

Airdrie Academy

Choosing Courses for S3

An information booklet for pupils entering S3 in 2026



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The story so far

During your second year in Airdrie Academy, you have experienced a broad general education, studying a wide range of subjects, covering eight areas of the curriculum. You have continued where you finished S1, gaining more experience in subjects you know well. You have also experienced some new subjects and learned new skills.

So, what's next?

In S3, you will still have a broad general education, but you will make some choices of subjects to make up your courses for S3. This booklet contains information about each subject to help you make these choices.

Please read it carefully before you make any choices. If you are not clear about any subject you should ask your teacher.

Please remember

The subjects you choose will make up your course of study for S3 and possibly S4. So, make sure you choose carefully and discuss your choices fully with your Pupil Support Teacher when you are invited to a meeting.

Please also read through the potential pathways for each subject. Also included under the pathways are illustrative careers that may be linked to (or benefit from) the subjects you choose. These are just some examples, but if you have a specific career in mind, you must always check the specific entry requirements as that may impact the subjects you select.

What happens after S3?

From the subjects you study in S3, you will continue with 7 of these in S4, including English and Maths. Pupils will sit national examinations during S4, S5 and S6, with progression through National 4, National 5, Highers and Advanced Highers (some Highers and Advanced Highers may be available only in some other schools). We will give you more information about courses and examinations before you make choices of subjects for S4 and beyond.

Achieve

What is it?

Prince's Trust is a charity that supports young people.

The Prince's Trust Achieve program gives young people the opportunity to develop the skills and confidence needed to succeed in education. They will develop transferable skills and knowledge they need for the world of work. Focusing particularly on literacy, language numeracy, and ICT skills.

What do you do in this subject during S3 and S4?

The Achieve course is delivered through individual tasks or group work. The group works through a number of units including career planning, presentation skills, teamwork skills, enterprise, and community projects. There is flexibility within the course which allows the group to include topics in which they are interested.

In S4 pupils work towards a certificate in Personal Development and Employability Skills. This award is recognised within the Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework. The Group usually works towards SCQF level 4 - this level is equivalent to National 4.

Is it for you?

If you would like to develop your skills, confidence and independence whilst working as part of a group and undertaking a variety of interesting challenges then Achieve is the course for you.

English

What is it?

For the vast majority it is what we speak, read, write and listen to. It is how we communicate and make sense of the world around us. English is about thinking, discussing, reading and writing.

What do you do in this subject during S3 and S4?

During the course you will develop your language skills. This means you will listen to, read and study a wide range of texts – stories, plays, poems and media.

You will write stories, poems, plays, film & TV scripts using the knowledge and skills in understanding narratives and imagery. You will continue to work to improve your punctuation and spelling and to write meaningful sentences.

Is it for you?

English is for everyone. It is how we speak to and communicate with each other. There is no avoiding it. But it should be interesting, entertaining, and fun!

Media Studies

What is it?

Media is about understanding and interpreting the vast array of messages that surround us every day in film, television, music, newspapers, magazines, the internet, gaming, advertising...

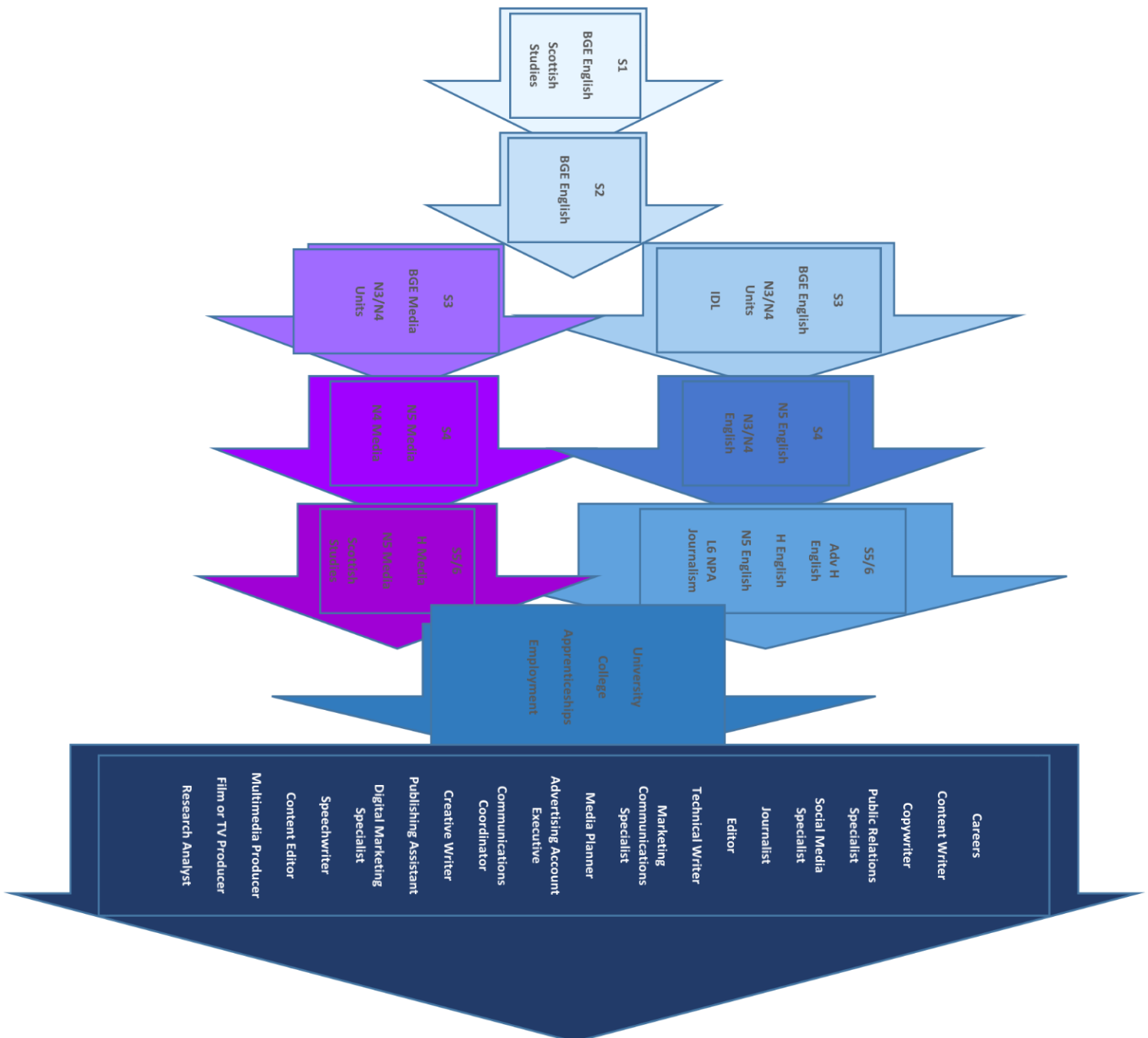
What do you do in this subject during S3 and S4?

You will develop your understanding of what are called the key concepts of media and how these concepts help us to understand and interpret a variety of media products. This will involve studying and analysing several media texts of different forms.

You will also have the chance to explore the more practical side of the media industry by experiencing different opportunities to create media products.

Is it for you?

Media is for everyone. It is about how we understand and interpret the messages that we interact with every day and learning about how not to be manipulated by them.



Art & Design

What is it?

Art and Design consist of 3 main areas:

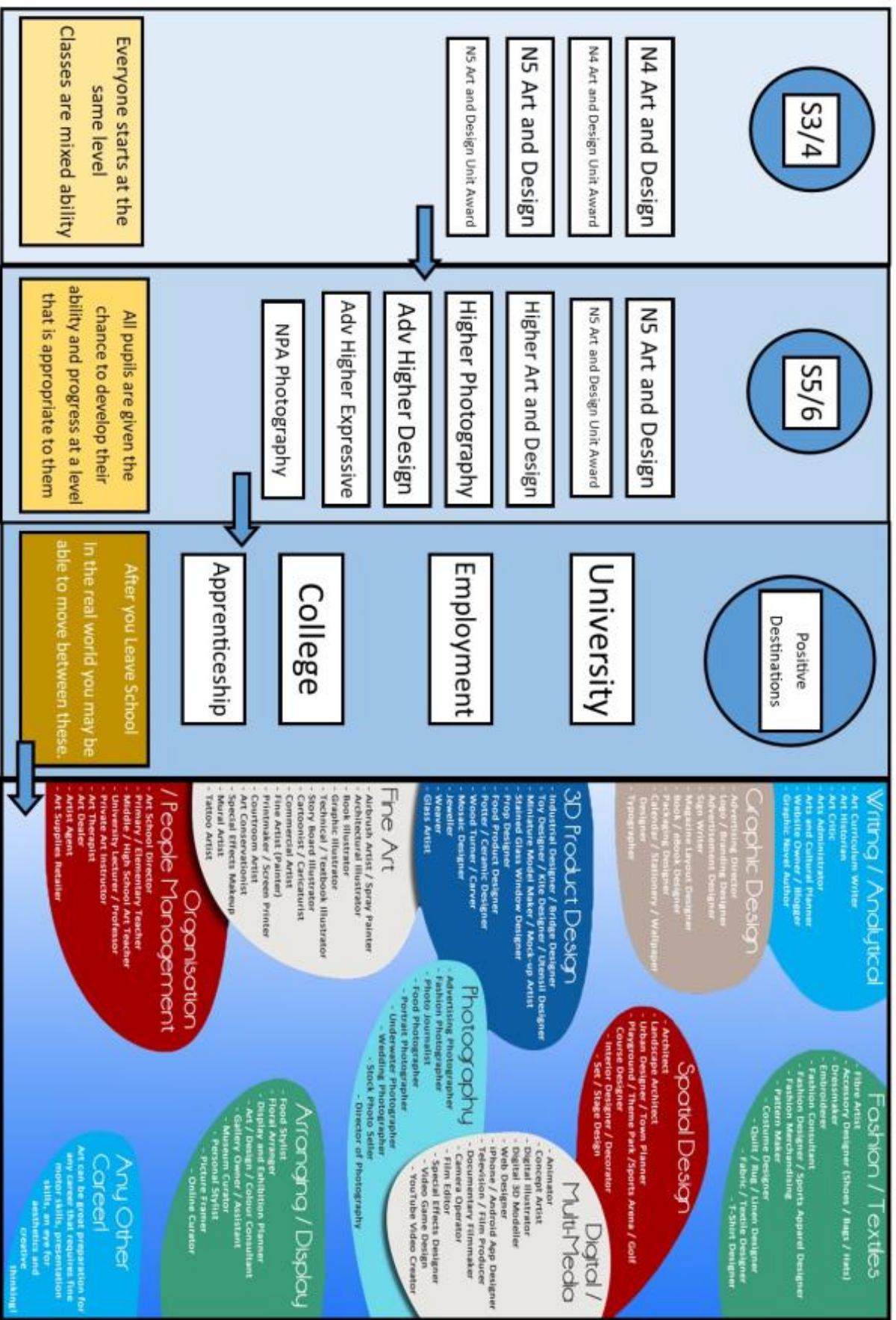
- Expressive: creating works of art in areas such as portraiture, still life and printmaking.
- Design: learning how to follow a brief to invent and make new products.
- Critical Studies: evaluating the work of other artists and designers.

