

INVERCLYDE ACADEMY

SENIOR PHASE OPTIONS

PROGRESSING TO
ACADEMIC SESSION
2026-27



This booklet contains all the information that you need. It is available on your House Teams page. It will also be emailed to your Glow account and to your parents' email.

Senior Phase Options Choice Guidance: 2026



Inverclyde Academy



Your Pupil Support Teacher will guide you through it in PSE in the coming days to help you with making informed choices.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- ✓ Make wise choices that support your career journey when you leave IA.
- ✓ Find out about the entry requirements needed for any jobs or College or University courses that you are considering. Make sure this is up-to-date e.g. *do you need 3 sciences for a medical course? No, they only look for two.*
- ✓ Choose subjects you are good at and enjoy and that suit your abilities.
- ✓ Think about what grades your teachers have given you in your final report.
- ✓ Be realistic about what you are able to do - there is little point in taking a subject which has caused you serious difficulty in the past.
- ✓ Discuss your options with other people. Ask them for information, help and advice...

...but remember that YOU must make the final decision for yourself.

OPTIONS STRUCTURE – NUMBER OF SUBJECTS

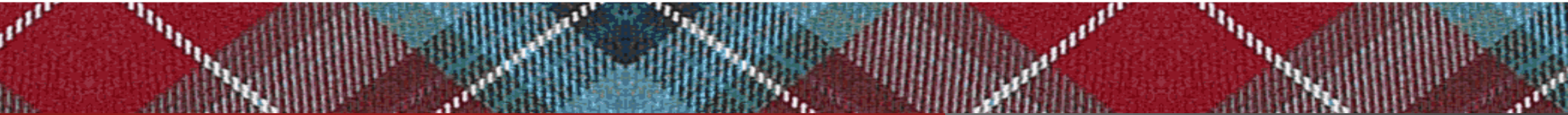
Senior phase covers S4, S5 & S6. Therefore, all/any of your classes can contain pupils from any of these 3 year groups.

Pupils must follow a set number of courses in S4 as indicated below:

- **S4 – English/ESOL and Maths plus 5 courses** must be selected at levels 3-5

S4 should also note that they are not permitted to ‘crash’ new subjects unless specifically agreed with subject and Guidance teachers. You must make choices based on the subject pathways you are already taking.





Receding Colours

- Receding colours appear to move into the background when you look at them.
- Advancing colours are cold colours:
 - blue
 - green
 - violet

Harmonising Colours

- Harmonising colours are beside each other on the colour wheel.
- The following colours are harmonious:
 - Yellow & Orange
 - Red & Violet
 - Blue & Green

SCHOOL SUBJECT OPTIONS

There are new subjects open to you as long as they fit in with your learning pathway and career planning


Course name	Stage	L4	L5
Administration & IT	All	✓	✓
Applications of Maths	All	✓	✓
Applied Lab Science SfW	All		✓
Art	All	✓	✓
Biology	All	✓	✓
Business Management	All	✓	✓
Chemistry	All	✓	✓
Computing Science	All	✓	✓
Creative Thinking NPA	All		✓
Drama	All	✓	✓
Engineering Science	All		✓
English	All	✓	✓
ESOL	All	✓	✓
Graphic Communication	All	✓	✓
Health Sector SfW	All		✓
History	All	✓	✓
Mathematics	All	✓	✓
Modern Studies	All	✓	✓
Music	All	✓	✓
Music Technology	All	✓	✓
PE	All	✓	✓
Photography	All		✓
Physics	All	✓	✓
Practical Cookery	All	✓	✓
Practical Woodwork	All	✓	✓
Scottish Studies	All	✓	✓
Spanish	All	✓	✓
Textiles	All		✓

SCQF – UNDERSTANDING COURSE LEVELS...

You will find out far more about the SCQF Framework in the options booklet.

