



S3 into S4 Choice of Course Parent Presentation and Information Session February 2025

MRS RATCLIFFE (DHT)



Curriculum Structure at HHS

Broad General Education

S1-2 Students take a wide range of subjects

S3 **Breadth and Depth / Personalisation and Choice:**
Students narrow down their subjects to **6** (plus compulsory and core)
But must still take a broad range across all curricular areas

Senior Phase

S4 Students will specialise in **4** subjects (plus English and Maths) for qualifications
(SCQF L3-5) (National 4, National 5, Skills for Work, NPAs and NCs) from the 8 in S3

S5-6 Students will continue with **6** qualifications (National 4/5/Higher). In S6
(in 2026-27) students will be given the option to slim down to 5 qualifications (including
(SCQF L4-7) work experience and Leadership Awards etc)

PREPARATION for Choice of Course Interview

Engage with class work and recent S3 assessments

S3 Report and Recommendations

Choice of Course Booklet and Form, Assembly for S3 on choices.

Input and discussion from teachers about courses in S4

Engage with World of Work website

- <https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/my-career-options/where-can-subject-choices-take-you>

Discussions with: Class Teacher, Pastoral Teacher, family

1-1 Interview with Principal Teacher to put choices in

In S4
students will;

Take 6 Subjects = 5 periods each

Take an English and Maths option and
4 choices columns

Have the Health and Wellbeing suite –
2 periods a week (PE/PSD)

1 period allocated to cover registration
with a tutor who knows you well.

IMPORTANCE OF MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICES

- ▶ Enjoyment
- ▶ Career Options
- ▶ Positive Destination
- ▶ Achievement
- ▶ Success



- COMMUNICATION
- COLLABORATION (Teamwork)
- CREATIVITY
- CRITICAL THINKING (Evaluation)
- CONCENTRATION (Focus)



