

ST THOMAS AQUINAS SECONDARY SCHOOL

ALL LEARNERS, ALL ACHIEVING



SENIOR PHASE INFORMATION EVENING

Welcome!

ST THOMAS AQUINAS SECONDARY SCHOOL
ALL LEARNERS, ALL ACHIEVING



S4

Senior Phase Information Evening



READY FOR THE CHALLENGE

Thursday 5th September 2024 | 6pm

Year Head: Miss Meehan



S4 Senior Phase Information Evening Agenda

- **S4: Ready for the Challenge-** Miss Meehan (S4 Year Head)
- **Pathways in Mathematics-** Miss Martin (PT Mathematics)
- **Study Skills –** Mr Houston (Acting FH Science)
- **Positive Pathways-** Skills Development Scotland (SDS) and Developing the Young Workforce (DYW)





S4 Ready for the Challenge

- Miss Claire Meehan
- Depute Head Teacher @STA (2016)
- Year Head of S4
- Whole School Remit: Sustainability, Timetable, Senior Phase Curriculum, Developing the Young Workforce and Positive Destination
- Follow on X: @meehan_miss





S4 Ready for the Challenge Agenda

1. Senior Phase Standards and Expectations
2. National Qualifications
3. SQA policies and procedures
4. Key dates / timelines for this session
5. Planning for the next steps



STA Attainment



By the end of S4, no. of pupils achieving:



5+ Award @ SCQF Level 3 or better	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24
	92%	90%	98%	95%	99%	93.4%

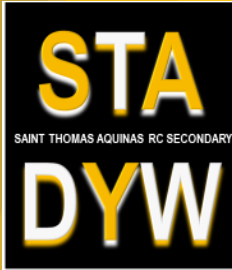


5+ Awards @ SCQF Level 4 or better	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24
	82%	79%	89%	82%	92%	85.5%



5+ Awards @ SCQF Level 5 or better	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24
	45%	44%	47%	50%	65.2%	47.1%

STA Positive Destinations



2022-23	Total % Positive	Total % Negative
St Thomas Aquinas Secondary School	97.44%	2.56%
Scotland	93.50%	6.5%





STA Attainment

Factors which lead to Exam Success at STA:

- Meeting High Expectations and Standards of STA
- High Attendance and great timekeeping
- Increased effort in class and at home
- Engaging in Support





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(1) Senior Phase Standards and Expectations

Being a 4th year in STA

Three key focal points

- Senior Phase Pupil
- Role model for BGE pupils
- Increased demands





S4 STANDARDS AND EXPECTATIONS

Ethos of high expectations

- Full school uniform *at all times*
- Excellent timekeeping and attendance
- Working to full potential
- Meeting deadlines for homework & course work
- Excellent behaviour & effort





S4 STANDARDS AND EXPECTATIONS

Student Support Programme

- Universal Support
- Supported Study
- PSE Study Skills Programme
- Easter School
- PSE teacher, Pastoral Care Support and Year Head Support
- Targeted Support
- Metacognition and Study Skills Targeted HWB groups (e.g. Coping with Exam Stress Workshops)



Parents as Partners

- We are keen to work closely with you as partners
- Your child will find this session challenging
- Support to help your child to recover from impact of pandemic
- They may struggle with their workload
- Your support will make the difference
- Resilience





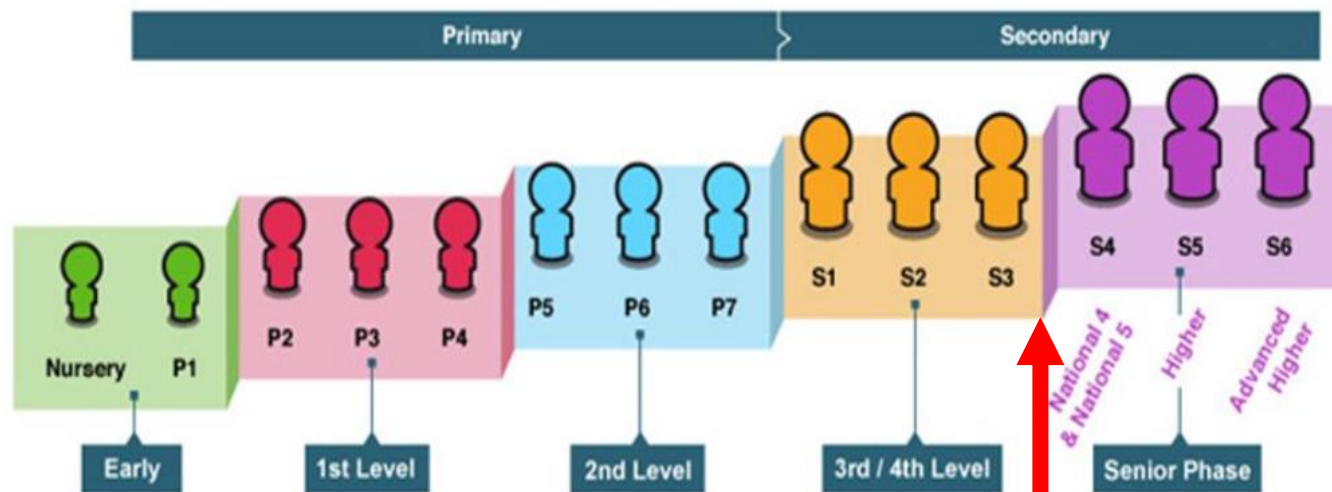
Supporting your child

- Supporting STA's High Standards and Expectations
- Study Environment (space, materials, distractions)
- Time Management & Study Planning
- Attendance
- Timekeeping
- Hard-work
- Monitoring Homework

HARD
WORK is
the formula for
SUCCESS



(2) National Qualifications



You are here



(2) National Qualifications

SCQF Levels	SQA Qualifications		
7	Advanced Higher, Awards, Scottish Baccalaureate	Higher National Certificate, Advanced Certificate	Professional Development Award
6	Higher, Awards, Skills for Work Higher	National Certificate	Professional Development Award
			National Progression Award
5	National 5, Awards, Skills for Work National 5	National Certificate	National Progression Award
4	National 4, Awards, Skills for Work National 4	National Certificate	National Progression Award
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		



National 3



- SCQF Level 3
- Internal Unit Assessments
- Progression to National 4





National 4



- SCQF Level 4
- Internal Unit Assessments including an Added Value Unit (AVU)
- Progression to National 5





National 5



- SCQF Level 5
- External Exam
- Graded A-D
- Progression to Higher





(3) SQA policies and procedures

- Pupil levels are based on BGE levels & attainment in assessments this session
- Aspirational and realistic- partnership
- Throughout the session, numerous tracking points- shared with you
- Monitored rigorously and discussions, interventions between class teachers, principal teachers, young people and parents.

