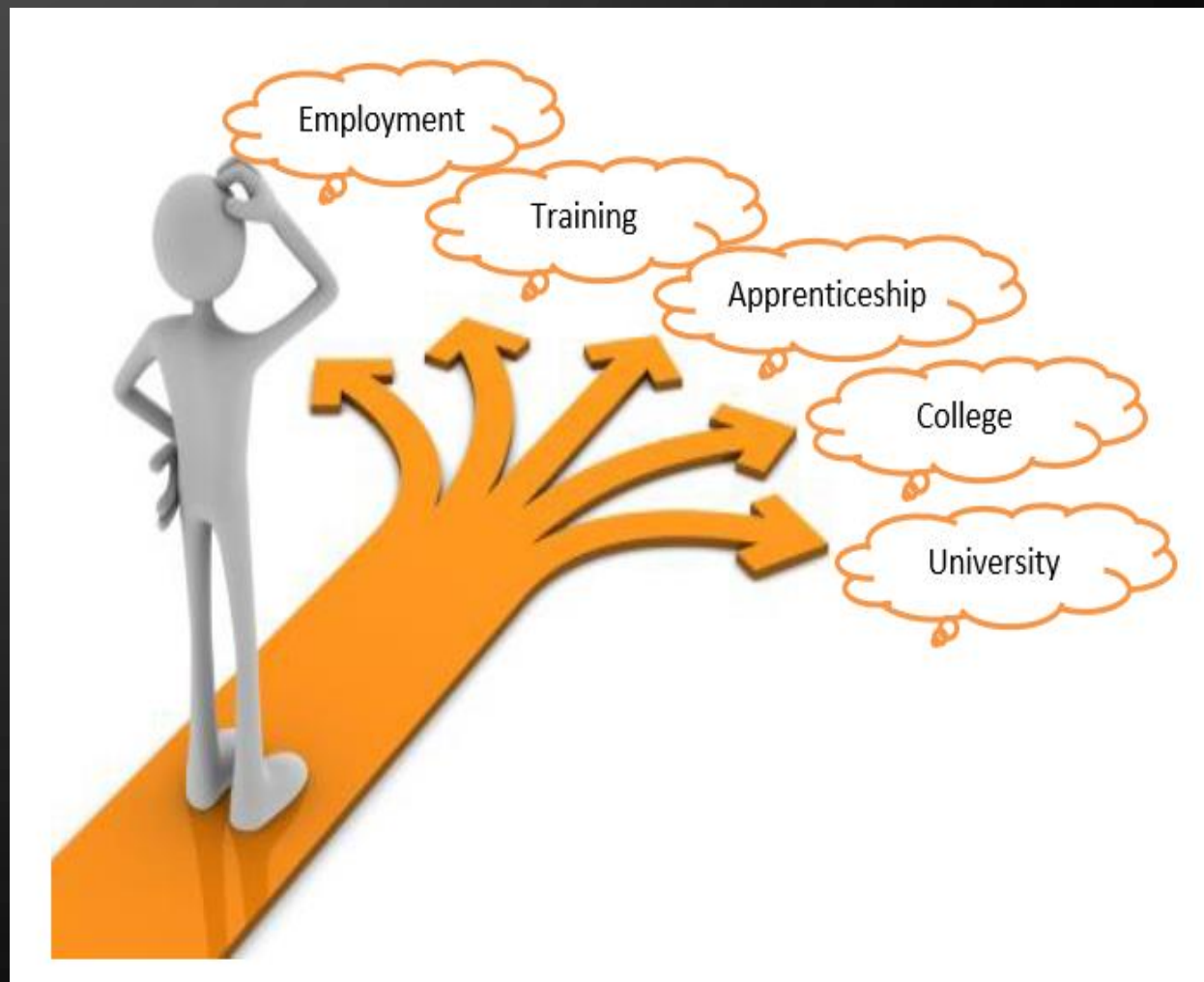


INVERCLYDE ACADEMY

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 and the school website. It has also been 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 weeks 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.
- ✓ S5s should also consider exam results from the summer to establish areas of strength and/or concern.
- ✓ 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.



