



## Application for Gold Award

### Five Pillars:

- Whole School Approach
- Pupil Awareness
- Parental Engagement
- Pathway Progressions
- Development of External Relationships

## Pupil Awareness

The school will shortly begin the process of appointing our **third** group of SCQF Ambassadors. They have become a vital part of our School Leadership Team and have led learning at Queen Margaret Academy and across the authority.

Queen Margaret Academy was the first South Ayrshire school to receive SCQF Ambassador School accreditation. After **sharing our good practice** at Local Authority meetings every school in the local authority has become an ambassador school.

Through their work on the SCQF this sessions Ambassadors have all achieved **Level 6 Enterprise & Employability, Level 6 Leadership** and **The Saltire Award**.

Every year, after participating in **SCQF training**, the Ambassadors deliver lessons on the SCQF to BGE PSE classes and to senior phase assemblies. They also host a QMA DYW podcast which they use to raise awareness of the SCQF. Additionally, the use of social media and our DYW Newsletter help to raise awareness. .



## Curriculum Pathways

We have **developed our curriculum** to incorporate a range of different qualifications and awards. Our curriculum has now expanded to include:

*SfW Sport and Recreation*

*Level 5 Sports Leader*

*Level 6 Sports Leader*

*NPA 5 Photography*

*SfW Travel and Tourism*

*NPA Travel and Tourism*

*Level 6 Powering Futures*

*SfW Health Sector*

*SfW Retail*

*Young Leaders Award (Sport Scotland)*

*Fundamentals of Handball*

*Level 1*

*Tennis Leaders Award*

*Level 5 Essential Skills*

*Saltire Award*

*Caritas Award*

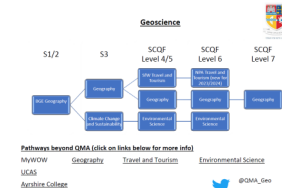
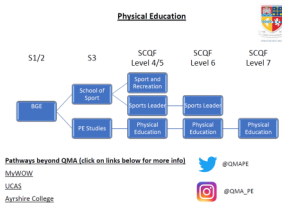
*REHIS Food Hygiene Award*

*DoF Award*

*Level 7 UWS Foundation Academy*

*Young Leader Award*

Since achieving our Silver status we have redesigned our **Senior Phase Options Form**. Inspired by good practice we saw on the SCQF's padlet we now have an options form which is split into SCQF levels. Alongside this pupils and parents/carers receive two booklets. The first booklet is our options booklet with information with each course. The second booklet is our **Curriculum Pathway Booklet** which outlines the pathway which you can take through each department. Each department has their Pathway map displayed in their department. Example of the Physical Education map and the Geoscience map can be found above.



## Whole School Approach

The desire to build a curriculum which meets our learners needed and adhere to the five pillars of the SCQF is a desired outcome in the **School Improvement Plan**. Furthermore, this outcome is in every Departmental **Improvement Plan**. This has brought with it a sharp focus of the importance of the SCQF and the actions we all must take to ensure it is correctly implemented at Queen Margaret Academy.

The School Improvement Plans and Departmental Improvement Plans were reviewed on the 26th January 2024 to ensure appropriate steps are being taken to achieve the five pillars.

**SLT** have a sound understanding of the SCQF and the five pillars which support it. SLT and the PT of Employability and DYW took part in **training from the SCQF Partnership**.

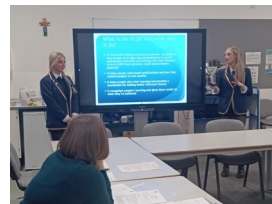
A QR code is now present on our **option forms** which links to the **SCQF framework**. Brining further engagement from our whole school community.

We are incredibly proud of being a Silver Ambassador school and this is illustrated in the graphic being used in staff email signature and the placement of the plaque at our main entrance.



## Parental Engagement

We now have a **Working Group** within the **Parent Council** for the SCQF. This group is working to come up innovative ideas on how to educate the wider school community on the SCQF. This working group was created by our 2023/2024 SCQF Ambassadors after their **presentations at Parents Evening, Senior Phase Options Evening and Parent Council Meetings**.



Our 2022/2023 SCQF Ambassadors created a video to be placed onto the **school website** alongside our link to the SCQF. This part of our website can be accessed [here](#). Furthermore, information on activities are posted to our social media accounts to raise further awareness. These activities were recently highlighted by a **blog** which features steps on our journey within the Ambassador Programme:

[Our journey to becoming a SCQF Silver Ambassador School | Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework](#)

The school has begun work on our **PAVE** (Pathways for Adults Volunteering into Employment) programme. The programme takes parents furthest from employment and offers them the opportunity to volunteer in Queen Margaret Academy. While volunteering they will undertake a host of **SCQF awards** to put them in the best position possible to find employment.

The school has also worked with a graphic design company to create **Queen Margaret Academy's Learner Journey**. This guide allows parents/carers to access to a document which outlines their child's

## Development of External Relationships

Queen Margaret Academy has a close working relationship with the **Ayrshire College**. We work alongside the them to deliver a number of qualifications including Level 4 Automotive, Barista Skills, Beauty Skills and Cycle Maintenance.

We also have a sound working relationship with many Universities for pathways events. **The University of the West of Scotland** also deliver Level 7 UWS Foundation Academy to our pupils.

The **local authority** have also begun **sharing good practice sessions** which the PT of Employability & DYW will attend to collaborate with others and share good ideas.