N3

N4

N5



(4) Key Dates

Month	Activity
August – October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• S4 Information Evening- 05.09.24• Flu Vaccinations- 17&18.09.24• September Weekend 27-30.09.24• Study Skills Support for Parents and Carers: 6pm-6.30pm on Teams- 03.10.24-• In Service- 11.10.24• October Week College Application Support commences- WB 14.10.24• October Holiday- 14-18.10.24



(4) Key Dates

Month	Activity
October-December	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Positive Destinations Evening 24.10.24 (5.30-7.00pm)• S4 Tracking Report 1- WB 28.10.24• S4 Progress and Achievement Evening 1-13.11.2024• Interim Assessments from 2-18.12.2024



(4) Key Dates

Month	Activity
January - March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interim Assessment Results Letters- W/B 20.01.25• Post-Interim Assessment Results Interventions begin- W/B 20.01.25• S4-S5 Personalisation and Choice Interviews- end of January• S4 Progress and Achievement Evening 2-05.02.25• Feb Holiday 17-18/02/25• Feb in-service 19.02.24• Formal Universal Study Support Block 2 commences 25.02.25• S4 Tracking Report 2: 31/03/25• Easter Holidays 7/4-21/4/25



(4) Key Dates

Month	Activity
April-June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SQA Exam Diet Commence- 28th April 2025• SQA Exam Diet Concludes- 30th May 2025• New S5 and New S6 Induction- June 2025



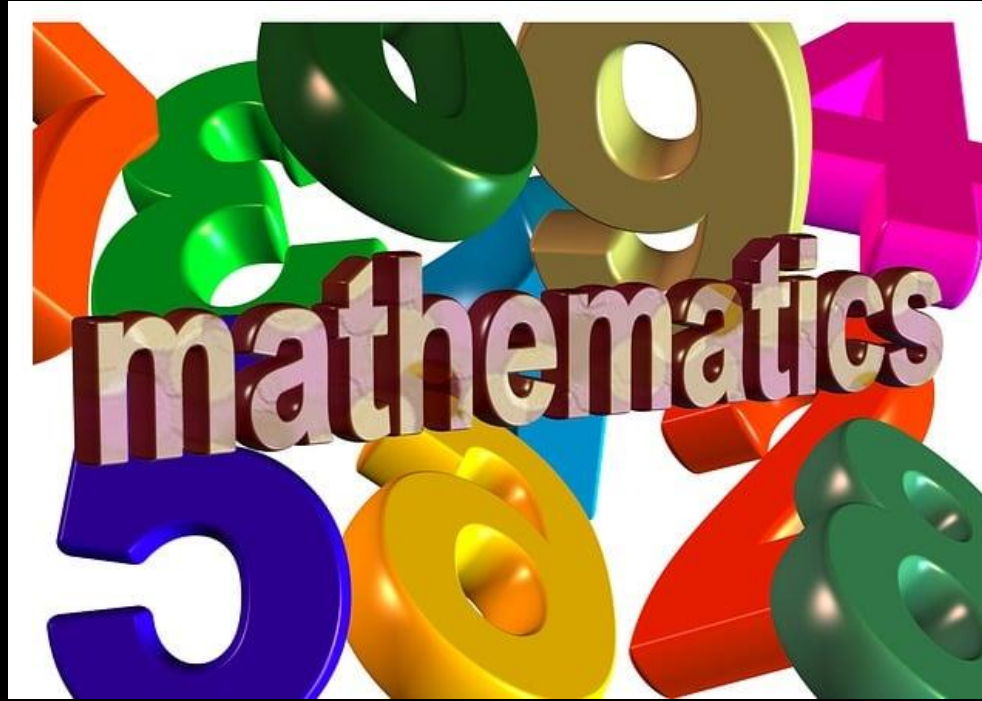
(4) Planning for Next Steps

- S4 Summer Leaver- must tell YH or PTPC
- College workshop during October holidays
- Post school Opportunities and Work experience will continue to be highlighted on Teams
- Careers Advice from Skills Development Scotland
- Opportunities for college and apprenticeships at the end of this session



Pathways in Mathematics

Miss Martin (PT Mathematics)