What do you do in this subject during S3 and S4?

Each year you will undertake an in-depth design project in an area such as jewellery, ceramics, lighting or fashion. You will produce several portraits and still life pieces using a variety of different techniques and materials. You will also learn about and analyse the works of famous artists and designers. Towards the end of S4, the best of your design and expressive work will be sent to SQA for marking, and you will be tested on your ability to evaluate artists' and designers' work through a written question paper.

Is it for you?

Art and Design is for pupils who enjoy drawing, making things and being creative, but understand that this involves concentration and hard work. Art and Design is not just for those who want to be artists or designers, as the subject helps develop creative thinking and problem-solving skills that can be applied in many other career areas.



Biology

What is it?

Biology is a natural science that studies life and living organisms, examining their structure, function, growth, origin, evolution, and distribution. It explores the complex systems of life from microscopic molecules and cells to organisms, populations, and ecosystems.

What do you do in this subject during S3 and S4?

Working with microscopes and dissecting real organs is part of what you do to find out more about living things. Doing experiments and discussing what they tell you as well as researching using the internet are all part of the biology course in S3/4.

Is it for you?

It is for you if you enjoyed studying the Biological Systems topics in S1/2. If you wish to understand how the cells and structure of living organisms help them to survive.

All science subjects are well suited for those who are passionate about discovering, more of the planet, galaxy, and universe. If you enjoy discovering how things work and enjoy solving problems through data analysis and practical experimentation, then the science is for you.

Chemistry

What is it?

Chemistry is the physical science that studies the composition, structure, properties, and behaviour of matter, including the changes it undergoes during chemical reactions

What do you do in this subject during S3 and S4?

You will carry out many experiments using a wide variety of chemicals and special equipment, then discuss how each is used by Chemists to make products that we use every day e.g. perfumes, toothpaste, cleaning products etc. Looking at the properties of acids and alkalis and the reactions of metals helps us understand the world around us and the chemical reactions that help develop it.

Is it for you?

It is for you if you enjoyed studying the Chemical Change and substances, and Materials topics in S1/2. If you wish to investigate the interactions of non-living substances that surround us all.

All science subjects are well suited for those who are passionate about discovering more of the planet, galaxy, and universe. If you enjoy discovering how things work and enjoy solving problems through data analysis and practical experimentation, then the science is for you.

Physics

What is it?

Physics is the foundational natural science dedicated to studying matter, energy, and their interactions, aiming to understand how the universe behaves.

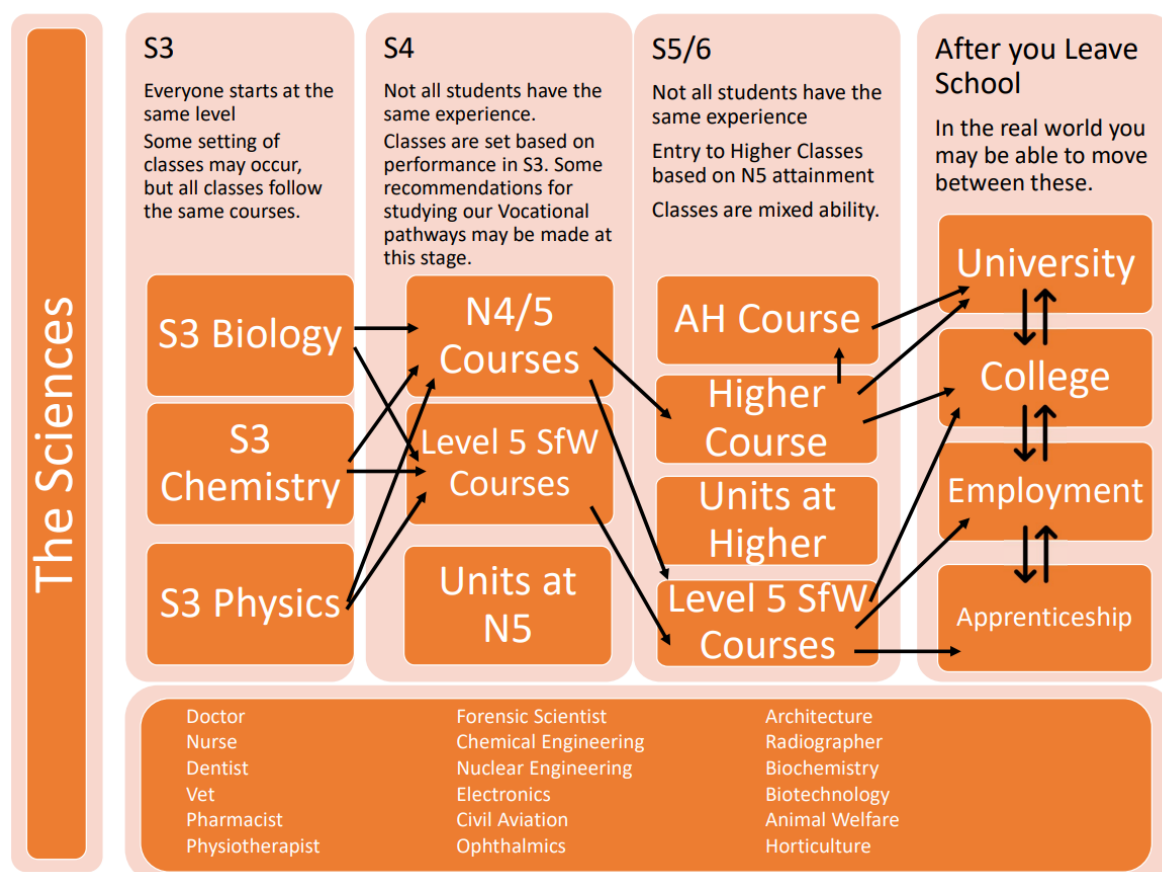
What do you do in this subject during S3 and S4?

You will learn about how sound works and how it can be used in medicine; about electricity and how the devices that you use every day, work; and about space and how satellites and spacecraft work. You will do experiments that help you to get a better understanding of how the world around you work.

Is it for you?

It is for you if you enjoyed studying the Sound and Light, and the Energy and Space topics in S1/2. If you wish to understand the forces that hold the universe together.

All science subjects are well suited for those who are passionate about discovering more of the planet, galaxy, and universe. If you enjoy discovering how things work and enjoy solving problems through data analysis and practical experimentation, then the science is for you.



N5 Lab Skills / N5 Health Sector

During S3, some pupils may be recommended to change to N5 lab Skill/Health from the traditional Science route. This is to ensure accreditation at the highest level. If this option is more suitable for your child, then the Science department will be in touch.

Business Management

What is it?

We meet businesses on a regular basis in our daily lives. The S3/4 Business Management course will enable you to understand how businesses are set up, how they operate and the business activities they are involved in. Business Management provides students with the knowledge and skills necessary to understand what happens in the world of business.

What do you do in this subject during S3 and S4?

You will have the opportunity to develop important skills such as problem solving, communication, planning and organising. You will learn through real-life business contexts what businesses do. Looking at different business organisations, how businesses tell consumers about their products and different systems businesses use to produce goods. Also looking at business laws and financial records.

Is it for you?

These skills are valuable in a wide range of career sectors but are particularly useful if you are interested in entering the world of business — whether as a manager, employee or self-employed person. Career pathways could be in Administration, Banking, Marketing, Human Resources and many more!

Classical Studies (Life in Ancient Greece & Rome)

What is it?

In Classical Studies you will study everyday life and culture in two of the most important ancient civilisations the world has known – Ancient Greece and Rome. You will study topics such as religion in ancient Athens and Pompeii – the gods and the myths. You will also investigate aspects of everyday home life, work and leisure in ancient Athens and Pompeii. What was it like to be a citizen of Athens and why did Pompeii lie hidden for 1,700 years untouched before it was rediscovered? You will also study themes, both ancient and modern, contained in one of the greatest stories ever told, Homer's Odyssey.

What do you do in this subject during S3 and S4?

Throughout S3 and S4, pupils will study Life in Classical Athens (Life in Classical Greece), Everyday Life in Ancient Pompeii (Life in Ancient Rome) and the wonderful monster-filled tale of Homer's Odyssey (Classical Literature).

Is it for you?

The study of Classics will take you on a journey of discovery into the depths of everyday life in the ancient world.

Through active learning and educational excursions, the study of Classics will allow you to gain a knowledge and understanding of the classical Greek and Roman civilisations by comparing and contrasting these societies with the modern world.

Geography

What is it?

In Geography, you will learn about the Earth and its people. You will be exposed to the devastating effects of volcanoes and earthquakes, learn how to predict the weather, find out more about glaciers and how to protect the environment.

What do you do in this subject during S3 and S4?

Throughout S3 and S4, pupils will study Volcanoes, Tropical Storms, Earthquakes, Glaciation, Weather, Urban and Rural life, Population and Disease.