THE SCOTTISH CREDIT AND QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

This Framework diagram has been produced to show the mainstream Scottish qualifications already credit rated by SQA and HEIs. However, there are a diverse number of learning programmes on the Framework, which, due to the limitations of this format, cannot be represented here. For more information, please visit the SCQF website at www.scqf.org.uk to view the interactive version of the Framework or search the Database.



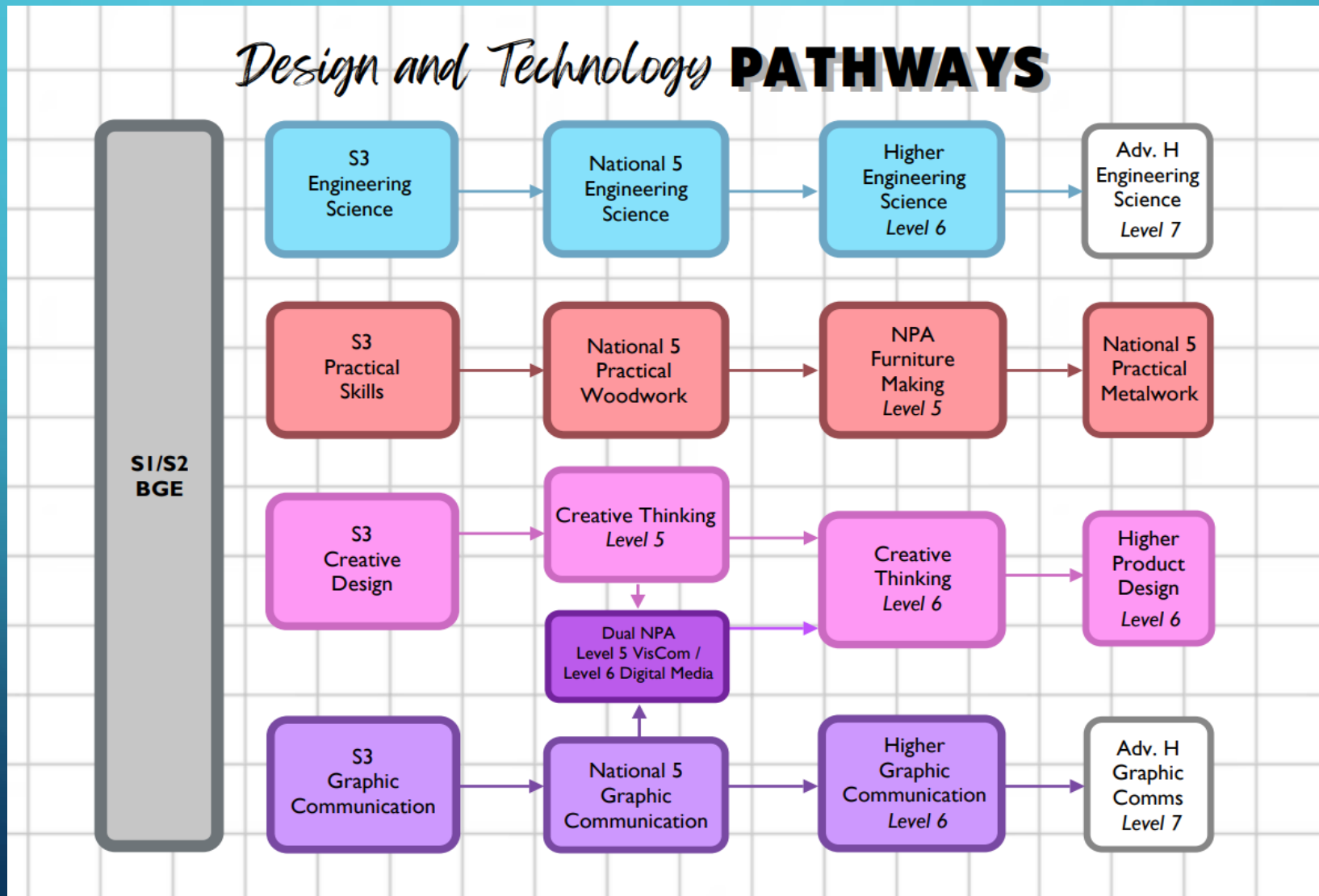
SCQF Levels	SQA Qualifications		Qualifications of Higher Education Institutions	Apprenticeships & SVQs
12			Doctoral Degree	Professional Apprenticeship
11			Masters Degree, Integrated Masters Degree, Post Graduate Diploma, Post Graduate Certificate	Graduate Apprenticeship Professional Apprenticeship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

