manufacture	Wednesday
Ms Maclsaac	Admin & IT	Wednesday
Mr Kearney	Spanish	Wednesday
Ms Glover	English	Wednesday
Mr Ryan	Maths	Wednesday
Mrs Gildea	Business Management	Thursday
Mr Hernandez Gomez	Art	Thursday
Mrs Kennedy	Biology	Thursday
Mr Timpany	Modern Studies	Friday
Ms McCarthy	Photography	Friday
Ms Fowlie	Engineering Science	Friday
Ms Fowlie	Design and Manufacture	Friday
Ms McCarthy	Art	Friday

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Maths
Supported
Study

Every Lunchtime

Wednesday &
Thursday after
school

Saturday Study:

Our ever-popular Saturday Study is back and will run up to the Spring Break.

Saturday 28th Feb 2026:

Mr Lewis	English;	28.2.26
Mrs Gillies	Music;	28.2.26
Mr Thomson	History;	28.2.26
Ms McEwan	Engineering Science;	28.2.26
Mr MacVicar	Biology	28.2.26
Mr McGunnigle	PE	28.2.26
Ms McEwan	Design and Manufacture;	28.2.26

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Expectations of the Senior School

- Full timetable - S5 student study a full timetable – this means 5 subjects.
- Continued excellent attendance and timekeeping.
- Work ethic and positive attitude towards learning.
- Realisation of the jump in demand from National 5 to Higher courses.
- Homework deadlines will be met.
- Importance of being a role model at all times with regards to our school values.

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S4: 8 subjects (National 4 and National 5 and Level 4/5 NPAs)

- National 4 – internally assessed no external SQA examination
- National 5 – some internal assessments, some coursework assessed by the SQA and external SQA examination

S5: 5 subjects (National 5, Level 5 and 6 NPAs and Higher)

- National 5 and Higher courses may have some internal assessments, some coursework assessed by the SQA & an external SQA examination

S6: 4 subjects (Higher, Level 5, 6 & 7 NPAs and Advanced Higher)

- Higher & Advanced Higher levels have some internal assessments, some coursework assessed by the SQA and an external SQA examination

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Our SCQF Ambassadors



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What is the SCQF?



The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) is Scotland's national qualifications framework.



It helps you understand and compare all types of qualifications in Scotland – in schools, colleges, universities, workplaces and the community.



It shows the learning pathways that are available to your child, and helps them plan their next steps in education.

The SCQF has 12 levels and features over 10,000 qualifications.

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The SCQF Framework

SCQF points tell you **how much time it takes, on average, to complete a qualification or learning program**. They act as a measure of the "size" or volume of learning involved, rather than the difficulty of the qualification itself.

The Level of the qualification tells you the difficulty.

- National 4 is at Level 4
- National 5 is at Level 5
- Higher is at Level 6
- Advanced Higher is at Level 7

So a Level 6 NPA is the same level of difficulty as a Higher qualification

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Key details about SCQF points:

- **4 Point = 1 period per week:** One SCQF credit point represents a notional 10 hours of learning time, which includes teaching, private study, and assessments.
- 24 SCQF points will get 6 periods on the timetable
- **Distinction from Levels:** While SCQF *levels* (1–12) tell you how difficult a qualification is, *points* tell you how long it takes to complete.
- **Recognition of All Learning:** They are used to recognize formal school/university qualifications **AND** also vocational training, workplace learning, and community-based programs.
- Young people can build a bespoke curriculum with a mixture of traditional exam-based qualifications and qualifications with continuous assessment

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Developing the Young Workforce



Example

- Level 6 Higher English – 24 SCQF points
- Level 6 Literature & Communications = 18 SCQF points.

What does this mean?

Level of difficulty is the same. Volume of work reduced in Lit Com. Higher English consists of folio and formal exam. Lit Com is continually assessed. Lit Com is an excellent pathway to Higher English for those with a C/D award at National 5 English.