Is it for you?

Geography will take you on a whirlwind tour all over the world to explore interesting locations and extraordinary people.

You will gain some 'hands on' experience on our varied field trips and enjoy active learning in the classroom. So, if you want an adventure, then Geography is for you!

Modern Studies

What is it?

Modern Studies helps you to understand political and social life in Scotland, the UK and internationally. You will learn about current events and issues happening in the world today that affect all our lives from local issues like crime in Airdrie and Scotland to international issues like poverty and conflict.

What do you do in this subject during S3 and S4?

Throughout S3 and S4, Modern Studies pupils will investigate themes such as inequality, power and conflict through a variety of topics. You will study Crime and the Law, The USA and Democracy.

Through the successful completion of this course, you will develop a range of important skills including researching, evaluation, decision making, drawing conclusions, constructing detailed arguments and communication.

Is it for you?

Crime, politics, poverty, inequality, Black Lives Matter. Ever heard adults mention these terms or heard them on television and wanted to know more? If so, then Modern Studies is the subject for you. Through active learning in the Modern Studies classroom and through excursions and visits by experts, you will be able to discuss, with confidence, all the important and interesting issues of the day.

Pupils can use a qualification in Modern Studies to gain entry to college and University courses e.g. law, journalism, teaching and media studies. Arts and Social Sciences courses particular welcome a Modern Studies qualifications.

History

What is it?

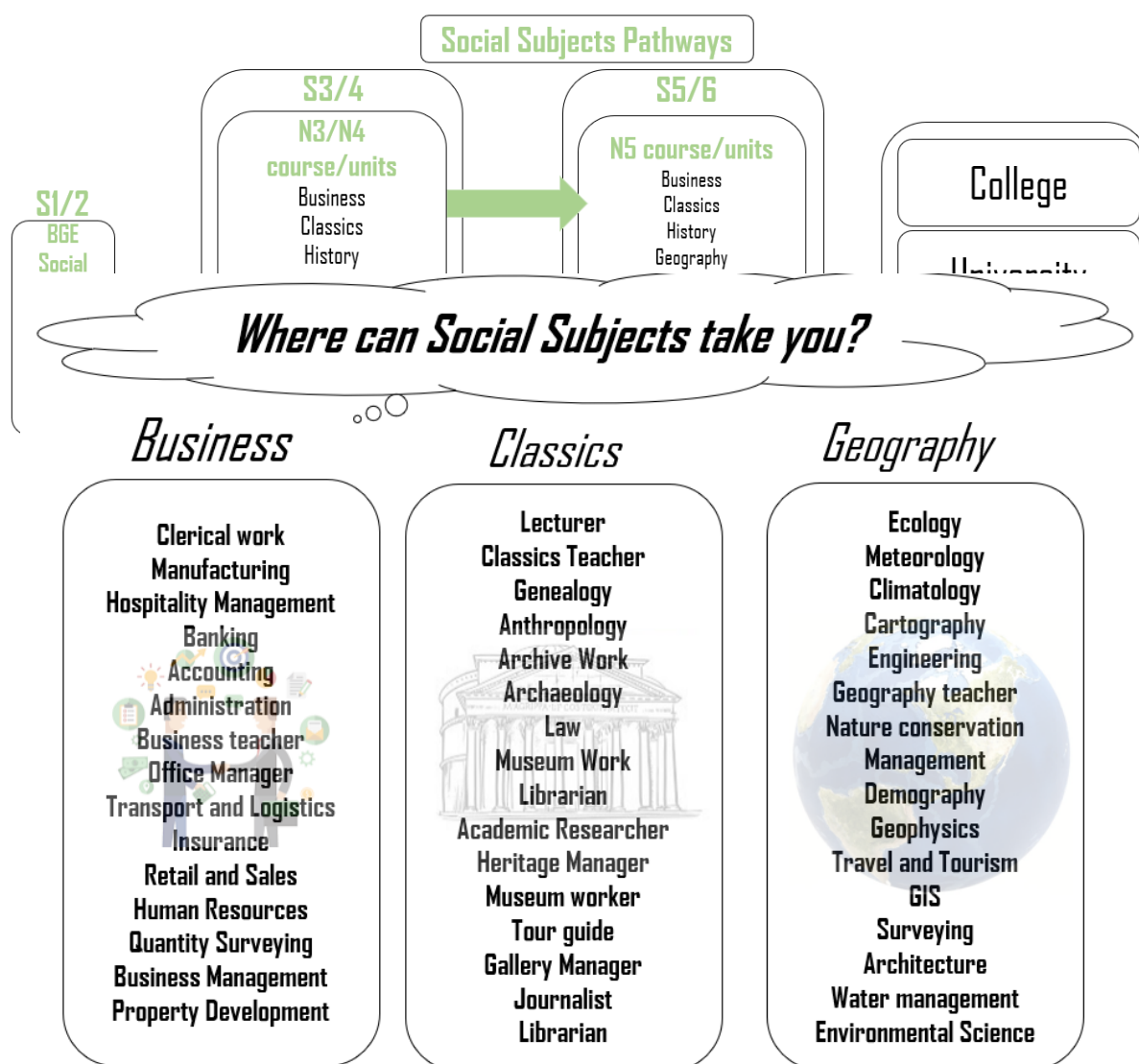
In History, you will learn about some of the most interesting and shocking events and peoples of the past. From the horrors of the slave trade and the struggle to end it, the reasons behind Hitler's rise to power in Germany to the horrors of trench warfare during World War One.

What do you do in this subject during S3 and S4?

Throughout S3 and S4, pupils will study World War One, The Atlantic Slave Trade and Nazi Germany.

Is it for you?

The study of History will take you on a journey of discovery into the depths of the past. Through active learning and educational excursions, the study of History will allow you to better understand issues affecting our lives today through the lessons learned from the past.



Where can Social Subjects take you?

History

Genealogy
 Anthropology
 Museum Work
 History teacher
 Lecturer
 Library work
 Administration
 Law
 Journalism
 Museum work
 Archaeology
 Civil service
 Publishing
 Sociology
 Archive work
 Cultural Heritage

Modern Studies

Police
 Banking
 Marketing
 Politics
 Social Work
 Teacher
 Sociology
 Civil service
 Economics
 Journalism
 Law Economics
 Management
 Charity Work
 Administration
 Local Government
 Fundraising

Travel & Tourism

Holiday representative
 Hotel Manager
 Tour manager
 Tourism Officer
 Travel Agency Manager
 Event manager
 Airline reservations
 Sales
 Cruise Ship Steward
 Heritage Officer
 Interpreter
 Visitor Attraction Manager
 Airport staff
 Tourist Information Centre
 Travel Consultant
 Visitor Centre worker

Design and Manufacture

Faculty of Creative and Digital Technologies: Technical department

What is it?

This course involves written and practical work about designing and making things like when you made your jewellery box or coat hook.

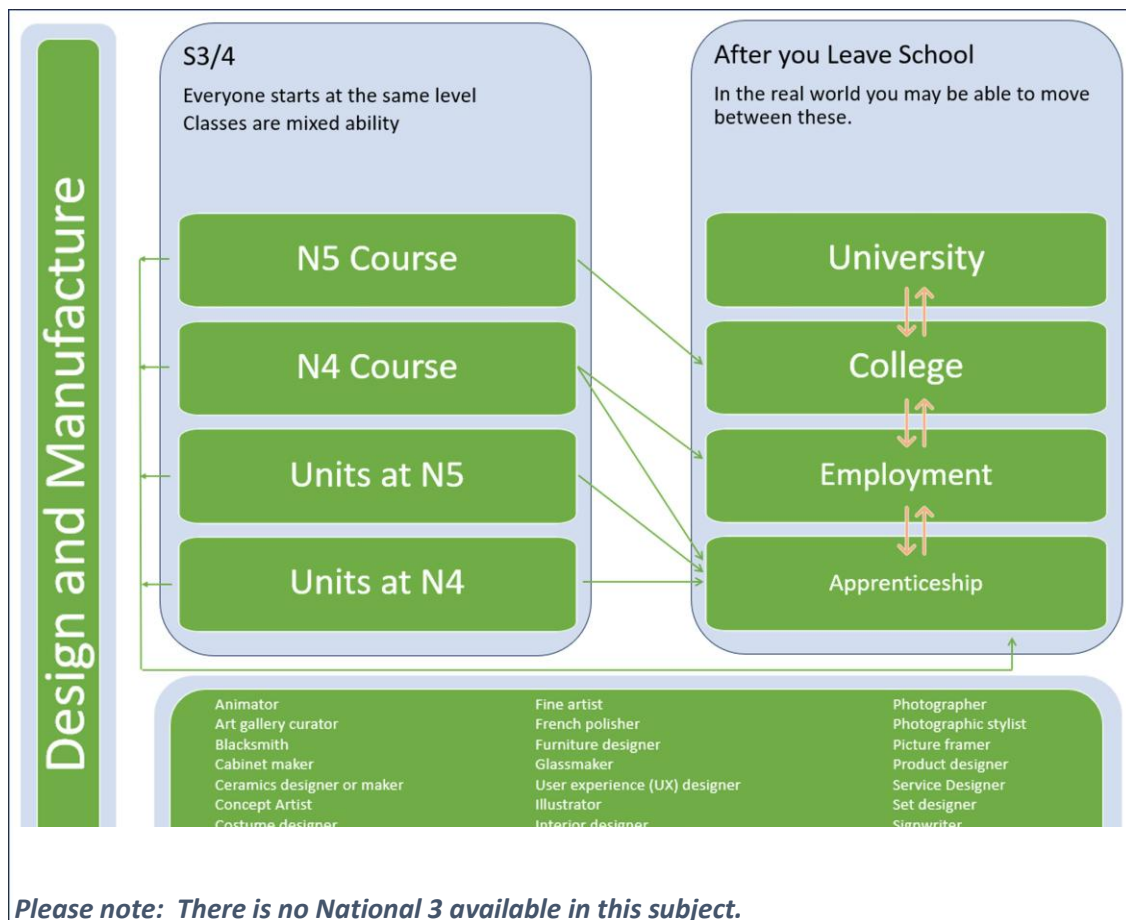
What do you do in this subject during S3 and S4?