Most of your courses in S4 will be Levels 4 or 5 this year but it is important that you see where they are heading on the Pathways Maps so that you know if there are L6 or L7 options available to you in S5 and S6.

FIND OUT MORE AT: [HOME - SCOTTISH CREDIT AND QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK](http://www.scqf.org.uk)

UNDERSTANDING PATHWAYS...

Every department has a Pathways Map in the Options Booklet to help you to understand and navigate your pathway through the subjects throughout the Senior Phase.



Completing your options form...



You will receive a BLUE paper copy of the options information like the one in the options booklet to allow you to mock up your options with your family before discussing with your Pupil Support Teacher.

Once agreed, you will be able to enter that information directly on to the MS Form which will be shared on your House Teams page.



Inverclyde Academy – S3 into S4 Options

Spring 2026



FULL NAME: _____ YEAR GROUP: _____ HOUSE: _____

The information below is for your guidance as you prepare to make your final choices. When choosing courses, you must decide what subjects and levels would suit you best. To help make your choices, you should consider your abilities, future career and interests as these will determine which pathway you should follow. **The full booklet of information and advice is posted on your House Teams page.** This will also be shared with you in PSE.

You should find out which courses and levels of qualification are needed for college, university, apprenticeship or employment pathways you have in mind. Do not assume you know what they need as you could be surprised by the entry requirements so ensure you have done your research before making your choices.

Discussing your ideas and research with subject teachers can also be of huge benefit as they know a great deal about the pathways linked to curricular areas.

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
1. On the grid below, **you must pick ONE SUBJECT in EVERY COLUMN.**
 2. You must make sure that you **only pick each subject ONCE.**
 3. You must write a **RESERVE subject at the end** which will be needed if any of your courses do not run or end up clashing. This can be **any subject you have not picked already.**
 4. Once checked and agreed by your Pupil Support Teacher, final options will be completed electronically on your House Teams page.
 5. You may be asked to attend a meeting with your Pupil Support Teacher to discuss this form if any concerns are identified within your choices.

Column A	✓	Column B	✓	Column C	✓	Column D	✓	Column E	✓	Column F	✓	Column G	✓
L5 Photography		L5 Creative Thinking		L5 Lab Science		L5 Creative Thinking		L5 Scottish Studies		N3/4 English		N3/4 Apps of Maths	
N4/5 Admin & IT		L5 Health Sector		L5 Photography		N4/5 Art		N4/5 Admin & IT		N5 English		N3/4 Maths	
N4/5 Biology		N4/5 Biology		N4/5 Admin & IT		N4/5 Biology		N4/5 Biology		N3/4/5 ESOL		N5 Apps of Maths	
N4/5 Computing		N4/5 Music		N4/5 Art		N4/5 Business Mgt		N4/5 Chemistry				N5 Maths	
N4/5 Drama		N4/5 Physics		N4/5 Business Mgt		N4/5 Chemistry		N4/5 Graph Comm					
N4/5 Engineering Sci		N4/5 Prac Cookery		N4/5 Engineering Sci		N4/5 Music Tech		N4/5 History					
N4/5 History		N4/5 Prac Woodwork		N4/5 Modern Studies		N4/5 PE Aesthetic		N4/5 Modern Studies					
N4/5 PE Team Sport		N4/5 Textiles		N4/5 Music		N4/5 PE Team Sport		N4/5 Physics					
N4/5 Prac Cookery				N4/5 Prac Woodwork		N4/5 Prac Cookery		N4/5 Prac Cookery					
N4/5 Spanish													

RESERVE SUBJECT & LEVEL (select any from list above but **cannot be something you have already selected**): _____



Inverclyde Academy – S3 into S4 Options Form

Spring 2026

FULL NAME: _____ YEAR GROUP: _____ HOUSE: _____

The information below is for your guidance as you prepare to make your final choices. When choosing courses, you must decide what subjects and levels would be your choices, you should consider your abilities, future career and interests as these will determine which pathway you should follow. **The full booklet of information and Teams page.** This will also be shared with you in PSE.

