



ST COLUMBA'S

FAITH-AMBITION-INCLUSION-PERSEVERANCE



ST COLUMBA'S HIGH SCHOOL

S4 OPTIONS INFORMATION 2023/4

S4 OPTIONS CHOICES 2023/4



Dear S3 pupils and parents,

S3 pupils are about to make some very important decisions around the subjects that you wish to study in S4. These decisions will play an important role in determining the options open to them in the years ahead, and may influence both their pathways for further study as well as their future career.

This booklet has been designed to provide pupils and parents with some important information about the options process, the choices you can make and the support that is available.

Please take time to read through this information and remember that School staff and Careers staff are on hand to offer advice and support throughout this process.

Good luck and #ChooseSuccess.

Mr S McFadden

Acting Depute Headteacher (S3)



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WHAT NEXT?



TRANSITION AND PROGRESSION

S3 into S4 is a hugely important period of Transition in your education. In moving into S4, you complete the Broad General Education and move into the Senior Phase.

In the Senior Phase, you have increased opportunities to specialise in individual subject areas and begin your pathway to further study or a future career.



S6 4/5 Subjects plus RE

S5 5 Subjects plus RE



S4 6 Subjects Including RE and Core PE

S3 Some personalisation across 8 Curricular Areas

S1 & S2 13 Subjects across 8 Curricular Areas

NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

As you move into S4, you leave behind the Broad General Education and begin to study for National Qualifications. These are classified as follows:

- **National 3**
- **National 4**
- **National 5**
- **Higher**

The majority of pupils in S4 will work towards either National 4 or National 5 level qualifications

NATIONAL 4

S4

National 4 qualifications are available across all curricular areas. National 4 qualifications are assessed by teachers in school.

National 4 qualifications are graded as either a pass/fail.

There is no external examination at National 4.

National 4 can lead on to further study at National 5.



NATIONAL 5

S4/5/6

National 5 qualifications are available across the curriculum to pupils. Most pupils first undertake National 5 qualifications in S4.

Most National 5 courses involve an external examination while many also include coursework, internal assessment or portfolios as part of the final grade.

Pupils studying National 5 qualifications will be graded A, B, C or D. National 5 qualifications can lead to further study at Higher Level. National 5 qualifications can also secure access to a number of college and apprenticeship opportunities.





HIGHER

S5/6

Higher qualifications are a progression from National 5. In order to be presented at Higher, pupils must have secured a National 5 qualification in that subject.

Some subjects will advise that pupils achieve a certain level of prior attainment to be considered for the Higher course.

Higher qualifications are undertaken by pupils in S5 and S6 and are the key qualification award for university level qualifications as well as some college and apprenticeship opportunities.

Qualifications at Higher level can lead to further study at Advanced Higher level.



ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATION

S4/5/6




Throughout S4, S5 and S6, pupils have the opportunity to study for a wide range of alternative qualifications.

St Columba's High School was recognised with an SCQF Bronze Award in recognition of our increasingly broad and varied curriculum which awards pupils at a variety of levels including NPA level.

St Columba's offers courses in Barista Skills, Sports Leader, Acting and Performance and Caritas, with a hope to extend to areas such as Horticulture and Bee Keeping in the near future.





Advanced Higher qualifications are available in a selection of subject areas, both here in St Columba's and in some of our local secondary schools through the Consortium options.

Advanced Higher courses are especially useful to pupils considering further study at University. Advanced Higher courses often combine individual coursework and research alongside a final examination.

S6

ADVANCED HIGHER



CHOOSING SUCCESS



There are many things for pupils to consider when selecting their option choices.

Enjoyment

Pupils should think carefully about the subjects that they enjoy most. Pupils should reflect on their experience in S1 and S2 and consider those subjects that they enjoyed most.

Skills and Strengths

Pupils should take time to consider the subjects that they perform well in. Pupils should be encouraged to play to their strengths and pick subjects where they have the potential to enjoy success.