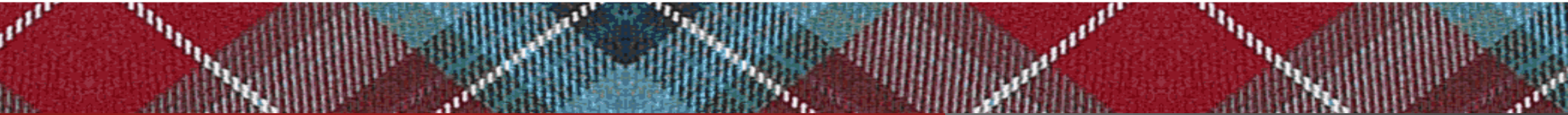
## OPTIONS STRUCTURE – NUMBER OF SUBJECTS

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 as indicated below:

- S5 – 5 courses must be selected at levels 5-6.

S5 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	L6	L7
Textiles	All		✓	.	
Acting & Performance NPA	S5/6 only			✓	
Business & IT NPA	S5/6 only		✓	✓	
Communication & Literature	S5/6 only		✓	✓	
Criminology	S5/6 only		✓	.	
Furniture Making NPA	S5/6 only		✓		
Human Biology	S5/6 only			✓	
RMPS	S5/6 only	.	.	✓	
Scientific Technologies NPA	S5/6 only			✓	
Sport & Recreation SFW	S5/6 only		✓		
Sports Leaders	S5/6 only		✓	✓	
Technical Theatre NPA	S5/6 only			✓	
Travel & Tourism	S5/6 only		✓	.	
Visual Communication NPA	S5/6 only		✓		

# SCQF – UNDERSTANDING COURSE LEVELS...

**THE SCOTTISH CREDIT AND QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK**

This Framework diagram has been produced to show the mainstream Scottish qualifications already credit rated by DQA 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](http://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 Foundation Apprenticeship SVQ
5	Higher, Awards, Skills for Work Higher			Modern Apprenticeship SVQ
5	National 5, Awards, Skills for Work National 5			Modern Apprenticeship SVQ
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	National 2, Awards			
1	National 1, Awards			