You will learn how to solve problems for people using creativity and imagination. You will learn about the design process and how to think about products and environments. You will also learn about how things are made and what they are made of! You will also have to learn about some parts of graphic communication like colours and what they mean and different drawing styles. You will have to communicate in words and pictures. You will create paper-based folios which show your process of creating and developing ideas. You will use modelling material like card, clay or foam to help you create or develop ideas. You will occasionally work in the workshop using Wood, metal and/or plastic to create prototypes of your designs.

Is it for you?

Pupils will do well in this subject if they enjoy drawing and being imaginative. An interest in technology is also essential. You will enjoy this course if you enjoy making models. Good language skills and having the ability to communicate well through writing are important in this course as is working independently.

Engineering Science



What is it?

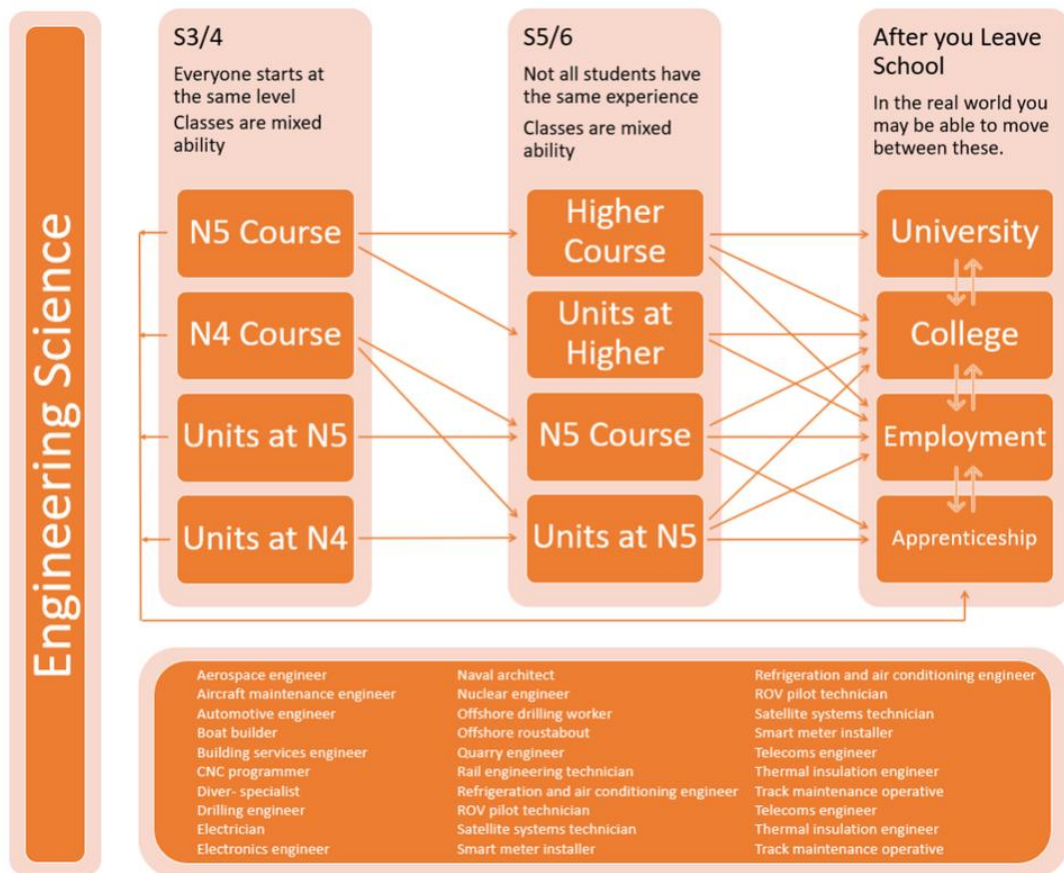
This course involves written and practical work about technology. It is a continuation from work you may have done on Yenka, creating logic circuits or modelling earthquake proof structures.

What do you do in this subject during S3 and S4?

You will learn how to use lots of real technology like electronics, mechanical systems (gears, levers and structures), programmable technologies, pneumatics and energy sources. This will include simulating on computer and building practical circuits. You will model electronic systems that detect and respond to light, heat or a user's input. You will model these systems with real physical components. Safe working is essential. You will simulate electronic and mechanical systems on PC using high quality software. You will learn to design and test gear boxes. You will write and debug software for programmable hardware control systems. You will use military software to compete to design and simulate the cheapest successful bridge structure. You will learn to select and manipulate formulae to calculate energy and efficiency for use in energy audits of electromechanical systems.

Is it for you?

Pupils will do well in this subject if they have an interest in how modern technology works. You will have to be good at Maths. If you are interested in engineering of any kind, technology or even Physics, this course is for you.



Please note: There is no National 3 available in this subject.

Graphic Communication

What is it?

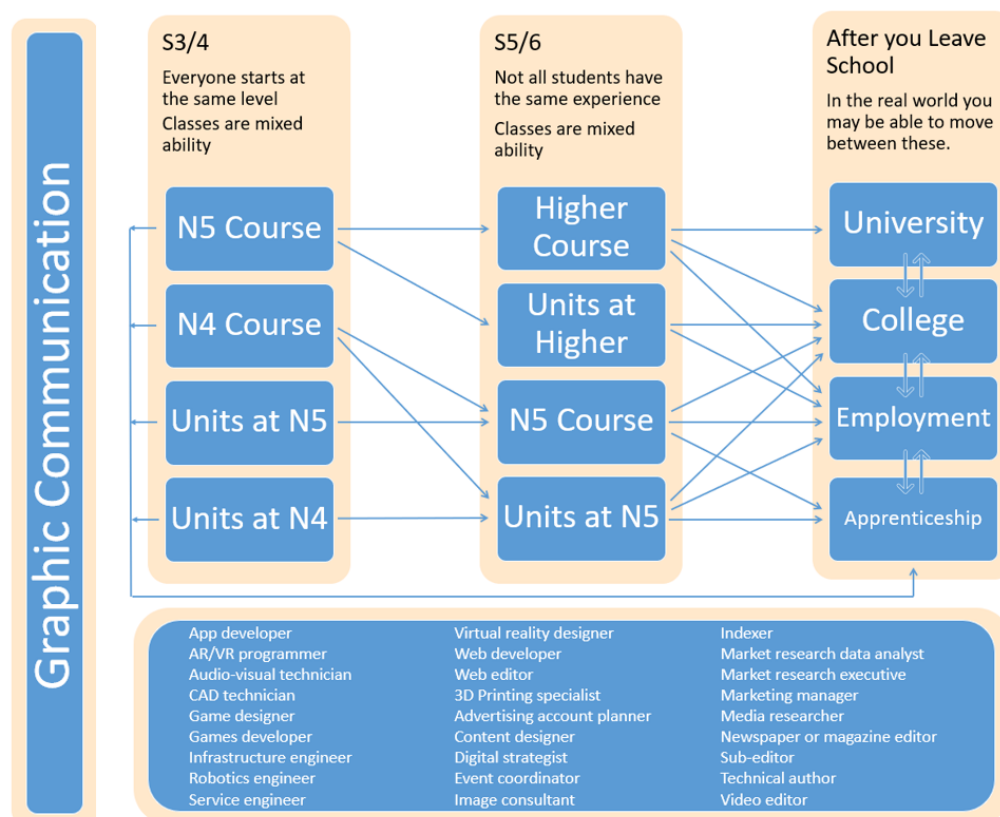
This course involves making images on paper and on the computer. The images will be of everyday objects. Sometimes you will have to create these images from scratch, sometimes you will be manipulating other people's work.

What do you do in this subject during S3 and S4?

You will learn to draw in different ways to show objects from lots of different angles, sometimes on computer, other times by hand. You will learn to use computers to make 3 dimensional models of everyday objects. You will learn about colour and be able to justify its use in communication. You will learn how to make drawn objects look realistic using light and texture. You will learn to use different materials like marker pens and pastels. You will learn about graphic design and poster design. You will learn to use different software packages like Inventor and the Affinity suite. You will create written plans for the draughting of complex multi part assemblies and create a mixture of preliminary, production and promotional graphics

Is it for you?

Pupils will do well in this subject if they enjoy drawing. Using computers is a big part of this course. Pupils will enjoy this subject if they enjoy making posters. Pupils who like to think logically and are good at maths will do well in this subject. If you are interested in graphic design or architecture, this course is for you.



Please note: There is no National 3 available in this subject.

Practical Woodworking

What is it?