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Business and Administration

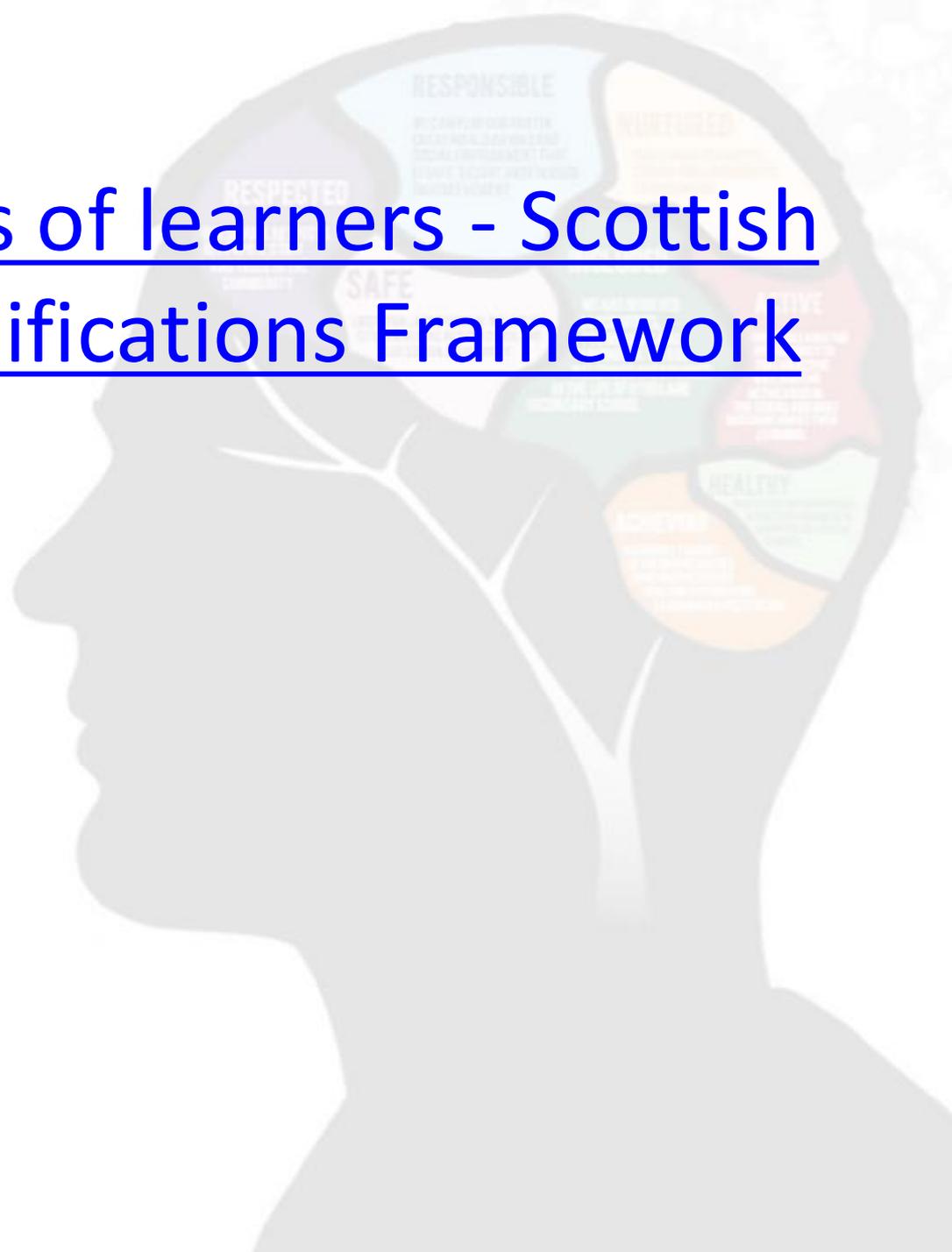
- Level 6 NPA Business & Admin = 30 SCQF points
 - Level 6 Higher Business = 24 SCQF points
- Or
- Level 6 Higher Admin & IT = 24 SCQF points

All have the same level of difficulty, NPA is internally assessed. Allows young people to choose the most appropriate type of assessment for them. NPA is an ungraded course so Pass/Fail rather than grade A-D. It equates to a C pass.