Pathways in Mathematics

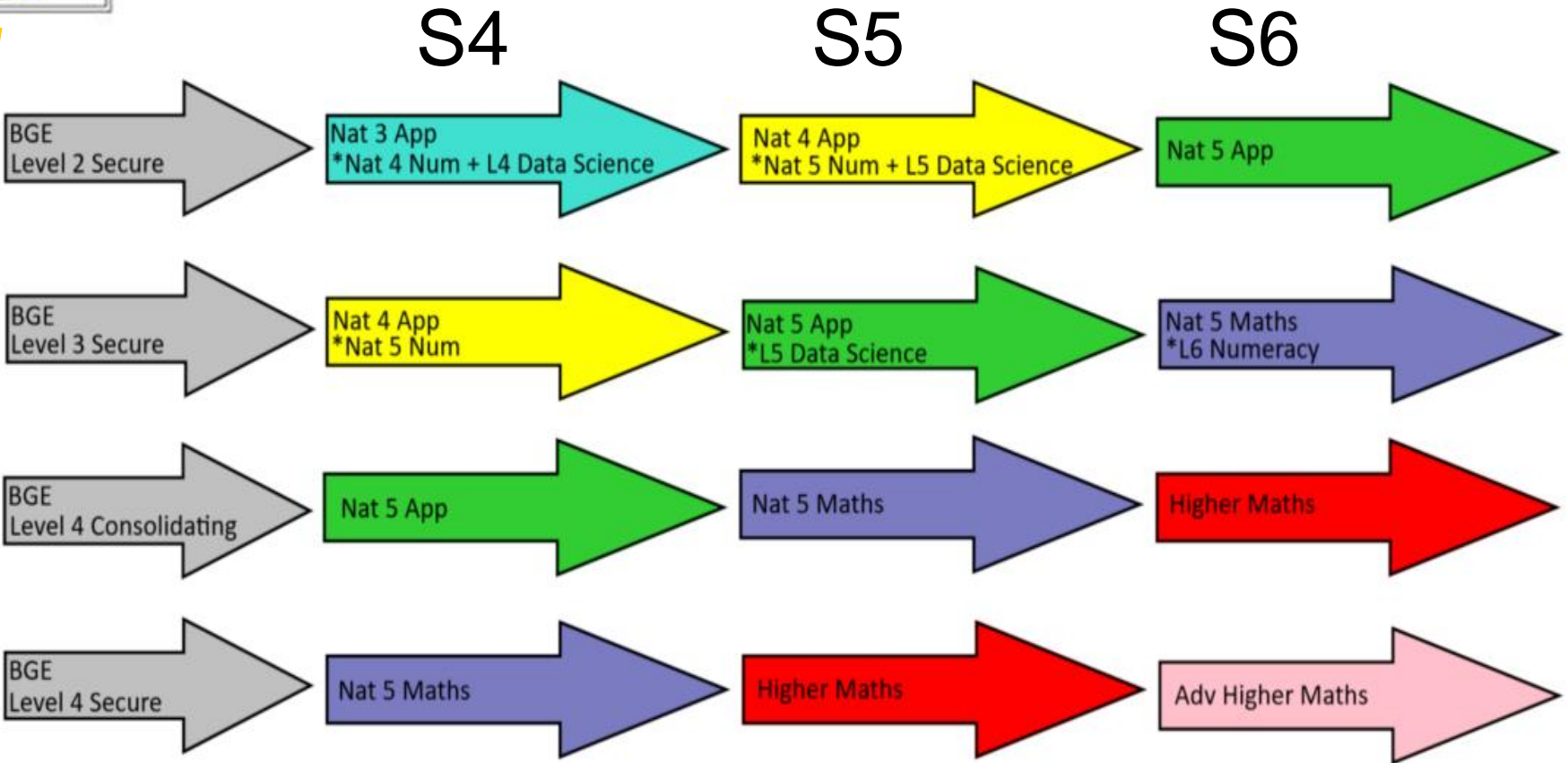
Miss Martin (PT Mathematics)

- The transition from BGE to Senior Phase
- Pathways and the journey through Senior Phase
- Aspirations and Expectations





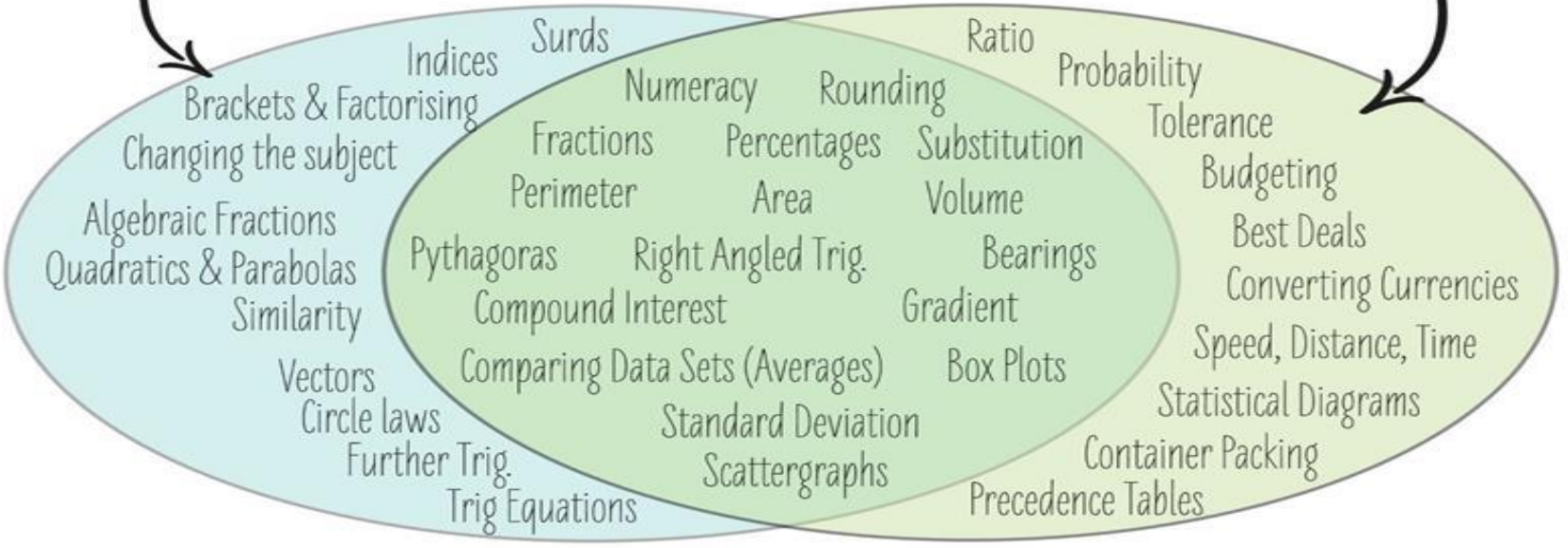
Transition from BGE to Senior Phase





Pathways in Mathematics

MATHS OR APPLICATIONS



WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?



Pathways in Mathematics

- N5 Applications of Maths is a highly respected qualification which will open up many career opportunities for you.
- The course explores the applications of mathematical techniques and skills in everyday situations, including financial matters, statistics, and measurement.
- This qualification is accepted for many further education courses.



Pathways in Mathematics

- N5 Maths is a highly respected qualification which will open up many career opportunities for you.
- This is your more traditional maths course where you will study abstract maths. It is designed for those who want to go on and study maths at advanced levels.
- Pure mathematics is compulsory for some university courses such as medicine and STEM subjects.