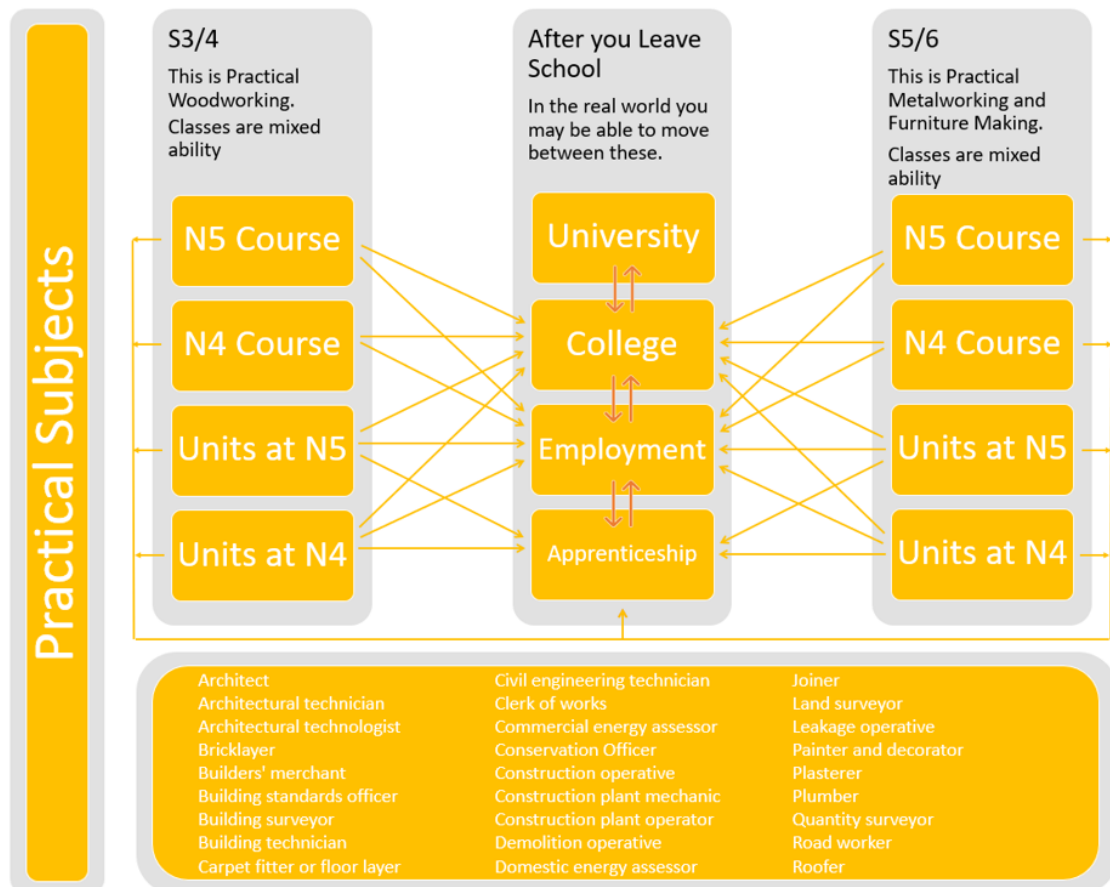
This course involves mainly practical work, based in the workshop. It is a continuation of the practical work you completed in first and second year.

What do you do in this subject during S3 and S4?

You will learn to mark out using different tools. You will also have to shape, join and finish wooden models in several different ways. You will develop the ability to read technical drawings and work to strict sizes (+/- 1mm). You will learn to use most of the machinery in the workshop like the lathe and the mortice machine. You will learn to name and describe different materials, tools and processes. You will make several artefacts like a Toolbox, a Corner Unit and a Mirror Frame.

Is it for you?

Pupils will do well in this subject if they enjoy working in a practical environment. You will enjoy this subject if you like making things. If you want to develop practical skills like these or if you enjoy DIY, this course is for you.



Health and Food Technology

What is it?

This course offers you the chance to link your knowledge of food with practical activities. You will learn through a variety of methods, including design and make exercises, research and theory behind the practical work being done.

What do you do in this subject during S3 and S4?

The course is divided into 3 units:

- Food for Health. You will learn how to make healthy dishes in a safe and hygienic way. You will develop good practical skills. You will learn how your health is affected by what you eat and you will investigate the main nutrients needed by your body for good health.
- Food Product Development. You will learn how to create new food items using a range of ingredients. You will develop an understanding of why certain ingredients are added to foods.
- Food Technology. You will learn how to select dishes using new and interesting kitchen equipment. You will develop an understanding of recent developments in technology and how they can benefit food preparation and cooking.

Is it for you?

To do well in this subject you will need to be interested in carrying out investigations to find solutions to problems linked to diet and health. You should be keen to carry out research to then design and make your own food products. You should be motivated to learn in both practical and theory lessons.

Practical Cookery

What is it?

This course is about food preparation and cooking including food safety. It develops chef skills. The course focuses on the skills required in the Hospitality industry, such as restaurants and hotels. The theory behind the practical work is closely linked to the cooking and food preparation that is done in class.

What do you do in this subject during S3 and S4?

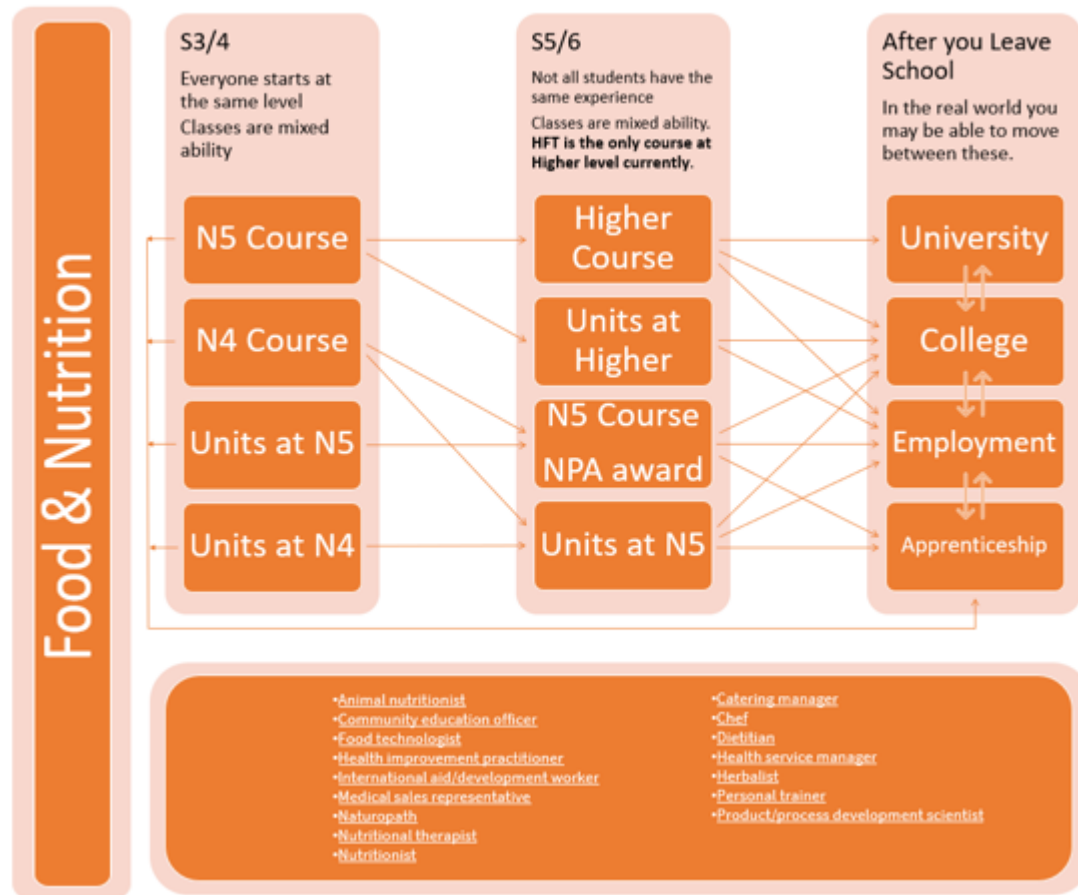
The focus of this course is on practical skills. You will learn through a variety of methods. These include practical cookery, investigations and the theory behind the practical work being done.

You will learn about food safety and personal and kitchen hygiene so being able to prevent food poisoning.

Assessment will be on-going with a final project that demonstrates your learning.

Is it for you?

If you are interested in food, you will enjoy the content of this course. Likewise, you will develop your practical skills to a high standard. Your knowledge of food will increase.



French and Spanish

What is it?

Learning another language is an extremely valuable life skill to have. Communication skills are highly valued in the business world and in the travel & tourism industry.

Learning a foreign language opens your opportunities for work both within the UK and elsewhere, as well as increasing multi-cultural awareness and interaction. It has been scientifically proven that learning a second language is good for your brain longer term. In addition, understanding how a foreign language works will improve your level of literacy in English.

What do you do in this subject during S3 and S4?

Your language learning will form a similar structure to that of S1 and S2 with continued interactive lessons. You will build on your knowledge of vocabulary and grammar so that

your four language skills - Talking, Reading, Listening and Writing will improve. You will improve your level of vocabulary in various topics like Technology, Holidays, Education & Employment, Foreign Films, Health, Food & Drink as well as participating in cultural activities in and out of school.

Is it for you?

If you are motivated, then you can learn to speak a foreign language. It is a very enjoyable and worthwhile experience to spend time in another country and to be able to communicate using the language of that country. If you enjoy interactive classes, want to become an effective communicator, build your confidence, and open up opportunities for work and travel, then learning a language is for you!

“If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart.” - Nelson Mandela

Italian

Parli italiano?

In S3 you will have the option to further boost your foreign language skills by studying Italian three periods per week. Italian is one of the easier languages to learn.

You will learn about Italian food, drink, culture & society, geography. Lessons are interactive and use a lot of digital technology.

The are many advantages of learning Italiano.

- It's very handy when travelling.
- You will get better service in Italy and in Italian restaurants in Scotland.
- You will be even more employable when applying for jobs with international companies.
- You will boost your knowledge of how the English language works.
- We will teach you how to learn a foreign language so that you can use these skills later in life if you want or need to learn another language.
- It will broaden your cultural horizons.

You will be able speak Italiano in no time.

Ciao e a presto!

French / Spanish / Italian

S3/4

Everyone starts at the same level
Classes are mixed ability

N5 Course

N4 Course

Units at N5

Units at N4

S5/6

Not all students have the same experience
Classes are mixed ability

Higher Course

Units at Higher

N5 Course

Units at N5

After you Leave School

In the real world you may be able to move between these.

University

College

Employment

Apprenticeship

Broadcast journalist

Detective

Diplomatic service officer

Education consultant

English as a foreign language teacher

International aid/development worker

Logistics and distribution manager

Marketing executive

Patent examiner

Private tutor

Publishing rights manager

Sales executive

Tour manager

Modern Languages Teacher

Interpreter

Translator

Mathematics

What is it?

Mathematics is the study of number, shape, space and change. Finding patterns, formulating new ideas, and discovering truth are central to Mathematics. It is through Maths that we can understand and make sense of the world around us.

What do you do in this subject during S3 and S4?