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N4/5 Biology		N4/5 Biology		N4/5 Admin & IT		N4/5 Biology		N4/5 Biology		N3/4/5 ESOL		N5 Apps of Maths	
N4/5 Computing		N4/5 Music		N4/5 Art		N4/5 Business Mgt		N4/5 Chemistry				N5 Maths	
N4/5 Drama		N4/5 Physics		N4/5 Business Mgt		N4/5 Chemistry		N4/5 Graph Comm					
N4/5 Engineering Sci		N4/5 Prac Cookery		N4/5 Engineering Sci		N4/5 Music Tech		N4/5 History					
N4/5 History		N4/5 Prac Woodwork		N4/5 Modern Studies		N4/5 PE Aesthetic		N4/5 Modern Studies					
N4/5 PE Team Sport		N4/5 Textiles		N4/5 Music		N4/5 PE Team Sport		N4/5 Physics					
N4/5 Prac Cookery				N4/5 Prac Woodwork		N4/5 Prac Cookery		N4/5 Prac Cookery					
N4/5 Spanish													

RESERVE SUBJECT & LEVEL (select any from list above but **cannot be something you have already selected**): _____

You must follow the instructions carefully to ensure you select suitable subjects to fill your S4 timetable. **YOU CAN ONLY PICK EACH SUBJECT ONCE!**

Everyone **MUST** select a reserve choice which is different from your other 7 choices but select carefully as this could well be a subject you have to take for the next year.

WHAT ABOUT COLLEGE COURSES?

- West College Scotland offers a wide range of vocational courses in S4.
- These classes take place on a Wed morning from 9am-12pm. You must then make your way back to school for lunch.
- Places for these courses are limited and are **accepted through a SEPARATE APPLICATION process in the Spring.**

Course Name	SCQF Level	Campus
Intro to Professional Cookery	Levels 3-5	Finnart St
Health Science	Levels 3-5	Finnart St
Early Learning & Childcare	Level 4	Waterfront
Intro to Hair, Makeup & Beauty	Level 4	Finnart St
Rock School Live Performance	Level 4	Finnart St
Construction	Level 4	Finnart St
Computer Games Development	Level 4	Finnart St
Intro to Automotive Refinishing (IMI Level 1)	Level 4	Finnart St
Engineering	Level 4	Finnart St
TV Production	Level 4	Finnart St
Sound Production	Level 4	Finnart St
Forensic Science	Level 5	Finnart St
Sport	Level 5	Finnart St

MYTH BUSTING...

Myth Buster:

Employers only value N5s & Highers... FALSE!

Many tell us they are more interested in skills & qualities than grades.

Myth Buster:

Apprenticeships are only for 'Trades' such as joinery... FALSE!

See <https://www.apprenticeships.scot/> for a wide range of options.

Myth Buster:

Highers are the only qualifications that count... FALSE!

93% of all Level 6 qualifications in Scotland are NOT Highers.

Myth Buster:

You can only go to university by passing five Highers by S6... FALSE!
Graduate Apprenticeships or college HNC/HND pathways can be hugely supportive routes to a degree.

HELP AVAILABLE TO YOU:

- ✓ Resources on Teams & the school website
- ✓ Research – gather up to date information on your chosen career
- ✓ Discussions with:
 - Subject teachers
 - Pupil Support teachers
 - Larry from SDS
 - DHT
 - Parents/carers



You will have the opportunity for a discussion with your Pupil Support teacher in PSE before you complete the online form – make sure you have your questions ready!