Aspirations

Numeracy

- Police

Nat 4 Applications

- Modern apprenticeships
- Trades
- Retail





Aspirations

National 5 Applications or Maths

- Initial teacher education (primary)
- Social work
- Finance
- Arts and humanities
- Nursing
- Sports science
- Film, theatre, drama
- Criminology





Aspirations

National 5 Maths only

- Computer science
- Gaming
- Science
- Engineering
- Medicine
- Business





Expectations

Every young person can achieve in Mathematics and has the potential to obtain a qualification that will enhance their employment prospects, support their further education aspirations and give them the confidence to navigate the numerical world in which we live.





Expectations

- On time and prepared for learning
- Attendance
- Engaged
- Work ethic and perseverance
- Home learning
- Additional revision
- Seeking out support





Expectations

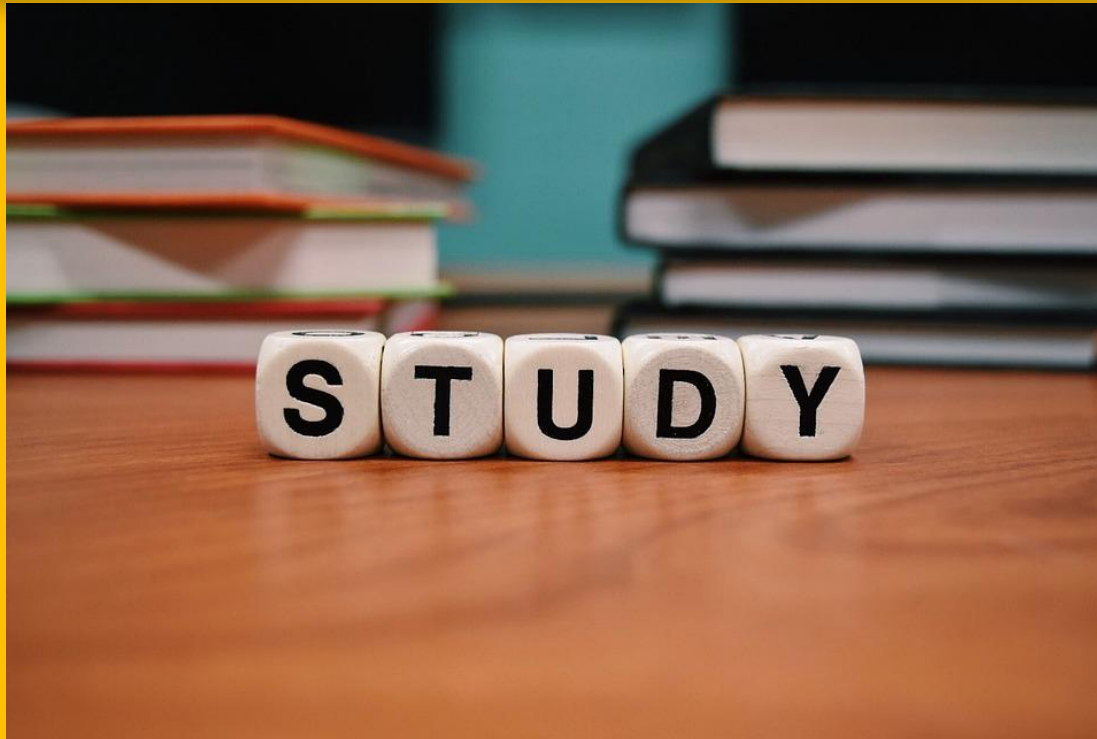
“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.”

Aristotle





Study Skills – Mr Houston (Acting FH Science)





STUDY SKILLS AND EFFECTIVE HABITS

PRINCIPAL TEACHER OF SCIENCE (ACTING)

PREVIOUSLY – PT RAISING ATTAINMENT

DAVID HOUSTON

TONIGHT'S SESSION

- Stepping up a gear as we enter a new year group
- Online sessions for study skills+
- Science of Learning
- Supported Study
- Raising Attainment Resources

STEPPING UP TO S4

- **At least** 2 hours per subject per week
- Success in S3 exams is no guarantee of success in S4.

N5 Biology Case Study, 2022-23 cohort:

- 80 pupils in the cohort
- 84% passed the S3 exam (16% failed)
- 27% became N4
- 12% sat the N5 exam but did not pass
- So 39% of the cohort did not achieve N5

What did the successful pupils do?



STEP AND MATCH THE CHALLENGE (N5→HIGHER)

- **Progression Tables** are data made by the SQA which show progression from N4 to N5; N5 to Higher; Higher to Adv Higher within a subject.
- E.g. What do pupils that get a B at N5 English go on to get at Higher?

		English					
		Percentage of Learners Gaining Higher 2019					
National 5 2018	Result	A	B	C	D	No Award	Total
	A	46%	32%	17%	5%	1%	100%
	B	7%	24%	35%	26%	7%	100%
	C	1%	8%	25%	38%	28%	100%
	D	1%	4%	14%	35%	47%	100%

- 31% (7% + 24%) go on to get a B or better at Higher, 69% do worse...
- Success at N5 is no guarantee of success at Higher. Higher is considerably harder.
- How did the 31% who matched or bettered their N5 result do it?

N4 TO N5 IS AN EVEN BIGGER CHALLENGE

National 4 2018 to National 5 2019

Qualification	Percentage of Learners Gaining National 5 2019					Total Learners Progressing*
	A	B	C	D	No Award	
Applications of Mathematics	2%	6%	19%	29%	44%	299
Biology	1%	7%	19%	34%	39%	1,529
Chemistry	2%	8%	22%	37%	30%	509
English	6%	24%	32%	24%	13%	4,386
English for Speakers of Other Languages	8%	21%	33%	30%	8%	153
Geography	2%	11%	23%	27%	37%	391
Graphic Communication	0%	8%	26%	37%	29%	146
History	6%	15%	27%	24%	27%	620
Mathematics	4%	11%	18%	24%	43%	6,906
Modern Studies	4%	12%	22%	23%	39%	485
Physics	1%	9%	21%	30%	39%	662