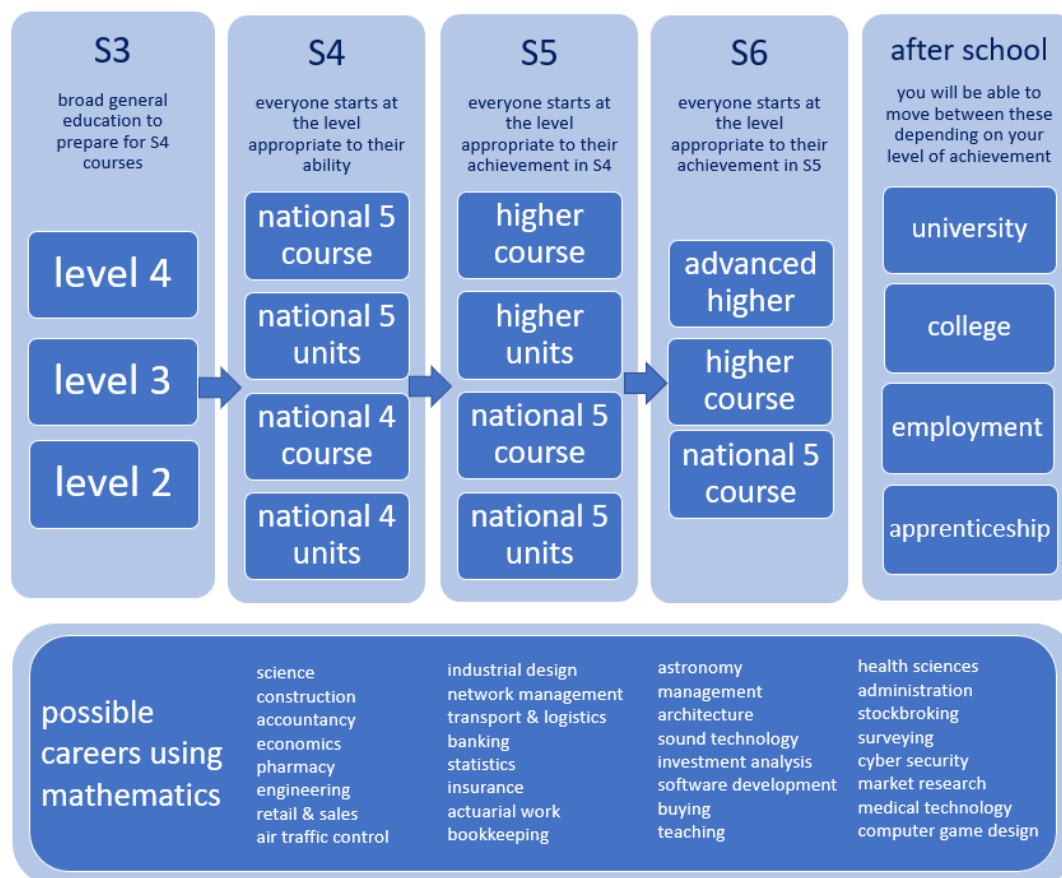
In S3/4 you will build on what you have learned in S1 & S2 and continue to learn about Mathematics and its place in the world around us. Your skills in Numeracy, Algebra and Shape will be further developed as you delve deeper into the Mathematical content. Throughout the course you will learn how to solve problems in familiar and unfamiliar real-life situations and link the Maths you are learning to your other subjects.

Pupils will be placed in classes suitable to their ability. Your progress will be assessed throughout S3 and S4 using class tests and project work.

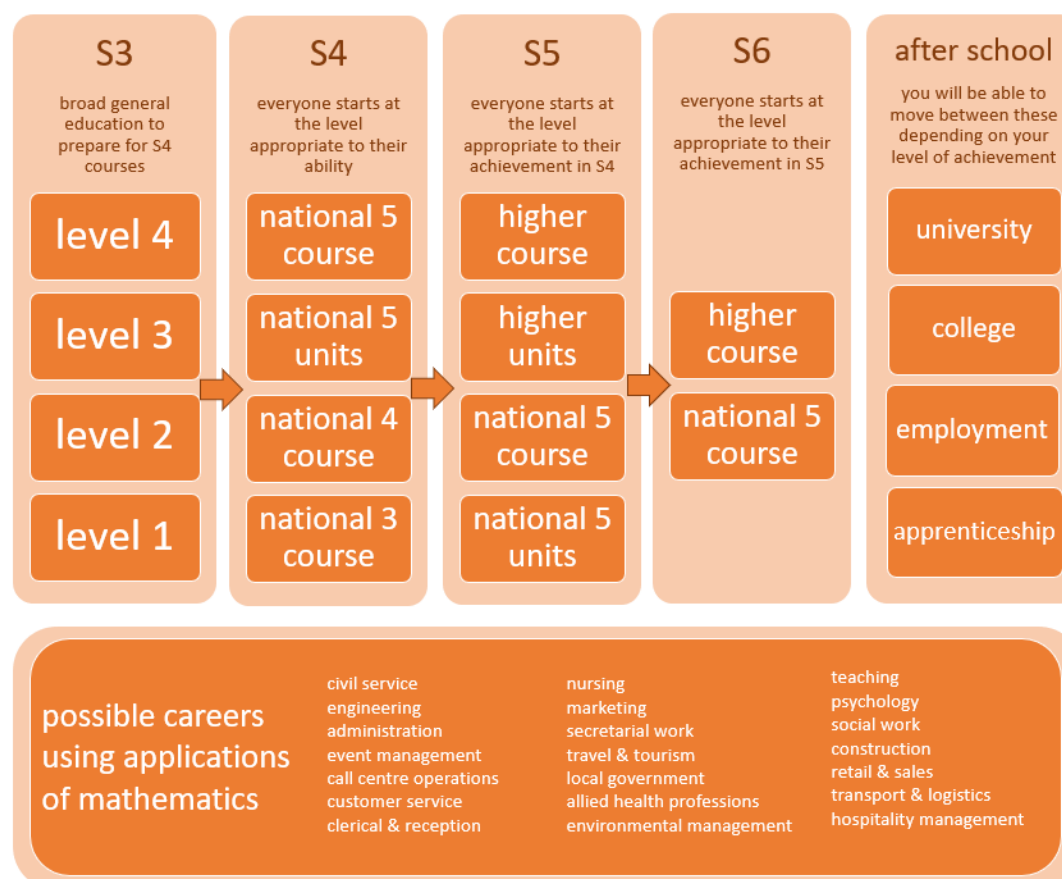
Is it for you?

Yes! Every pupil at Airdrie Academy does Maths in S3 and S4. You should find Maths relevant, challenging and, of course, good fun!

mathematics



applications of mathematics



ESPORTS (NPA – Level 4)

What is it?

The National Progression Award (NPA) in Esports at Levels 4 introduces pupils to the rapidly growing world of competitive gaming. This course explores the history and development of the esports industry, the technical aspects of gaming performance, and the skills required to plan and manage esports events.

What do you do in this subject during S3?

Course Units:

1. *Esports Industry - The History of Esports*

- Examine the origins and evolution of competitive gaming.
- Understand the impact of technology, game development, and online streaming.
- Explore career opportunities and the global esports ecosystem.

2. *Esports Gaming Performance - Technical Aspects of Performance*

- Develop an understanding of gaming hardware, software, and network requirements.
- Learn about reaction time, strategy, and player psychology in high-level competition.
- Improve in-game mechanics, teamwork, and communication skills.

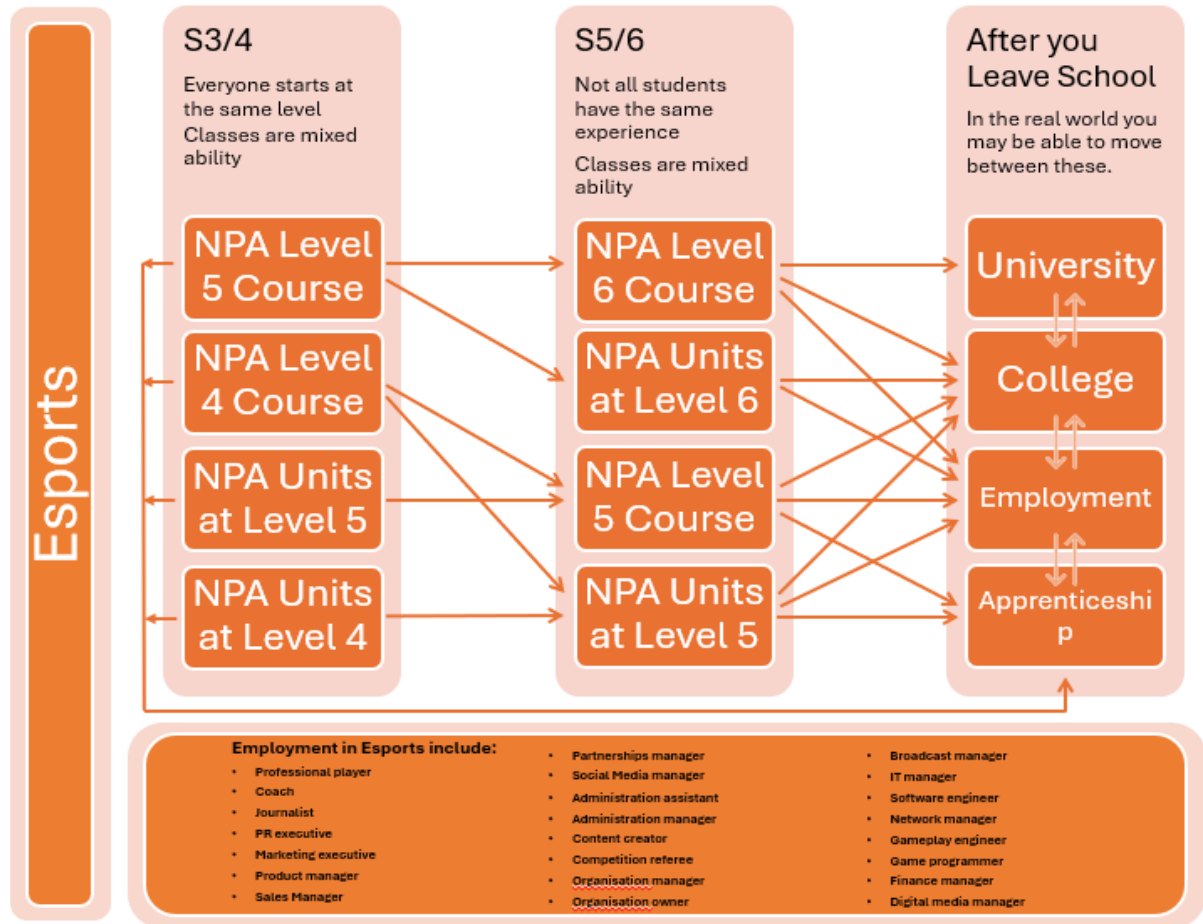
3. *Esports Gaming Events - Planning an Esports Event*

- Gain hands-on experience in organizing an esports tournament.
- Learn about event logistics, promotion, sponsorship, and audience engagement.
- Understand the roles of Shoutcasters, Analysts, Referees, and Event managers.