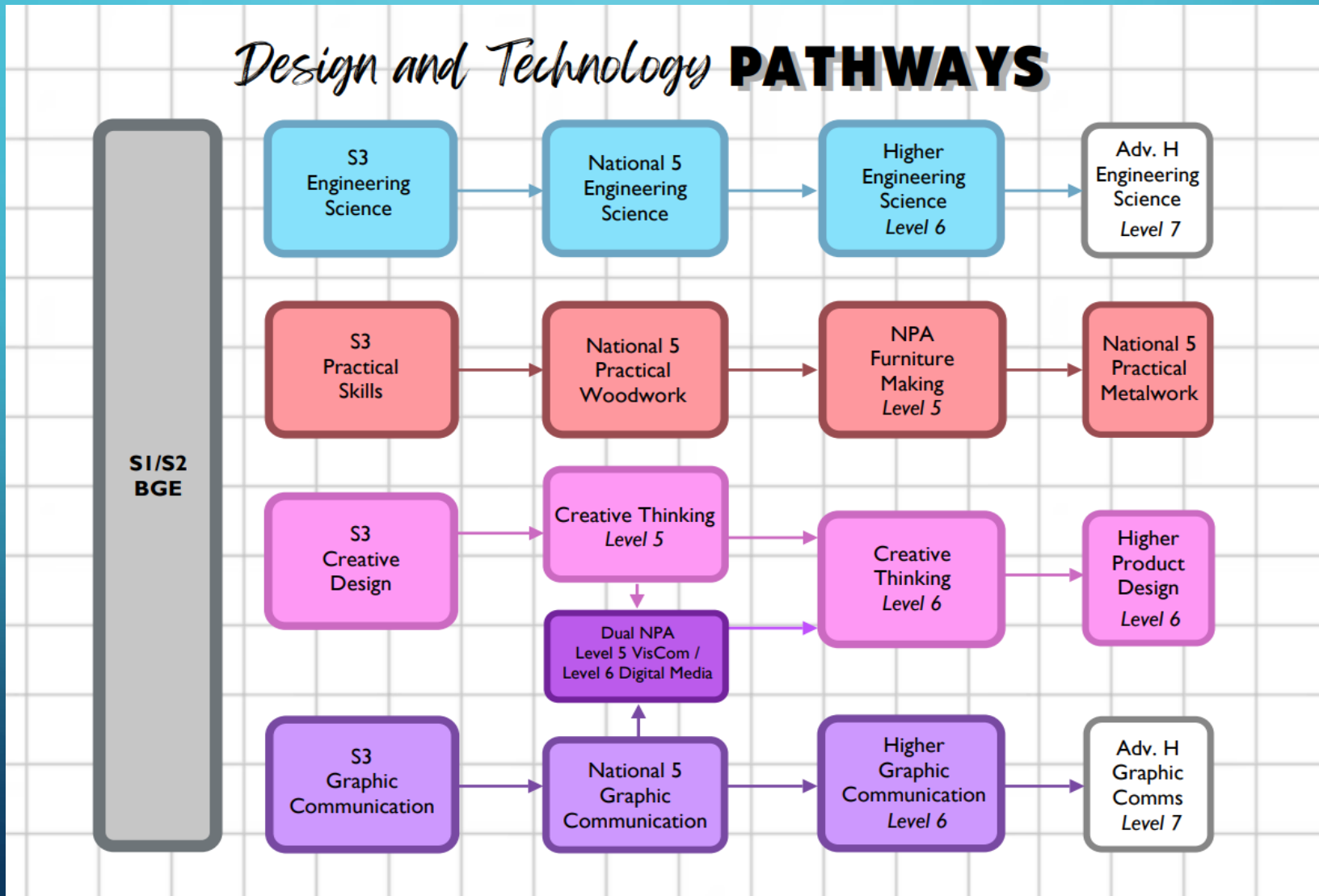
You will find out far more about the SCQF Framework in the options booklet.

Most of your courses in S5/6 will be Levels 5, 6 or 7.

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 GREEN 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.

**Academy – S5 Options Form**  
**PUPIL COPY - Spring 2026**

FULL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR GROUP: \_\_\_\_\_ HOUSE: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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. Discussing ideas with subject teachers can be of benefit as they know about the pathways linked to curricular areas.

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- On the grid below, you must pick **ONE SUBJECT IN EVERY COLUMN** (for each AH, you get one Study Column so a MAXIMUM of 2 Study Columns for 2-3 AHs).
- You must make sure that you **only pick each subject ONCE**.
- You must then write a **RESERVE subject at the bottom** which can be **any subject you have not picked already**.
- 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.
- Once checked and agreed by your Pupil Support Teacher, final options will be completed electronically on your House Teams page.

