



ST COLUMBA'S

FAITH-AMBITION-INCLUSION-PERSEVERANCE



ST COLUMBA'S HIGH SCHOOL
SENIOR PHASE OPTIONS INFORMATION 2026

SENIOR OPTIONS CHOICES 2025



Dear pupils and parents,

Pupils are about to make some very important decisions around the subjects that they wish to study next year. 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, Skills Development Scotland Careers Adviser and Our DYW Coordinator are on hand to offer advice and support throughout this process.

Good luck and #ChooseSuccess.

Mrs C McGeehan

Depute Head Teacher (S4)

Mr I McLean

Depute Head Teacher (S5)



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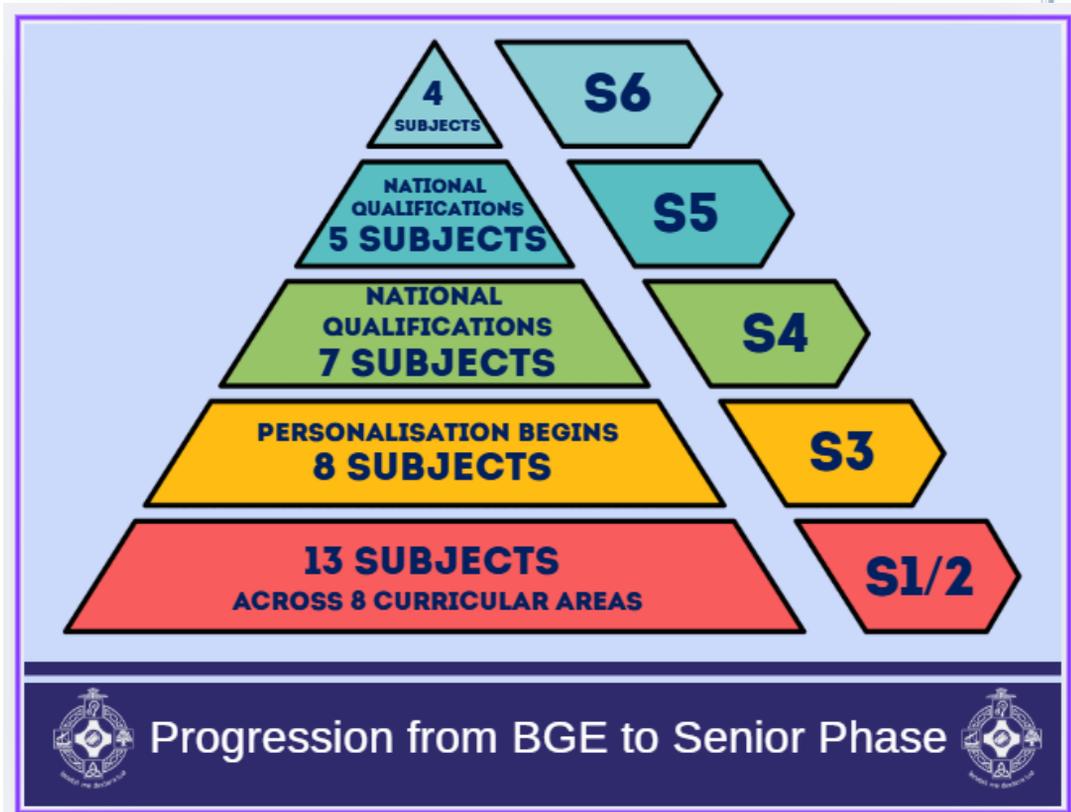
WHAT NEXT?



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.



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 has achieved SCQF Gold Ambassador status, in recognition of our increasingly broad and varied curriculum which awards pupils with SCQF credits at a variety of levels.



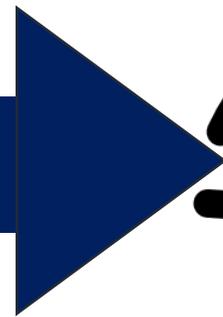


Advanced Higher qualifications are available in a selection of subject areas, both here in St Columba's and in some of our local secondary schools through the Consortium options.