Is it for you?

This NPA is ideal for pupils who are passionate about Esports and want to develop skills relevant to careers in gaming, event management, content creation, and digital marketing. It provides a strong foundation for further study or entry into the Esports industry.





Drama and Theatre Technology

What is it?

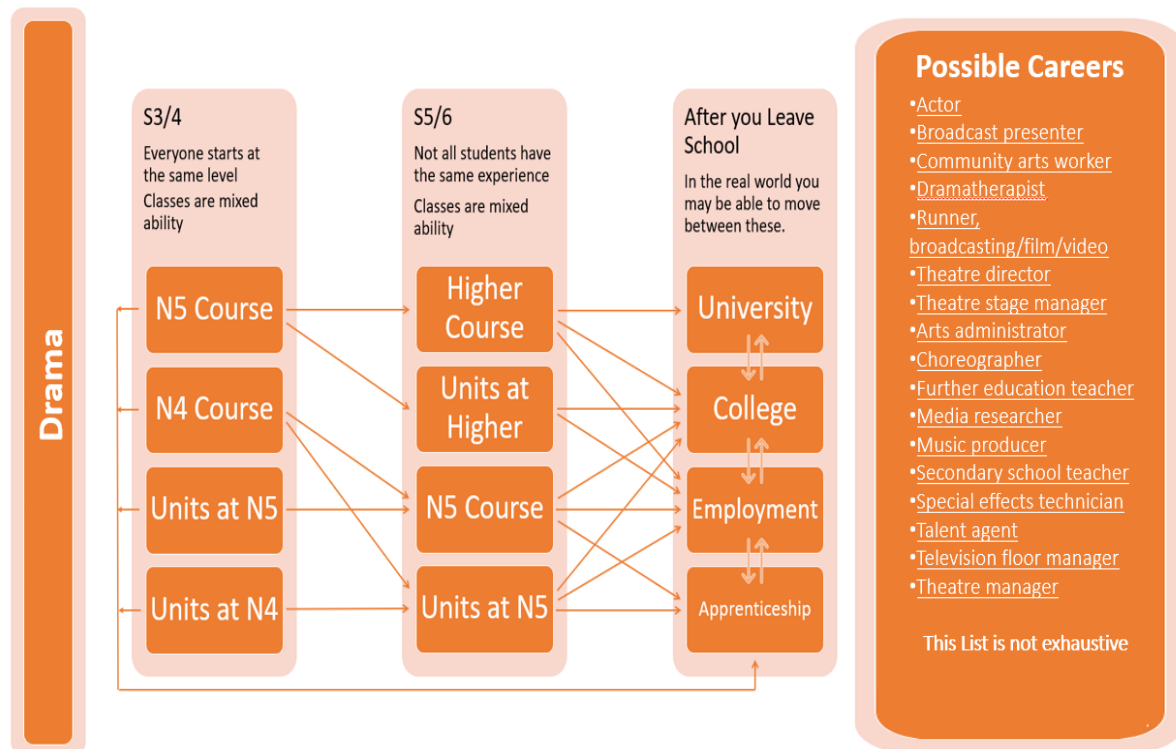
This is a two-year course, which starts with an introductory unit. The unit will familiarise those students who are choosing drama for the first time since S1 and act as a revision exercise for those who have already studied the subject in S2. The unit will then lead into the National 4/5 Units.

What do you do in this subject during S3 and S4?

All students follow the Nat 5 course but will have the opportunity to change their presentation level to Nat 4 or Nat 3 if and when appropriate. Students work by outcome and at their own level using differentiated materials. Unit tests comprise both practical and written exams at the end of and during each unit. Evidence of course work is recorded in a unit booklet and logbook. The course focuses on aspects of theatre production and practical investigation of drama including texts. The students explore all aspects of theatrical concepts, and all must specialize in the study and techniques of one of the following: acting, directing, set design, props, make-up and costume design, lighting and sound technology. The final exam consists of a written paper and a practical exam, which is externally examined and a folio, which is sent to the SQA prior to the exam.

Is it for you?

Careers might include working in Theatre, television and film production, Law, teaching, event management, creative industries and any career involving communication and teamwork.



Music with Performing

What is it?

The music course is an exciting, creative and practical based course. It is not just for the gifted musician but for anyone who has an interest in learning to play an instrument or sing. Music is an important and valued subject that will allow you to develop life skills such as creativity, communication, discipline, teamwork and the ability to overcome challenges whilst building confidence.

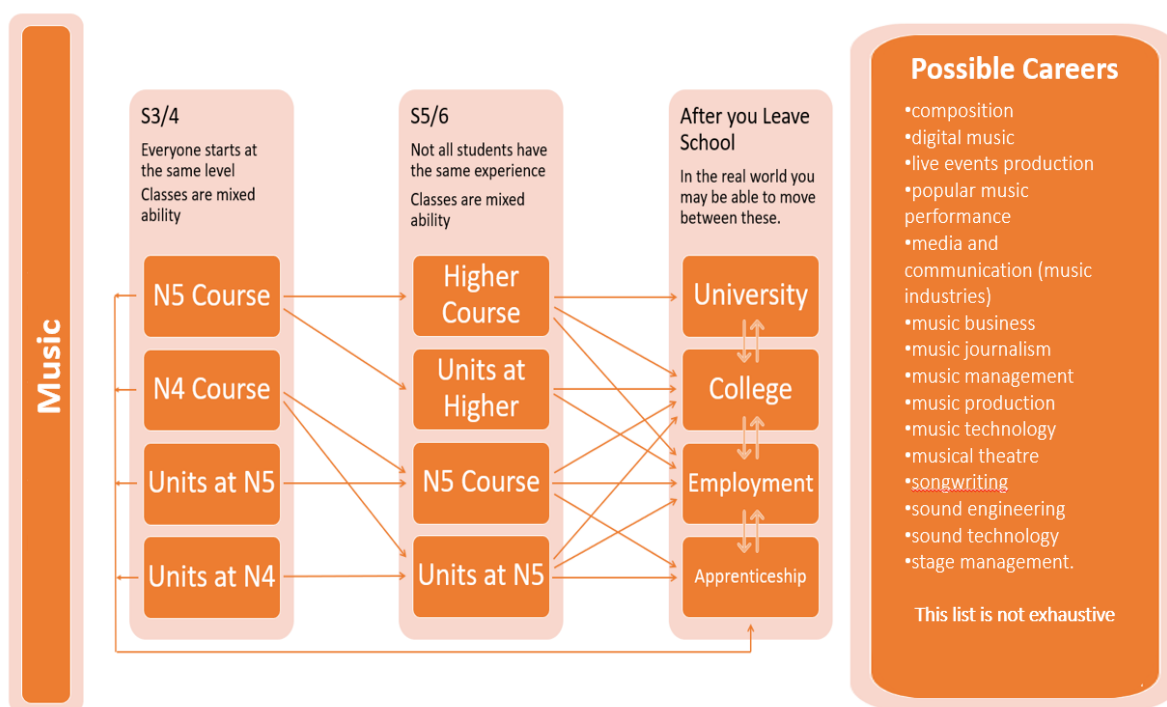
What do you do in this subject during S3 and S4?

In S3 and S4 you will follow an exciting and practical music course which offers flexibility and choice. Pupils who choose the performing route will continue to develop their skills in performing, composing and listening. Some of the activities include group performing, research projects, composing in different styles and learning about music from different cultures.

The music course is suitable for all levels of ability, not only the experienced performer, but for anyone with an interest in the subject.

Is it for you?

In this course you will be able to learn new skills in performing, composing and understanding music based on your own musical interests. You will learn about a variety of styles and cultures through listening and performing and have opportunities to incorporate this into your work.



Music Technology

What is it?

Music Technology is an exciting and practical based course which aims to develop transferable skills required for many jobs within media, communications, advertising and sound engineering, both live and within the recording studio. The course develops skills in creativity, co-operative working, problem solving and organisation.