Future Careers

Although pupils may not be sure which career path they hope to follow in the future, they should keep in mind that certain career paths may require qualifications in certain subject areas. School staff, careers staff and the extensive range of online resources available to pupils and parents will help support in this.

Keeping your options open

If pupils are still unsure of the pathway they wish to take, we would advise all pupils to ensure that they select a wide range of subjects across curricular areas. This will help to keep their options open and ensure that as many career pathways remain open to them as they move through the Senior Phase.



COLLEGE OPTIONS



In S4, pupils also have the opportunity to study courses that are delivered by our partners at West College Scotland.

These classes take place on a Wednesday afternoon and the subjects that have been offered this session are outlined below. Please note that this may be subject to change for session 2023/4.

Wednesday afternoon classes 1:30-4:00pm

Course
Engineering
Computer Games Development
Laboratory Skills
Introduction to Hair, Make-up & Beauty
Construction – Selection of National 4 Units
Television Production
Sound Production / DJ Skills
Sport
Childcare
Introduction to Pharmacy



Pupils interested in studying a college option next year should indicate this on their options form.



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HOW CAN PARENTS SUPPORT THEIR CHILD?

Supporting your child in their options choices:

There are a number of things that parents can do to support their child as they make their options choices. Always remember that school staff will be available to discuss your child's options and offer advice and support throughout the process.

- Discuss tracking reports and feedback
- Consider what your child enjoys
- Think about what they are doing well in
- Enquire as to which career path they would like to follow
- Ask your Son /Daughter why they are picking subjects? Discourage them from selecting subjects based on friendships and perceptions of teachers.
- Discuss alternative choices.
- Ask advice from staff.

WHAT SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE?

- Information on courses for S4 can be accessed on the Transitions section of the school website.
- Staff will share with their classes information regarding subjects in their faculty during class time.
- Option forms and information will be available online and through year group Teams.
- Feedback from the recent S3 Tracking Report and Parents' Evening.
- Skills Development Scotland Staff have met with all S3 pupils to discuss career aspirations.
- My World of Work – Options Choices Tool
<https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/tools/option-choices>

KEEPING IN TOUCH



HERE TO HELP

We look forward to supporting pupils in the options process.

We will keep in touch with parents throughout the process and will be available to answer any questions that you may have.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require additional information.



COMMUNICATING WITH YOU



SCHOOL WEBSITE

The transitions section of our school website contains a huge amount of information about individual subjects and the Options process.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/in/schswebsite/>

SCHOOL TWITTER

[@ stcolumba](#)



S3 into S4 --- Mock Option Form --- February 2023



Name: _____ Class: _____

English, Maths, RE and PE remain core subjects in the S4 curriculum.

Please choose **any 4** additional subjects to study in S4 from the following options:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| • French | • Skills for Work Health Sector (SCQF4&5) | • Hospitality: Practical Cookery |
| • Spanish | • Admin & IT | • Fashion & Textile Technology |
| • History | • Computing | • Climate Change and Sustainability (NPA) |
| • Geography | • Business Management | • Art & Design |
| • Modern Studies | • Graphic Communication | • Music |
| • Criminology (NPA SCQF Level 5) with Modern Studies (N4) | • Design & Manufacture | • Music – Sound Engineering & Production (SCQF Level 5/6 Units) |
| • Biology | • Practical Woodwork | |
| • Chemistry | • Physical Education | |
| • Physics | • Drama | |

COLLEGE Wednesday afternoons (see over)

Particular subjects on offer will depend on uptake

My four preferred options are:			
My reserve option is:			

Wednesday afternoon classes 1:30-4:00pm

Course	✓
Engineering	
Computer Games Development	
Laboratory Skills	
Introduction to Hair, Make-up & Beauty	
Construction – Selection of National 4 Units	
Television Production	
Sound Production / DJ Skills	
Sport	
Childcare	
Introduction to Pharmacy	

Please place a tick ✓ beside the course(s) you would be interested in.