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Parents & carers of learners - Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework



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S5 Options



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Learner 1 Pathway – S4 into S5

S4 Subjects and predicted results:

N5 English	N5 Maths	N5 Chemistry	N5 Physics	N5 History	N5 Music	N5 Computing Science	N5 Design & Manufacture
A	A	A	A	C	A	B	B

S5 – Subjects chosen to study:

Higher English	Higher Maths	Higher Chemistry	Higher Physics	Higher Music
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Learner 2 Pathway – S4 into S5

S4 Subjects and predicted results:

N5 English	N4 Maths	N4 Biology	N4 Design	N5 PE	N4 History	N4 Computing	N5 Art
B	PASS	PASS	PASS	C	PASS	PASS	B

S5 – Subjects chosen to study:

Higher English	National 5 Maths	Higher PE	National 5 Practical Woodworking	Higher Art
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Learner 3 Pathway – S4 into S5

S4 Subjects and predicted results:

N5 English	N5 Maths	N5 Drama	N4 Music	N5 Business	N4 Engineer Science	N5 Modern Studies	N4 Physics
B	B	C	PASS	B	PASS	B	PASS

S5 – Subjects chosen to study:

Higher English	Higher Maths	Higher Business	Level 6 NPA Musical Theatre	Higher Modern Studies
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Learner 4 Pathway – S4 into S5

S4 Subjects and predicted results:

N5 English	N4 Maths	NPA Applied Science	N4 Design	N5 PE	N4 Geogr	N4 Comput	Level 5 Computer Games
D	PASS	PASS	PASS	C	PASS	PASS	PASS

S5 – Subjects chosen to study:

Level 6 Literacy and Communications	National 5 Application of Maths	National 5 Environmental Science	Level 5 NPA Sports and Recreation	Level 6 Digital Bundle Package
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Learner 5 Pathway – S4 into S5

S4 Subjects and predicted results:

N4 English	N4 Maths	NPA Science & Health	N4 Design	N5 PE	N4 History	N4 Admin & IT	Achieve
PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS	C	PASS	PASS	PASS

S5 – Subjects chosen to study:

National 5 English	National 5 Application of Maths	Senior Phase College Course – Level 5 Automotive Skills	National 5 Practical Woodworking	Level 5 NPA Sports Coaching
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The Senior Phase Options Process - Timeline



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Assemblies delivered to S4:



During the week of 2nd March staff will deliver an options assembly to S4 students with key advice on choosing subjects.



The presentation will be available on the year group team and school website – and should be referred to when selecting subjects. We will also email this presentation out to families

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Over the coming weeks:



**S4 FINAL TRACKING REPORT – ISSUED WEEK OF
16.03.26**



Use this report to identify your best subjects – this should support S4 in picking their 5 best subjects.



Look carefully at the ‘Learner Pathways’ section for each of the subjects that you are studying in S4. This should guide your choices for S5.

Friday 27th March 2026



This is the deadline for the final S5 Options Form to be completed.



This will be submitted via a glow form.