	Column A	✓	Column B	✓	Column C	✓	Column D	✓	Column E	✓
<b>Alternative Provision</b>							College - Vocational			
<b>Level 6</b>	L6 Acting & Performance		N6 Apps of Maths		L6 Creative Thinking		L6 Business & IT		N6 Admin & IT	
	L6 Comms & Lit		N6 English		N6 Admin & IT		N6 Art		N6 Chemistry	
	L6 Scientific Technologies		N6 Maths		N6 Computing Science		N6 Business Management		N6 History	
	L6 Technical Theatre				N6 Graphic Communication		N6 Drama		N6 Music	
	N6 Engineering Science				N6 Human Biology		N6 Engineering Science		N6 PE	
	N6 English				N6 Modern Studies		N6 Human Biology		N6 Physics	
	N6 ESOL				N6 Photography		N6 Music Tech			
	N6 Maths				N6 Physics		N6 PE			
					N6 RMPS					
<b>Level 5</b>	L5 Comms & Lit		L5 Creative Thinking		L5 Criminology		L5 Creative Thinking		L5 Health Sector	
	L5 Photography		L5 Health Sector		L5 Lab Science		L5 Business & IT		L5 Scottish Studies	
	N4/5 Admin & IT		L5 Personal Finance		L5 Photography		L5 Criminology		L5 Sports Coaching	
	N4/5 Biology		N4/5 Apps of Maths		L5 Visual Comms		L5 Travel & Tourism		N4/5 Admin & IT	
	N4/5 Computing Science		N4/5 Biology		N4/5 Admin & IT		N4/5 Art		N4/5 Biology	
	N4/5 Drama		N4/5 Maths		N4/5 Art		N4/5 Biology		N4/5 Chemistry	
	N4/5 ESOL		N4/5 Music		N4/5 Business Management		N4/5 Business Management		N4/5 Graphic Communication	
	N4/5 Engineering Science		N4/5 Physics		N4/5 Engineering Science		N4/5 Chemistry		N4/5 History	
	N4/5 History		N4/5 Prac Cookery		N4/5 English		N4/5 Music Tech		N4/5 Modern Studies	
	N4/5 PE Team Sport		N4/5 Prac Woodwork		N4/5 Modern Studies		N4/5 PE Aesthetic		N4/5 Physics	
	N4/5 Physics		N4/5 Textiles		N4/5 Music		N4/5 PE Team Sport		N4/5 Prac Cookery	
	N4/5 Prac Cookery				N4/5 Prac Woodwork		N4/5 Prac Cookery		N5 Sport & Rec	
	N4/5 Spanish									

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



# Inverclyde Academy – S5 Options Form 2026-27

## PUPIL COPY - Spring 2026



FULL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR GROUP: \_\_\_\_\_ HOUSE: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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 have different requirements so ensure you have done your research. Discussing ideas with subject teachers can be of benefit as they know about the pathways linked to curricular areas.

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. On the grid below, you must pick **ONE SUBJECT** in **EVERY COLUMN** (for each AH, you get one Study Column so a **MAXIMUM** of 2 Study Columns for 2-3 AHs).
2. You must make sure that you **only pick each subject ONCE**.
3. You must then write a **RESERVE subject at the bottom** which can be **any subject you have not picked already**.
4. 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.
5. Once checked and agreed by your Pupil Support Teacher, final options will be completed electronically on your House Teams page.

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

	Column A	✓	Column B	✓	Column C	✓	Column D	✓	Column E	✓
<b>Alternative Provision</b>							College - Vocational			
<b>Level 6</b>	L6 Acting & Performance		N6 Apps of Maths		L6 Creative Thinking		L6 Business & IT		N6 Admin & IT	
	L6 Comms & Lit		N6 English		N6 Admin & IT		N6 Art		N6 Chemistry	
	L6 Scientific Technologies		N6 Maths		N6 Computing Science		N6 Business Management		N6 History	
	L6 Technical Theatre				N6 Graphic Communication		N6 Drama		N6 Music	
	N6 Engineering Science				N6 Human Biology		N6 Engineering Science		N6 PE	
	N6 English				N6 Modern Studies		N6 Human Biology		N6 Physics	
	N6 ESOL				N6 Photography		N6 Music Tech			
	N6 Maths				N6 Physics		N6 PE			
					N6 RMPS					
<b>Level 5</b>	L5 Comms & Lit		L5 Creative Thinking		L5 Criminology		L5 Creative Thinking		L5 Health Sector	
	L5 Photography		L5 Health Sector		L5 Lab Science		L5 Business & IT		L5 Scottish Studies	
	N4/5 Admin & IT		L5 Personal Finance		L5 Photography		L5 Criminology		L5 Sports Coaching	
	N4/5 Biology		N4/5 Apps of Maths		L5 Visual Comms		L5 Travel & Tourism		N4/5 Admin & IT	
	N4/5 Computing Science		N4/5 Biology		N4/5 Admin & IT		N4/5 Art		N4/5 Biology	
	N4/5 Drama		N4/5 Maths		N4/5 Art		N4/5 Biology		N4/5 Chemistry	
	N4/5 ESOL		N4/5 Music		N4/5 Business Management		N4/5 Business Management		N4/5 Computing Science	
	N4/5 Engineering Science		N4/5 Physics		N4/5 Engineering Science		N4/5 Chemistry		N4/5 Drama	
	N4/5 History		N4/5 Prac Cookery		N4/5 English		N4/5 Music Tech		N4/5 ESOL	
	N4/5 PE Team Sport		N4/5 Prac Woodwork		N4/5 Modern Studies		N4/5 PE Aesthetic		N4/5 History	
	N4/5 Physics		N4/5 Textiles		N4/5 Music		N4/5 PE Team Sport		N4/5 PE Team Sport	
	N4/5 Prac Cookery				N4/5 Prac Woodwork		N4/5 Prac Cookery		N4/5 PE Aesthetic	
	N4/5 Spanish								N4/5 PE Aesthetic	