HIGHER TO ADV HIGHER

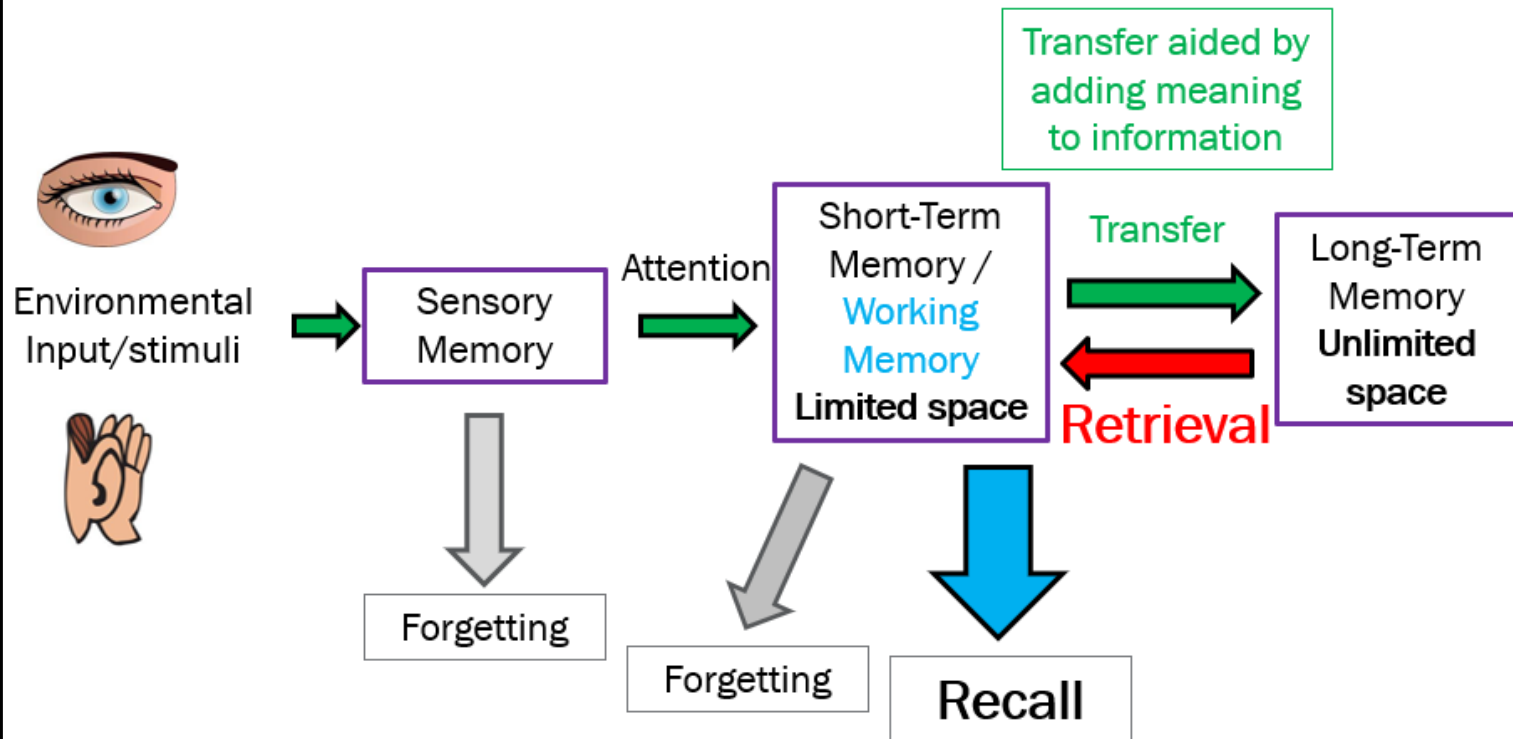
		Human Biology to Biology					
		Percentage of Learners Gaining Advanced Higher 2019					
Higher 2018	Result	A	B	C	D	No Award	Total
	A	30%	33%	24%	7%	6%	100%
	B	3%	14%	32%	23%	28%	100%
	C	0%	5%	17%	21%	57%	100%
	D	-	-	-	-	-	-
	No Award	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Learners Progressing		917					

		Spanish					
		Percentage of Learners Gaining Advanced Higher 2019					
Higher 2018	Result	A	B	C	D	No Award	Total
	A	41%	21%	21%	7%	10%	100%
	B	2%	6%	36%	19%	38%	100%
	C	-	-	-	-	-	-
	D	-	-	-	-	-	-
	No Award	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Learners Progressing		452					