HHS Values and Skills

Career Management Skills

► CAREER MANAGEMENT SKILLS

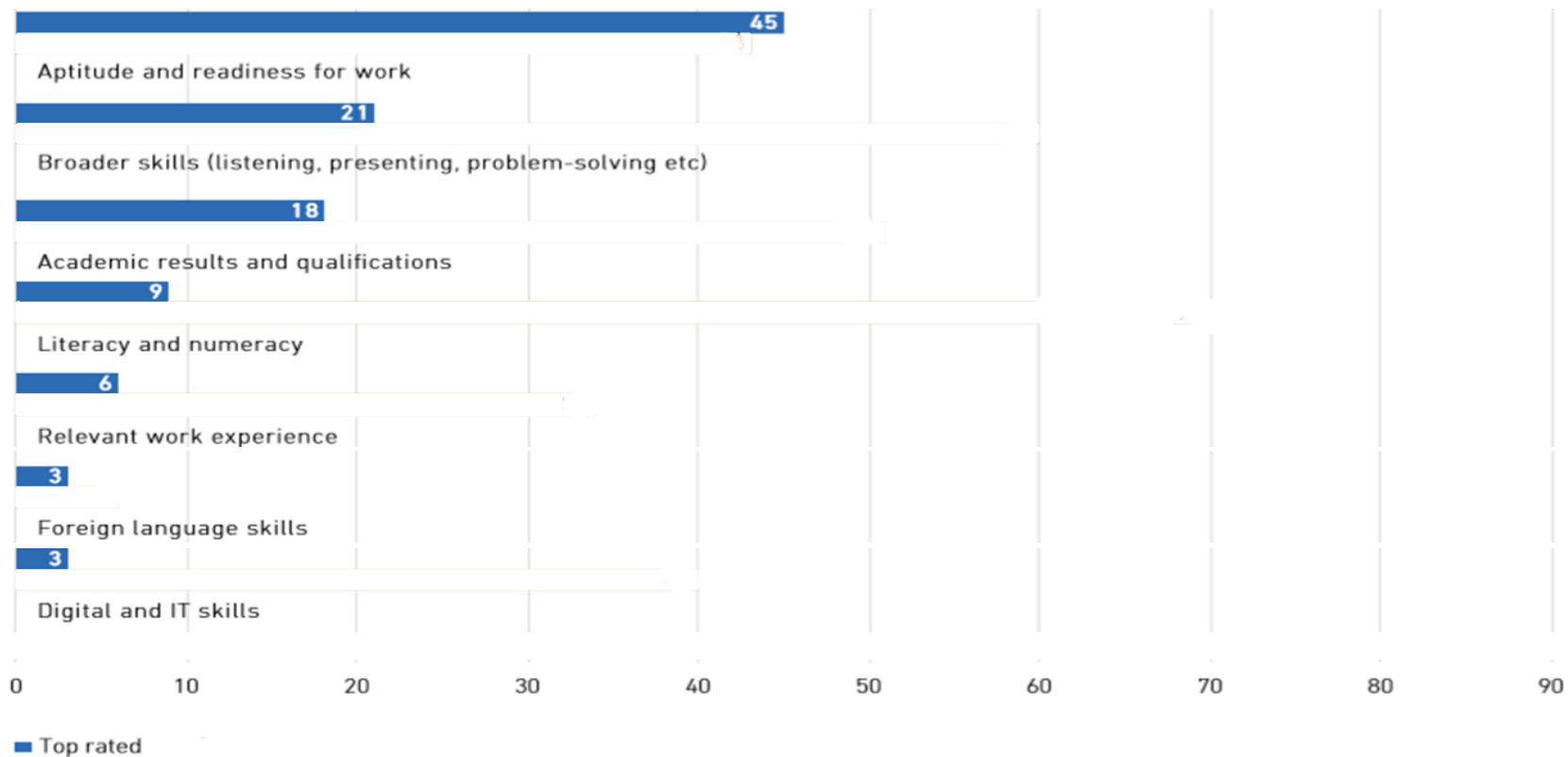


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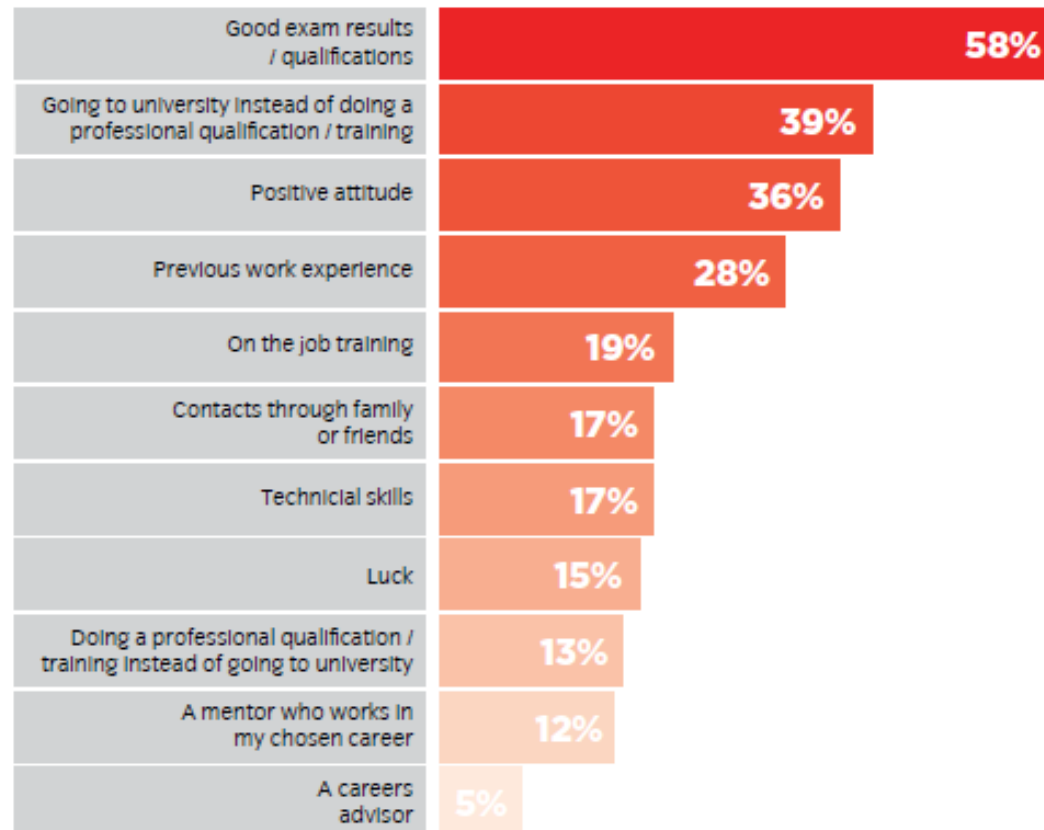
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What are employers looking for?