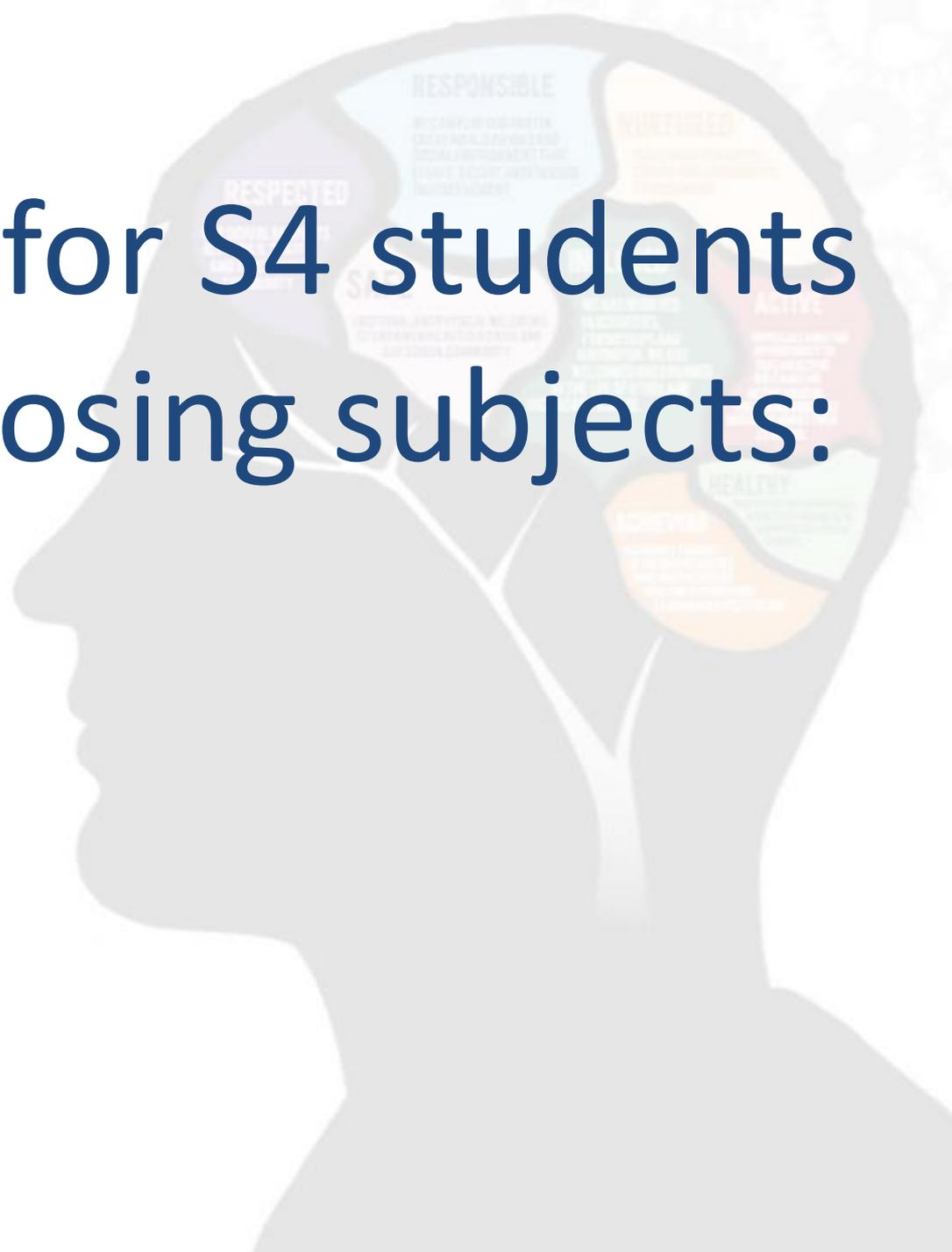


This is NOT a draft as we will base our school timetable and classes on the numbers collected from this.



The form will be emailed to families and posted on the year group team.

Key Advice for S4 students when choosing subjects:



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1. S4 into S5 - Always Choose your 'Five Best'

- Look at the most recent tracking report - what subjects are the strongest? Where is the learner achieving the highest grades?
- Every year we see students thriving when they have selected from their strongest National 5 qualifications.
- For the **MAJORITY** of students in S4, our expectation is that they choose the 'five best' subjects from S4.

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2. Do I have to study English in S5/6?

- **Every learner should aim to secure a minimum of National 5 in English by the end of S5** – so if you did N4 English in S5 you must study National 5 in S5.
- **Most learners will go onto study H English** in S5 as this tends to be an entry requirement for a lot of places of employment following graduation. Some university and college courses will request this.
- **Learners who achieve a grade C6/D at National 5** should select Level 6 Literacy and Communications for S5.

This qualification is widely accepted by colleges and universities across Scotland as an alternative to a Higher English pass (grade C) for admission to HND or degree-level programs. For example, it meets the English qualification entry requirement for PGDE Primary Education at the University of Edinburgh.

- A small number of students may wish to study Higher English in S6 rather than S5 – this tends to a very small number where English is not one of their ‘five best’ e.g. EAL learners.

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English learner pathways:

Learner 1 Pathway

S4 Qualification Secured:

National 4 Pass in English in S4
and / or Level 5 Literacy Unit Pass in S4.



S5 Progression Route:

SQA National 5 English



S6 Progression Route:

Level 6 Literacy and Communications

Or

Potentially SQA Higher English – dependent upon other SQA attainment

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English learner pathways:

Learner 2 Pathway

S4 Qualification Secured:
C or D Grade in National 5 English



S5 Progression Route:
Two-year pathway to Higher English consisting of:
S5 - Level 6 Literacy and Communications



S6 Progression Route:
SQA Higher English

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Progression statistics.....

- If you achieve a National 5 Grade C in English...
- 39% will get a Grade D at Higher

And a further

- 29% will get No Award

For a Grade D award in National 5 English....

- 34% will get a Grade D at Higher

And a further

- 46% will get No Award

And for those fail and then re-sit Higher English, 68% get a D or NA

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English learner pathways:

Learner 3 Pathway

S4 Qualification Secured:

Grade A or B in National 5 English



S5 Progression Route:

SQA Higher English



S6 Progression Route:

Grade A or B at Higher achieved in S5:

SQA Advanced Higher English

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3. Do I have to study Maths in S5/S6?