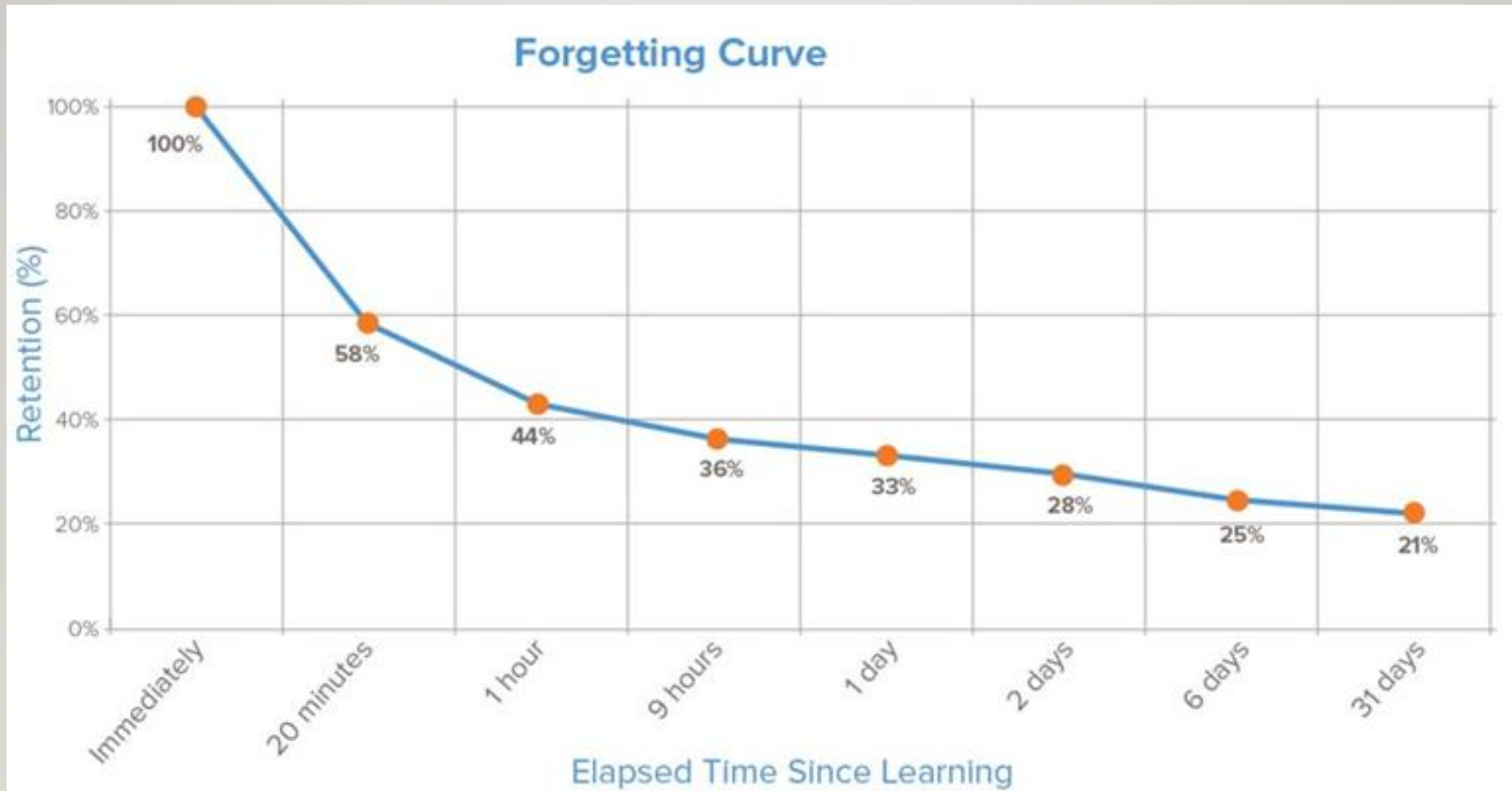
SCIENCE OF LEARNING

- Multi-store model of memory
- Fighting forgetting by spacing reminders
- Top 3 retrieval strategies to close gaps in knowledge

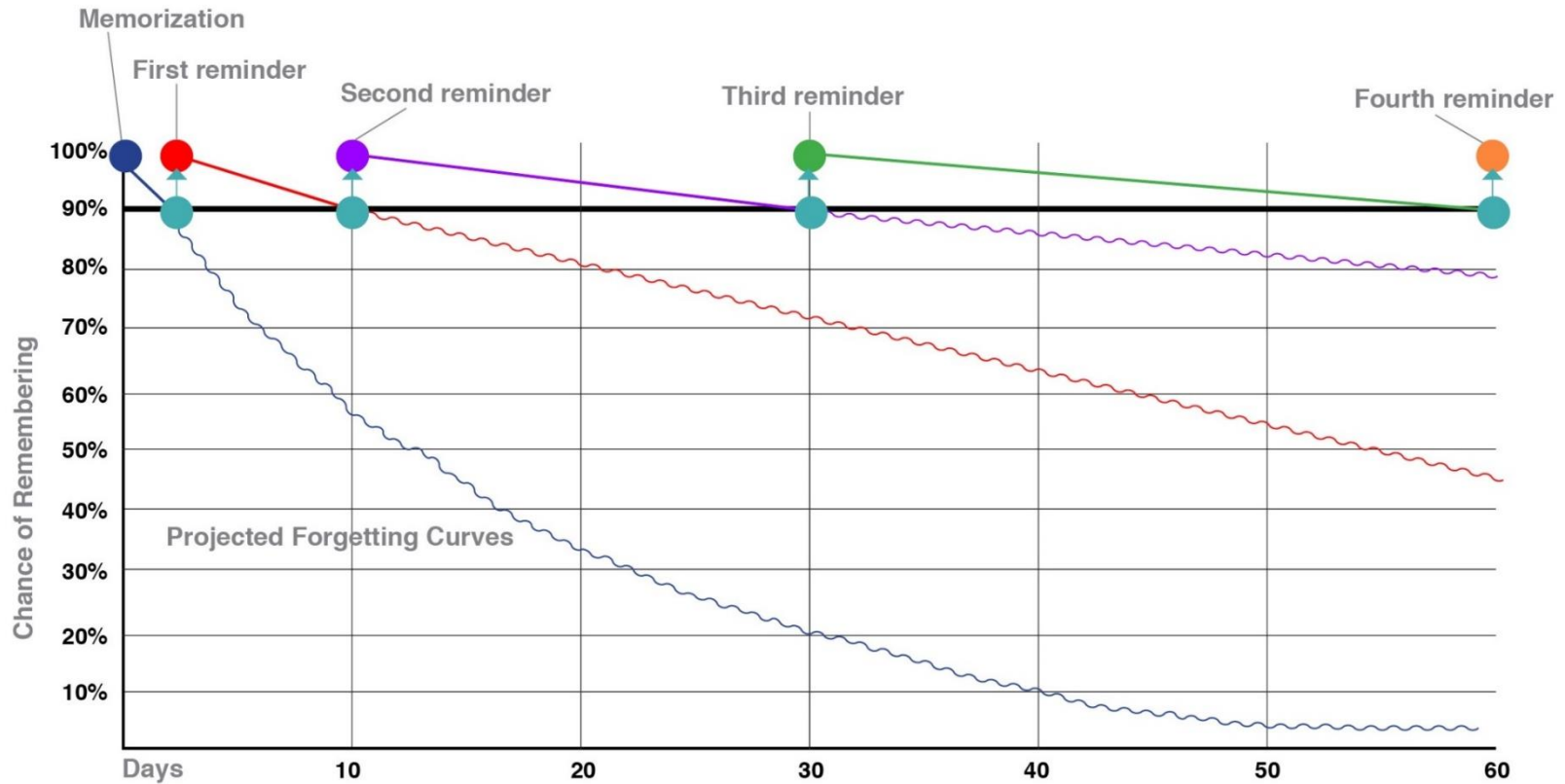
Model of memory



FORGETTING



FIGHTING AGAINST FORGETTING



WHAT IS RETRIEVAL PRACTICE?