Everyone **MUST** select a reserve choice which is different from your other 5 choices but select carefully as this could well be a subject you have to take for the next year.

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

# CONSORTIUM

- If you need a particular H or AH subject that we do not offer at Inverclyde Academy, you **MAY** be able to take it at another local school e.g. AH Chemistry for medicine/dentistry/engineering.
- To indicate this, you wait until you get your **digital form** and there is a section at the end that asks you to indicate which subject and level you desire and which columns you would be able to take it in.
- This also applies to subjects that we do offer but where you have a conflict with another subject here e.g. H Computing & H Graph Comm in same column so you can find out if either is offered at that time in another school.
- Ms McCready takes this to the consortium meeting (after Easter!) and will come back to let you know after that if there is availability for the subject in your columns at another school. **YOU ARE NOT GUARANTEED A PLACE.**

## RULES:

- Consortium cannot be used where the subject is offered in your own school and fits your options e.g. you cannot go to another school to study a Higher just because you do not like who is in your class here, etc.
- This process requires patience as it only happens **after each school has completed their options** and **CANNOT** be arranged by pupils or parents directly. It can only be arranged by the Consortium DHTs in the schools working together for the most effective arrangements.
- Pupils in their own schools **ALWAYS** take priority over consortium pupils so, if a space is needed for a pupil at the home school, a consortium pupil would lose their place.
- Much of the transport is now by own arrangement so you will not receive a taxi for P1/your first lessons of the day and you must make your own way home P6/7 or if it is your last class that day.

# WEST COLLEGE SCOTLAND – COLUMN D ONLY

- These classes take place on a Tues/Thurs pm.
- You don't have to be at college in S4 to pick it in S5.
- It is likely you will be making your own way there.
- You must then make your way home when college ends at 4pm.

Course	SCQF	Course Credit
Intro to Motor Vehicle Industry & Technologies	Level 3	IMI Award
Introduction to Plumbing	Level 4	Units
Hairdressing	Level 5	Skills for Work
Construction Skills	Level 5	National Progression Award
Early Learning & Childcare	Level 5	Skills for Work
Artificial Intelligence & Big Data	Level 5	National Progression Award
Computer Games Development	Level 5	National Progression Award
Film & Screen Award	Level 5	Units
Engineering	Level 5	Skills for Work
Criminology	Level 6	National Progression Award
Music	Level 6	National Progression Award
Higher Childcare & Development	Level 6	Higher NQ
Sport	Levels 5/6/7	Units
<b>S5/6 – 4 afternoons (Columns D &amp; E)</b>		
Pre Apprenticeship Babcock Engineering Course	Level 5	National Progression Award

# 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:**

FAs are low level, basic qualifications... FALSE!

## **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/DYW before you complete the online form – make sure you have your questions ready!