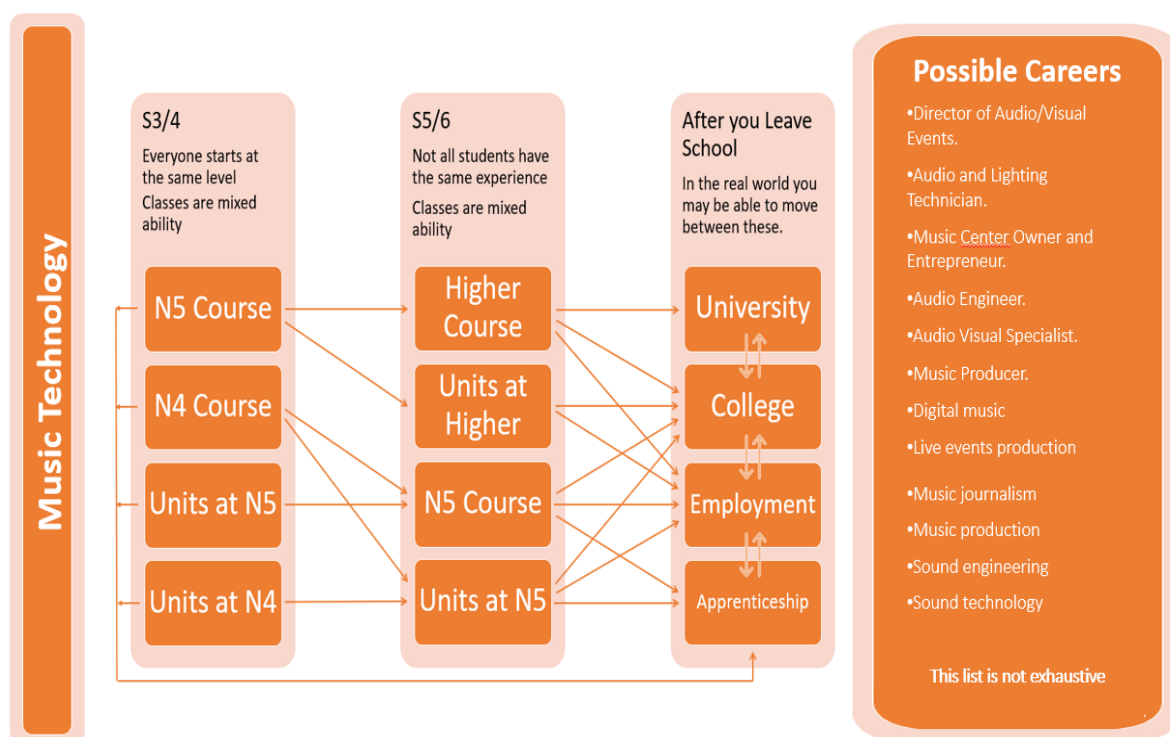
What do you do in this subject during S3 and S4?

You will use hardware and software to edit, enhance and manipulate both pre-recorded and invented sounds from a range of sources including your own live recordings. Working individually and in groups you will explore a variety of recording, mixing and editing techniques which can be transferred to a variety of projects. Projects will include creating dance tracks, audiobooks, computer game sound design, radio shows and others where you will be given the chance to expand your knowledge, skills and confidence working with music technology.

Is it for you?

Creativity is key and personalisation and choice are offered within each project to allow for pupil centred learning.

As the course is technology based, no instrumental skills are necessary, however you may choose to incorporate instrumental skills into your work by recording or performing for live recordings.



Physical Education

What is it?

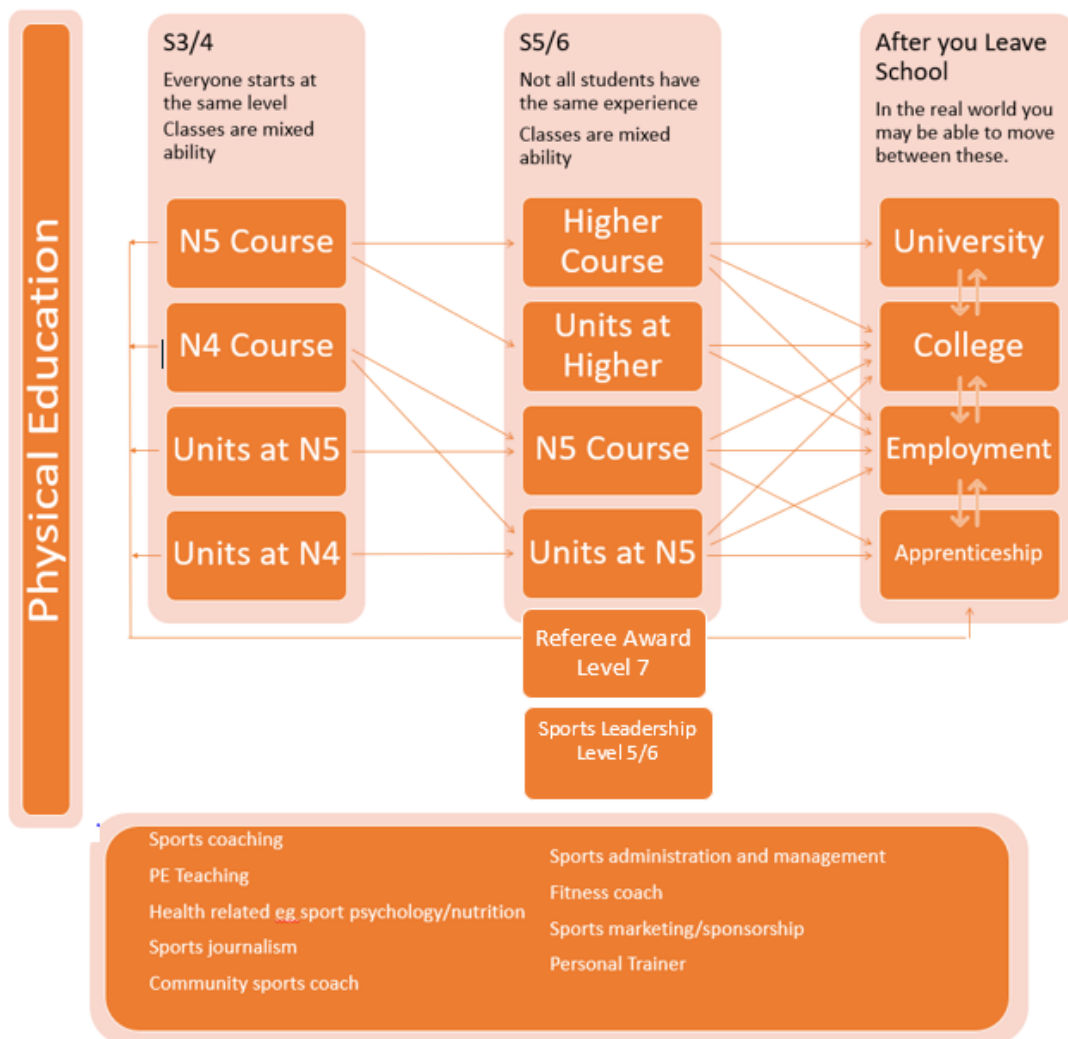
Study of a wide variety of physical activities, including Badminton, Basketball, Hockey, Football, Gymnastics etc. and the development of skills, knowledge and understanding to be an effective performer.

What do you do in this subject during S3 and S4?

You will develop your skill level in a variety of activities. You will learn how to improve skills. You will gain knowledge about tactics and strategies used within games. You will learn how to test, develop and monitor your fitness. This will be achieved through practical and classroom sessions. You will learn how to develop your ability to evaluate performance. Pupils are required to produce performance evidence in two activities at either national 4 or national 5. All pupils will be assessed in a one-off performance (pass or fail) in their best activity – this is known as the National 4 Added Value. National 5 pupils will have an assignment to hand in to SQA worth 60 marks and two one off performances in two activities each to be graded out of 30 to go towards the final overall grade out of 120.

Is it for you?

This course is for pupils who enjoy physical education. It is for pupils who bring kit all the time and are keen to take part. This course is for pupils who appreciate that written work is an important part of the course and understand that it is not just about practical performance. You will get homework. You will be going to a classroom to do written work on a weekly basis. If you are happy with all of these then this course is for you.



Dance

What is it?

Study of a wide variety of dance styles and techniques, including Jazz, contemporary/lyrical, hiphop/commercial, cultural etc., and the development of skills, knowledge and understanding to be an effective performer. They will also learn about the components of dance and use these components to choreograph pieces of dance.

What do you do in this subject during S3 and S4?

Pupils are given the opportunity to develop their technical dance skills for solo and/or group dance performances. Dance techniques will be explored practically and developed in a range of dance styles before being applied in choreographed sequences. Learners will develop critical thinking skills and appreciation of dance. They will evaluate their own work and the work of others.

They will also be given time to develop self-expression and creative problem-solving skills. They will apply their knowledge and understanding of a range of choreographic devices and structures within the creative process to create short choreographed sequences. They will learn how to appreciate the impact of theatre arts on choreography and performance.

Pupils are required to produce performance evidence in two styles of dance and choreograph a piece of movement for 2+ dancers at NPA4/5 and National 5.

Pupils sitting National 5 will be externally assessed by SQA for their one-off performance of one dance style and their choreographed piece with evidence of the process of their choreographic ideas. They will also sit an external SQA exam consisting of 3 sections about technical skills, choreographic process on a specific piece of dance and development of a style of dance.

Is it for you?

This course is for pupils who enjoy dance. It is for pupils who bring kit all the time and are keen to take part. This course is for pupils who appreciate that written work is an important part of the course and understand that it is not just about practical performance. You will get homework. You will be going to a classroom to do written work on a weekly basis. If you are happy with all of these then this course is for you.

Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies

What is it?

RMPS is concerned with looking at the 'Big Questions in life'. This means looking at things that affect our day to day lives such as Racism, LGBT & Gender issues, and learning to discuss and express our views in a respectful way.

What do you do in this subject during S3 and S4?

You will look at topics that may affect us all at some point in our lives.

The course is divided into 4 sections:

A Moral Issue - we will look at Conflict. Study the different types of war, what causes it and the impact of it. You will get to decide whether you think war can ever be justified.

A Philosophical Issue - we will study why evil and suffering exists in the world. Does their existence mean there can't be a God? We will consider religious and non-religious responses to the causes of evil and suffering.

A World Religion - we will look at Hinduism, one of the world's main religions. A religion that's full of colour, festivals and gods - there are over 2 million gods in Hinduism!

A Research Task - as part of this course you will decide on an area that interests you, research it and write a report. Previous topics have included Racism; Capital Punishment; LGBT issues; and Gender Issues. This is a real opportunity for you to study a topic that you are passionate about.

Is it for you?

RMPS is all about asking the big questions in life - questions that are almost impossible to answer. You will discuss and debate your views on these topics.

You will be given the opportunity to practise some valuable life skills such as analysis and evaluation.

You will also develop your critical thinking - which means looking at concepts & topics and deciding if you think it makes sense or not. The course will help develop your ability to research and express your own views on very controversial topics. Plus, who doesn't like to debate?