- Quizzing - by going into your long term memory to **retrieve** information and bringing it into your working memory to answer questions/problem solve/perform.
- It is vital that quizzing is done **without notes**.
- This makes studying more stimulating, more effective but more challenging.
- Challenge is part of learning.

TOP 3 RETRIEVAL PRACTICE STRATEGIES

- Do SQA past paper questions
- Flashcards
- Brain-dumps A.K.A. Free Recall

ONLINE STUDY SKILLS SESSIONS FOR PARENTS AND PUPILS

- Thursday 3rd October, 6:30-7pm
- Meet online on Teams

SUPPORTED STUDY PROGRAMME

- Extremely important intervention!
- Attendance is monitored
- Pupils must explain to their class teacher if they cannot attend supported study, attending is expected.

RESOURCES

- **Where?** You can find these resources on the 'STA Pupil Site' on OneDrive.
- **What resources?**

Template study plan

PSE lessons


PowerPoints from study skills sessions

Supported Study Timetables (when available)











Positive Pathways




Skills
Development
Scotland



My
World of
Work

Jackie O'Hare
Careers Adviser
St Thomas Aquinas



What is a Careers Adviser



Understanding your personality, interests and values is key to making the right career decisions.

SELF

Know how to use your talents, skills and personal qualities.

STRENGTHS

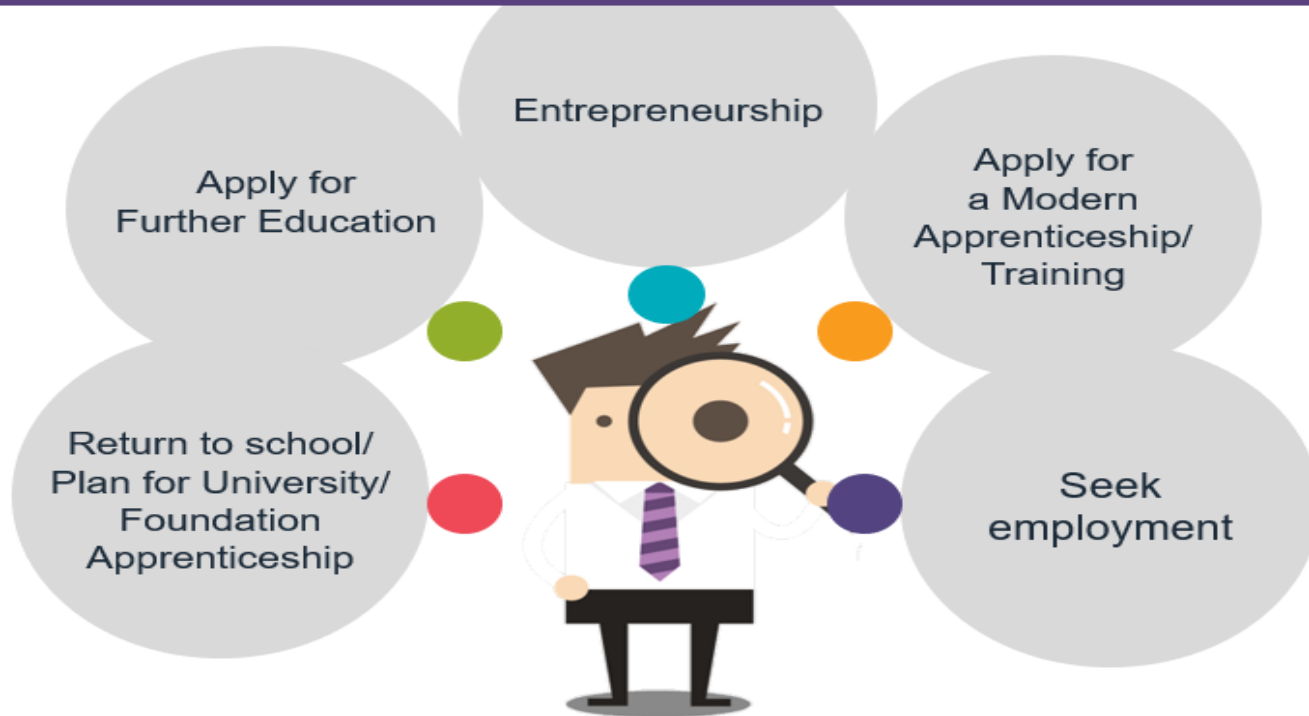
Explore the world of work, training and learning.

HORIZONS

Identify who can help you, and how, in your career journey.