- Every learner should aim to secure a minimum of National 5 Maths or Application of Maths by the END OF S6.
- If you are studying National 4 Maths in S4 you should consider studying National 5 Application of Maths in S5 (**UNLESS YOU ARE AIMING TO SECURE 5 HIGHERS IN OTHER SUBJECTS**).
- If you are currently N4 Maths, N5 Application of Maths is the best route for you to study in S5.

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Maths - learner pathways:

Learner 1 Pathway

S4 Qualification Secured:
Achieved National 4 Maths



S5 Progression Route:
National 5 Applications of Maths
And/or
National 5 Numeracy



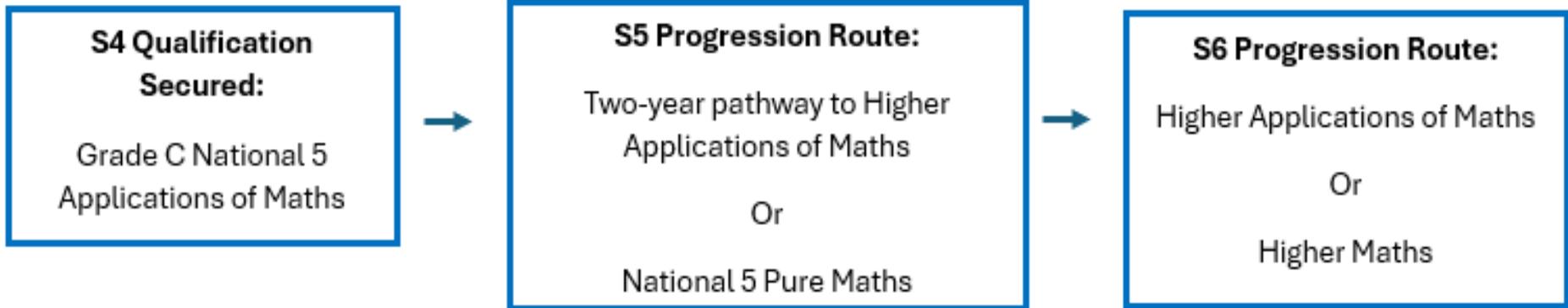
S6 Progression Route:
National 5 Pure Maths
or
Higher Applications of Maths
(A/B required from National 5 Applications)

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Maths - learner pathways:

Learner 2 Pathway

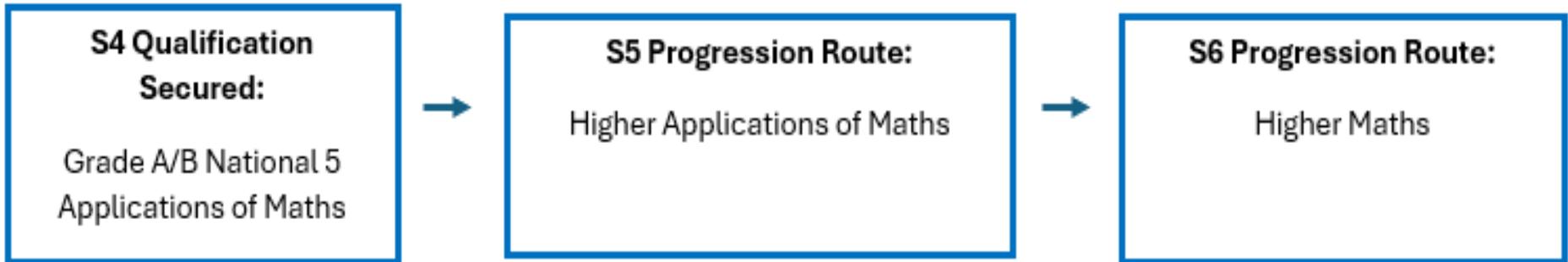


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Maths - learner pathways:

Learner 3 Pathway

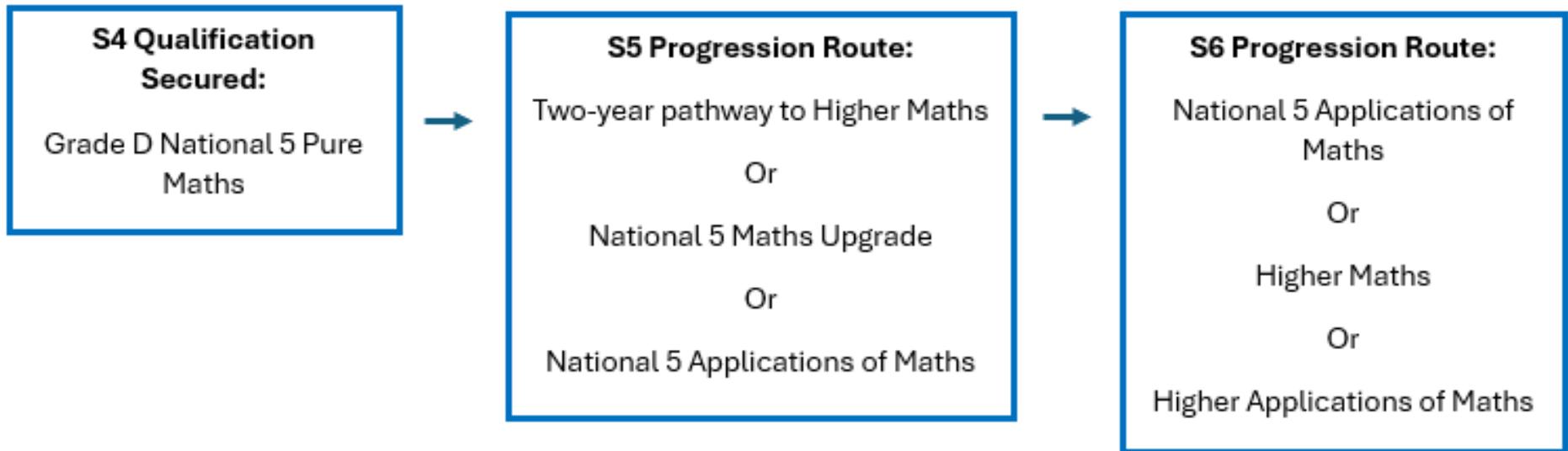


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Maths - learner pathways:

Learner 4 Pathway

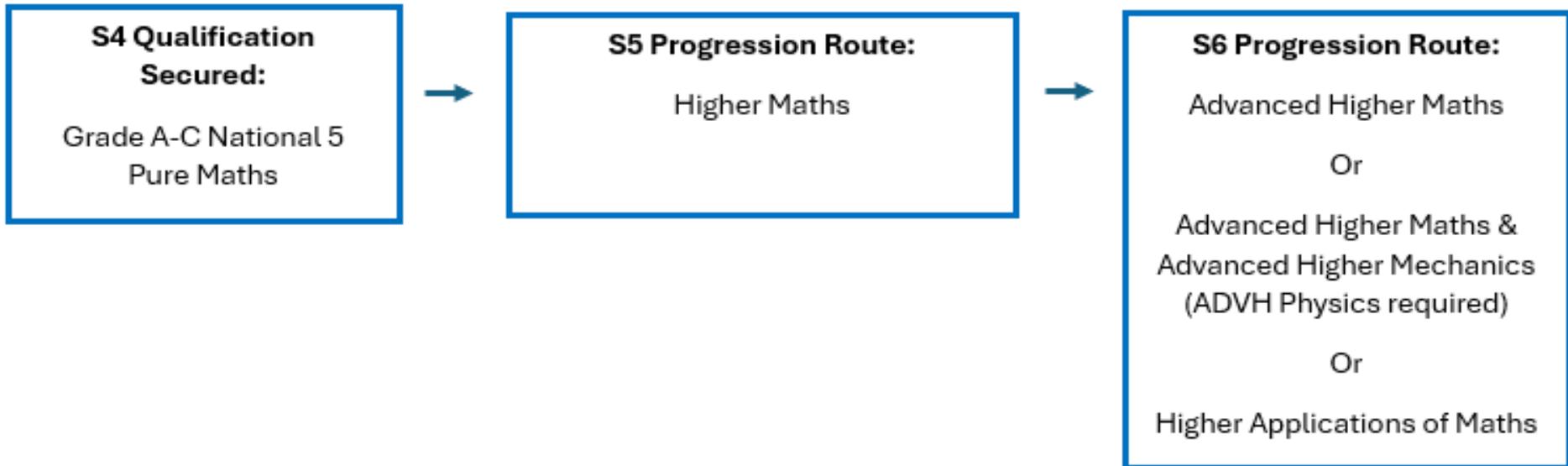


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Maths - learner pathways:

Learner 5 Pathway



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4. How many Higher subjects should I sit?