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.



ADVANCED HIGHER



CHOOSING SUCCESS



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

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.



S4/5/6 COLLEGE OPTIONS



In S4, some pupils may study courses that are delivered by our partners at West College Scotland.

These classes take place ALL DAY on a Wednesday and the subjects that have been offered this session are outlined below. Please note that you will miss time from your other chosen subject areas to attend college. Your guidance teacher will provide further advice.

The S5/6 college options mainly take place on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

This counts as an option in Column D.

Other Foundation Apprenticeship opportunities are also available and the timings of these vary.

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



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NEW COURSES AND OPTIONS



We are delighted to be able to offer a range of additional courses and options in the Senior Phase.

- Barista and Bakery
- Creative Industries
- Creative Thinking (S5/6)
- Criminology
- Lab Skills
- Mental Health and Wellbeing (S5/6)
- Music Tech
- NPA Drama (S5/6)
- RMPS
- Sport & Fitness
- Travel & Tourism
- Powering Futures (S5/6)
- Personal Finance (S5/6)
- Scottish Studies (S5/6)



Each of these courses sit within the Scottish Qualifications Framework and can provide alternative routes for pupils to gain accreditation.

The Scottish Qualifications Framework can be viewed online at:

<http://scqf.org.uk>



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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 child 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 can be accessed on the Transitions section of the school website
<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/in/schswwebsite/transitions/bge-to-senior-phase/>
- Staff will share with their classes information regarding subjects in their faculty during class time.
- A meeting with your child's guidance teacher can be arranged on request.
- Option forms and information will be available online Feedback from the recent Tracking Reports and Parents' Evenings.
- Skills Development Scotland Staff have met with all S3 pupils to discuss career aspirations. They will continue to meet with S4/5 pupils.
- My World of Work – Options Choices Tool
<https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/tools/option-choices>

ONLINE RESOURCES



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/schswwebsite/>

On this page, you can access the individual subject banners to find information about each course.

MY WORLD OF WORK

The My World of Work website provides a wealth of information about careers and pathways.

<https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk>

Skills Development Scotland (SDS)

Our partners at Skills Development Scotland will be offering careers interviews to S3 pupils and are on hand to offer support throughout the options process.



**My
World of
Work**

**Skills
Development
Scotland**

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 X

Our school X page will display regular updates about the options process. Please be sure to follow us @_stcolumba





SCHS - S4 Options 2026-27 v1



S4 must choose one subject from each column (1,2,3,4,5)

1	2	3	4	5
Art & Design	Biology	Art & Design	Art & Design	Admin & IT
Biology	Business Management	Admin & IT	Biology	Chemistry
Geography	Chemistry	Chemistry	Creative Thinking	Computing Science
History	Fashion & Textiles	Computing Science	Modern Studies	Drama
Lab Skills	French	Criminology	Physics	Modern Studies
Practical Cookery	Graphic Communication	History	Spanish	PE
Practical Woodwork	Music Tech	Music	Travel & Tourism	Physics
	Practical Cookery	PE		Practical Woodwork

My Choices:

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Tick here if you would like to attend a College Course (Wed AM):

The college course I am interested in is:

Name:

Parental Signature:

S4 College Options 2026-27

Course Name/Timings	✓
Wednesdays – 9.30am – 12.00pm	
SCQF Level 4 IMI Level 1 Award in Vehicle Accident Repair	
SCQF Level 4 Computer Games Development	
SCQF Level 4 Skills for Work Early Learning and Childcare	
SCQF Level 4 Construction - Selection of National 4 Units	
SCQF Level 4 Engineering	
SCQF Level 5 Rock School Live Performance	
SCQF Level 4 Sound Production	
SCQF Level 4 Television Production	
SCQF Level 4 Introduction to the Hair, Make-Up and Beauty Industry	
SCQF Levels 3 - 5 Introduction to Professional Cookery	
SCQF Level 5 Forensic Science	
SCQF Level 5 Health Science	
SCQF Level 5 Sport	