NETWORKS

Routes & Pathways

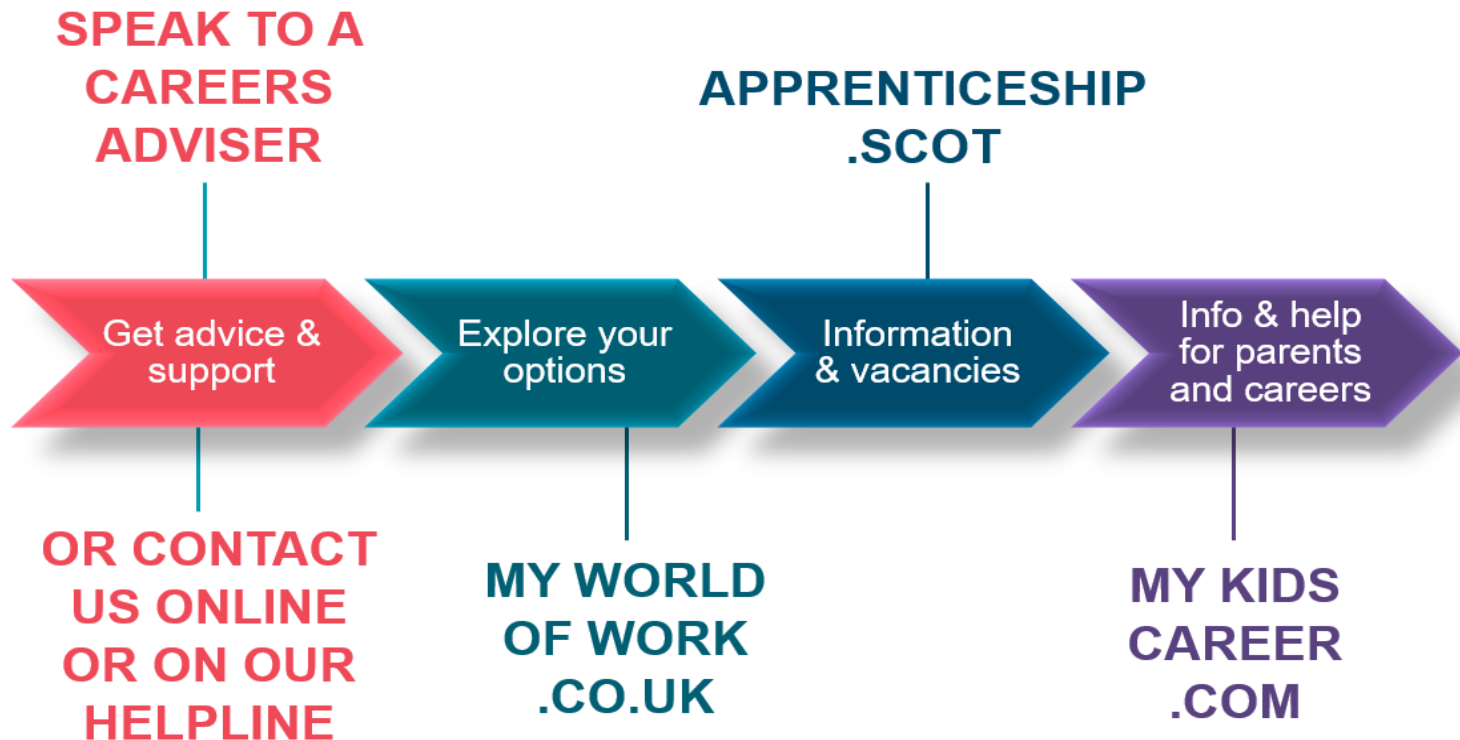


Say hello to a wide world of career choices

Explore roles, develop your skills and get the right job for you.



FIND OUT MORE



Services in school

Appointments –

- Pastoral Care
- Break and lunch time drop-in sessions
- Phone or email

Jackie O'Hare - Monday - Friday

- jacqueline.ohare@sds.co.uk
- Tel: 0141 468 7089
- Mob: 07887954268





Kathleen Cusick
DYW Coordinator

What is DYW?

**To increase
opportunities for ALL
young people and
assist them in
reaching a positive
sustainable
destination.**



Positive Destinations

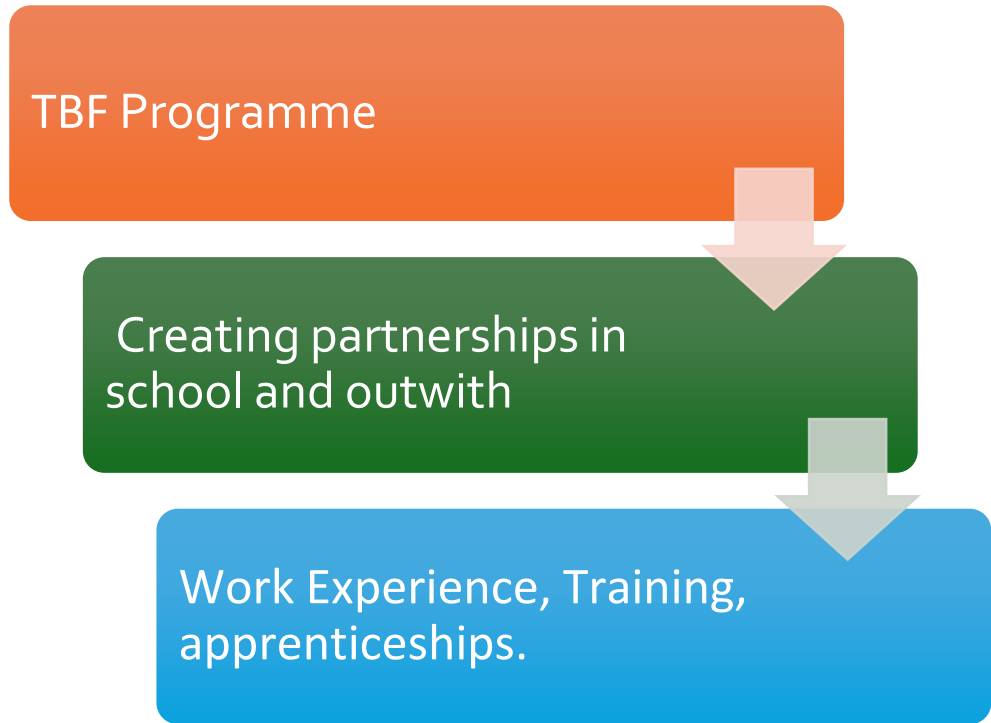
Engage & encourage young people to take part in further education, training, work and apprenticeships

Work with non engaged young people.

One to One – Registration, Action Plan, Skills & Aspirations

What we will work on will depend on each young person

Employer Engagement



How can I achieve these objectives.....

One to One support

College Applications

Work Experience

CV Objectives
Mock Interviews

Apprenticeships

SMART

Creating Positive Partnerships

House Visits

Registrations

Family Engagement

Employer information sessions

Site Visits

Link in with PC & Supporting Staff / Head Office / College / Employers



TBF Re-Engagement (On Route) – Young people who require some support to break down barriers to engaging.



TBF Next Steps – For Stage 2 upwards young people who have left school without a positive destination we will provide a range of employability programmes to help boost skills, confidence, qualifications and provide a progression route.



TBF College Mentor Support – For any young person who has a confirmed college space, but is at risk of not sustaining this

Questions Welcomed

- I can be found in the Partnership Based
- Available Monday, Tuesday and alternative Fridays
- gw16cusickkathleen@glow.sch.uk