- The aim is to sit as many Highers in S5 as you are capable of (Universities refer to this as 'one sitting' or 'first sitting').
- This is why it is so important that our S4 learners play to their strengths in S5 and choose your FIVE BEST from S4.
- For example – if you are good at 2 sports – do PE, if you play an instrument – do Music.

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5. Can I 'crash' any subjects in S5? i.e. can I take a new subject?

- The quickest answer for S5 is NO but there are a few exceptions below:
- You are not able to select any crash Higher subjects in S5.
- If you studied N4 Sciences in S4, you should can select National 5 Environmental Science.
- If you studied N4 Social Subjects in S4, you can select N5 Travel and Tourism.
- If you are mostly studying N5 levels in S5, you may choose Practical Cookery in S5.



Example of Science learner pathway:

S4 Qualification Secured:

Achieved a pass in the National Progression Award in Applied Science

Or

Achieved National 4 pass in any of the discrete Sciences



S5 Progression Route:

SQA National 5 Environmental Science.

OR

SQA Level 5 NPA Lab Skills



S6 Progression Route:

SQA National 5 Environmental Science.

OR

SQA Level 5 NPA Lab Skills

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6. Can I study a Part Time College Course in S5?

- We would suggest that the majority of S5 do **NOT** study the part-time college courses and leave this to S6.
- For some students a N5 college course may be a good option – but this **MUST** be discussed with your Pastoral Care Teacher or House DHT in the first instance.
- **These work well if you are sitting mostly Level 5 / National 5 qualifications in S5 and/or may be leaving school at the end of S5.**

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What should my young person do if they wish to study a senior phase college course?

- If your young person is interested in studying a part time college course **they must speak to their Pastoral Care Teacher ASAP to check if this is appropriate for them.**
- They will then be directed to apply for the course but to also complete a glow form so that Mr Mullin is aware this course has been applied for.

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Examples of part-time college courses that may be suitable for some learners:

Level 4 Hairdressing – Glasgow Kelvin College

Level 4 Intro to hairdressing, beauty and make-up- City of Glasgow

Level 4 Bakery – City of Glasgow

Level 5 Up in the Air and on the Ground – City of Glasgow

Level 4 Uniformed and Emergency Services – City of Glasgow

Level 4/5 Introduction to Midwifery – Cardonald Campus

Level 5 Child, Health & Social Care – City of Glasgow

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Two-year Journey – S5 and S6

- Students have S5 and S6 to gain Highers and other qualifications.
- This is where research is key! A lot of students presume certain subjects are required for University e.g. Higher Maths! This is not ALWAYS the case for MANY courses!
- N5 Maths or N5 Applications of Maths is required for most BUT not always Higher.
- Level 6 Literacy and Communications provides a two-year pathway to work towards securing Higher English.

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The role of Pastoral Care in supporting the options process – Mr Carstairs

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Where our learners go when they leave Hyndland Secondary School:

Session 2023-2024

- 67% Higher Education
- 19% Further Education
- 3% Training
- 9% Employment
- 2% Other course e.g. personal development/ employability

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Supporting our learners to be successful:

POSITIVE AND SUSTAINED DESTINATIONS – AUGUST 2024 LEAVERS

- **99.6%** of our leavers from June 2024 were in a positive destination in October 2024.
- In the March follow up of leavers – Hyndland Secondary was **top in Glasgow City Council** with almost all of our leavers in a positive and SUSTAINED destination.

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Research for S5 Options is vital

- We are basing our school timetable upon the options that you ask for in March.
- So it is **VITAL** that you do your research **NOW**.
- It may not be possible to select a different subject in August because you have noticed it is an entry requirement for a course you wish to study.
- Look at University and College entrance requirements **NOW** in order to ensure you are making the right decisions.

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Course Choice Interviews

- We will carry out some targeted course choice interviews before the Easter holidays.
- The purpose of these is to ensure that learners have selected their 'best five' subjects to study in S5.
- Pastoral Care will look at tracking data and discuss this with student.
- If you are not targeted for this – do not worry – it means that you have chosen wisely in terms of your subjects for S5.

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