Exhibit 2.1 Most important factors in recruiting school/college leavers (%)



**RESPONDENTS RATED THEIR TOP THREE 'MOST IMPORTANT'
REQUIREMENTS TO GETTING A JOB THEY ENJOY**



What do
young
people
think?

..... IT'S MAINLY ABOUT
QUALIFICATIONS

What employers look for in new recruits:



Reliability and
punctuality



Communication
skills



Core skills
(literacy,
numeracy, IT)



Can do attitude



Customer service



Team working



Problem Solving



Flexibility

MAKING THE CHOICE - 4 QUESTIONS

1. Which subjects do I like ?
2. Where do my strengths lie ?
3. Which subjects do I need for my future plans ?
4. Have I considered new subjects which appear on the choice form ?



MAKING CHOICES

The choices will be completed with your Guidance Teacher

Try and choose the subjects where you are going to attain the highest levels and generate success.

Most courses for S4 will be N4 & N5 one or two are NPA or NC which are Levels 4/5/6. Check the Choice of Course Booklet.

We advise students not pick subjects just because their friends have – likelihood is they won't be in the same class.

Resources to Help

Careers information and tools to help identify career pathways;



► <https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/>

Careers Advice and Pathways and information about Courses from across Scotland at College and University



► <https://www.planitplus.net/>

Careers Advisers in Library for appointments as needed.

The process – what happens now?

Course choice booklet and sheet issued to S3 students via S3 Team and S3 PSD Teams and school website.

Look at My World of Work website and planitplus website to help identify subjects needed for any specific career pathway and progression.

Discussion with Parents/Carers/ Guidance Teacher/ Teachers/ Careers advisor at S3 Parents Evening on Monday.

Selection of subjects at Interview based on recommendations and career pathway

The process – what happens now?

- ▶ Conversations with Guidance teachers to talk about career path and subjects ideas
 - During PSD lessons in previous weeks
- ▶ Deadline returning for course selection form:
 - **Tuesday 4th or Wednesday 5th February** – Individual Interview in Assembly Hall with Pastoral Teacher / Principal Teacher/ DHT (email or bring your form to this meeting)
- ▶ Review of progress /make decisions for 6 subjects in S5 or next steps:
 - Spring of S4



S3 into S4 Choice Form 2025-26

Column C Select one ✓		Column D Select one ✓		Column E Select one ✓		Column F Select one ✓	
National 4 or 5 / SfW / NPA		National 4 or 5 / SfW / NPA		National 4 or 5 / SfW / NPA		National 4 or 5 / SfW / NPA	
Art		Creative Thinking (L5)		Art (N5 only)		Admin & IT	
Biology (N5 only)		Forensic Science (L5)		Biology (N4 or N5)		Biology (N5 only)	
Business Management		Geography		Chemistry (N5 only)		Computer Games Dev. (NPA)	
Chemistry (N5 only)		History		Customer Service (NPA L4/5)		Fashion & Textiles	
Computing Science		Modern Studies		Digital Creative Arts		Health and Food Technology	
Geography		PE		Early Learning and Childcare		History	
Health Sector (SfW)		People in Society (N4)		French		Media	
History		Practical Cookery (N4 or N5)		Music		PE	
Practical Cookery (N4 or N5)		Practical Metalworking		PE		Physics (N5 only)	
Practical Woodworking		RMPS		Practical Cookery (N4 or N5)		Spanish	
Science and Technology (N4)				Practical Woodworking			
Travel and Tourism (SfW)							
Borders College Offer- please state which course you are applying to (you will need to complete a separate application form and still select 1 choice in every column);							



Borders College School Hub Offer 2025-26

- PLEASE DISCUSS WITH YOUR GUIDANCE TEACHER BEFORE APPLYING ONLINE.
- DO NOT APPLY DIRECTLY WITHOUT LETTING YOUR GUIDANCE TEACHER KNOW.



<https://www.borderscollege.ac.uk/schools-academy>

S3 Individual Course Choice Interviews

**Tuesday 4th or Wednesday 5th
February choices are completed.
Individual interviews in Assembly
Hall. Make sure you bring your form
to the meeting!**

**Check PSD Teams for individual time
of interview**



FINAL ADVICE

- ▶ Very important **decisions**
- ▶ Take **time** to make your choices
- ▶ **Talk** to others
- ▶ **ASK** for help if there are problems



Resource Links

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

[Option Choices tool | My World of Work](#)

<https://www.planitplus.net/>

<https://hawickhighschool.org.uk/our-faculilties/course-choice/>