Please tick the course you would be interested in studying



SCHS - S5/6 Options 2026-27 v1



S5 must choose one subject in columns A, B, C, D & E (English is compulsory and can be selected in column A or B)
 S6 must choose 4 subjects - one subject from any four columns

LEVEL / COLUMN	A	B	C	D	E	
SCQF Level 7 / Adv Higher	English	Art & Design	Maths	Science Baccalaureate	Chemistry Music	
Higher SCQF Level 6	Admin & IT	Art & Design	Chemistry	Chemistry	Human Biology	
	Business Management	English	Drama	College Course	Mental Health & Wellbeing	
	English	French	Drama NPA	Computing	Music	
	English - Comms & Lit	Geography	Fashion & Textiles	Creative Thinking	Modern Studies	
	Politics	Maths	Design & Man	Graphic Communication	Photography	
	Spanish	Music Tech	Maths	History	Physics	
		RMPS	PE	Human Biology		
		Maths Applications				
	National 4/5 SCQF Levels 4/5	Art & Design	Biology	Art & Design	Art & Design	Admin & IT
		Barista & Bakery	Business Management	Admin & IT	Biology	Chemistry
Biology		Chemistry	Chemistry	Creative Thinking	Computing Science	
Geography		Fashion & Textiles	Computing Science	Modern Studies	Drama	
History		French	Criminology	Physics	Modern Studies	
Lab Skills		Graphic Communication	History	Spanish	PE	
Practical Cookery		Maths	Maths	Travel & Tourism	Physics	
Practical Woodwork		Music Tech	Music	Metalwork	Practical Woodwork	
		Practical Cookery	PE		Sports Leader	
My Choices:						
Level:						
College Course:						
Any choice which does not fit in current columns:						
Name:						
Class:						
Parental Signature:						
Date:						

<i>All college courses take place on Tue and Thu afternoons 1.30-4.00pm (unless otherwise stated)</i>
Automotive:
IMI Award Introduction to Motor Vehicle Industry and Technologies (SCQF Level 3)
Business, Computing & Finance:
Accountancy Foundation Apprenticeship (SCQF Level 6) <i>Paisley Tue/Wed/Thu pm</i>
Artificial Intelligence and Big Data (SCQF Level 5)
NPA Computer Games Development (SCQF Level 5)
Care & Social Care:
Skills for Work Early Learning and Childcare (SCQF Level 5)
Higher Childcare and Development (SCQF Level 6)
Higher Psychology (S6 only)(SCQF Level 6)
NPA Criminology (SCQF Level 6)
Construction & Engineering:
NPA Construction Skills (SCQF Level 5)
Introduction To Plumbing (SCQF Level 4)
Engineering Systems Foundation Apprenticeship (SCQF Level 6) <i>Paisley All day Tue/Thu/Fri</i>
Skills for Work Engineering (SCQF Level 5)
NPA Engineering (SCQF Level 5) <i>with Babcock Tue/Wed/Thu/Fri pm</i>
Creative Industries:
Film and Screen Award (SCQF Level 5)
HNC Television Production (SCQF Level 7) <i>All day Tue/Thu</i>
HNC Sound Production (SCQF Level 7) <i>All day Tue/Thu</i>
HNC Music (SCQF Level 7) <i>All day Tue/Thu</i>
NPA Music (SCQF Level 6)
Hair & Beauty:
Skills for Work Hairdressing (SCQF Level 5)
Science & Sport:
HNC Applied Science (SCQF Level 7) <i>All day Tue/Thu</i>
PDA in Modern Biological Techniques (SCQF Level 7)
Human Body Structure and Function (SCQF Level 8) <i>Tue pm only</i>
Sport (SCQF Level 5/6/7)
Find out more about these courses here:
https://www.westcollegescotland.ac.uk/media/d01jazu0/s5-s6-greenock-2026-7-300126_compressed.pdf





St. Columba's High School

Visitor Parking