

Shetland Islands Council

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

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Dear Parent/Carer

S4/5/6 Study Support in Preparation for SQA Examinations in April/May 2026

At this time of year it is important that pupils and parents/carers have the necessary information on how best pupils can prepare for their examinations in April/May.

The most important strategy to emphasise is regular study undertaken at home. This should involve pupils going over work done in school each night in addition to the completion of set homework tasks. Working through past papers is another useful strategy and all staff are only too happy to assist with, and mark, any extra work done in this area.

In addition, it is important to remember that every subject department offers individual support to pupils (see attached). Pupil Support Teachers are also available to provide advice and guidance on how to develop structured revision plans and schedules, and on how best to prepare and study at this time.

Please do not hesitate to contact either of us, or your child's Pupil Support Teacher, if you have any queries.

We wish your child every success with their revision and in the final exams.

Yours sincerely

Patrick Robertson
Year Group Head (S4)

Barney Redman
Year Group Head (S5/6)

SUBJECT/ DEPARTMENT	FOCUS/STRATEGY
ART & DESIGN	<p>Art & Design courses are about the development of material handling skills for practical units and critical skills for Art & Design studies (the written element) which will inform and inspire the pupils own practical work and prepare them for the written exam.</p> <p>Homework/Extra work is essential, be it completing sketchbook work, gathering images for visual research written work/research for critical studies or doing practical work in after school workshops.</p> <p>Therefore, the Art & Design Department runs an 'open door' policy to enable students to do extra work and preparation at lunchtimes and after school. Students should check with staff for advice, practice papers, etc. To aid students in this work, certain specialist materials can be loaned out to them for use at home, as required.</p> <p>Practical & Critical portfolio work must be complete to achieve overall course award</p> <p>For Art and Design Studies, students have personally collected information and images to help with their studies into the lives and works of the artists and designers they have chosen. The basic information provided by the Department as booklets or sheets is also available on Teams.</p> <p>Preparation for Written Exam</p> <p>This year pupils will only be answering the full question paper on both EXPRESSIVE and DESIGN. – TAKE OUT this whole statement.</p> <p>N5 Exam Paper – 1 hour 20 minutes</p> <p>Higher – 2 hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use completed Critical studies mind maps, notes, power points and images of examples of work by their chosen ARTISTS and Designers to revise from. • Know the Social Cultural and/or factors that have influenced their work. • Look at exemplar questions on SQA web site under Art & Design Section. • How to Pass N5/H Art & Design Hodder & Gibson books in Department also give exemplar answers for N5/H questions (can be used in department). <p>Useful Websites</p> <p>List in the back of How to Pass N5/H Art & Design Hodder & Gibson books.</p> <p>Websites listed in department handouts: www.sqa.org.uk www.nationalgallery.org.uk BBC Bitesize – Art & Design – Higher Scholar</p>
BIOLOGY	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Study support sessions are available by request. 2. A'Higher Biology can use AHS TEAMS, SQA Past Papers, The Biology Coach, Scholar, Bitesize. 3. Higher Human Biology can use AHS TEAMS, SQA Past Papers, Scholar. 4. National 5 Biology can use AHS TEAMS, SQA Past Papers, BBC Bitesize Biology. 5. Pupils have paper copies of revision materials to help support learning for prelims/exams. 6. Pupils are encouraged to regularly access their Biology TEAM on GLOW as there are useful links to many websites <p>Biology After School Session (Miss Robertson) – Thursdays 3.45pm to 4.45pm – all levels</p>

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BUSINESS EDUCATION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Higher Administration and Higher Business Management can use AHS TEAMS, SQA Past Papers, Achieve.hashtag-learning, Scholar and BBC Bitesize. 2. N5 & Higher Accounts can use AHS TEAMS, SQA Past Papers and Achieve.hashtag-learning. 3. National 5 Administration can use AHS TEAMS, Achieve.hashtag-learning and SQA Past Papers 4. National 5 Business Management can use AHS TEAMS, SQA Past Papers, Scholar, Achieve.hashtag-learning and BBC Bitesize. 5. Pupils in all subjects will have paper copies of revision materials to help support learning for prelims/exams. 6. Pupils are encouraged to attempt questions regularly for homework and submit for marking. 7. Pupils are encouraged to regularly access their TEAM on GLOW as there are useful links to many websites. 8. After school study sessions on Mondays with Mrs Nicolson, starting 19 Jan – 3.50 pm to 5 pm (all levels). 9. Alternative study support sessions may be available by request. 10. Please remember to ask your class teacher if you have any questions/worries, we are here to help you.
CHEMISTRY	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Study support sessions are available by request. 2. A'Higher Chemistry can use AHS TEAMS, SQA Past Papers, Scholar. 3. Higher Chemistry can use AHS TEAMS, SQA Past Papers, Scholar, Bitesize. 4. National 5 Chemistry can use AHS TEAMS, SQA Past Papers, BBC Bitesize. 5. Pupils have paper copies of revision materials to help support learning for prelims/exams. 6. Pupils are encouraged to regularly access their AHS Chemistry TEAM on GLOW as there are useful links to many websites. <p>Chemistry After School Session (Mrs Sewell) – Wednesdays 3.45pm to 4.45pm (all levels)</p>
COMPUTING	Exam revision, homework, practical assessments and catch-up sessions are available as follows: Lunchtimes – 12.45 – 1.15 pm Monday to Friday. 1.36 open, with teacher available to help.
CRAFT, DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY	Supported study after school on Thursdays from 3.45 pm to 4.45 pm for N5 Metal. Wood Craft Club and study in room 0.37 for any woodwork pupils at lunchtimes for S1&2 on Monday and for S3&4 on Wednesday. Higher Engineering Science Study on Thursday after school in room 1.24 till 4:45 pm. N5 & Higher Graphic Communication Study Wednesday in room 1.27 after school till 4:45 pm.
ENGLISH	<p>Classrooms are available for English study at lunchtime and afterschool, Monday to Friday. If pupils are looking for a room to study in, then they must speak to their allocated teacher(s). Lunchtime and after school support from teachers is also available by arrangement.</p> <p>Pupils should make use of Teams where teachers will post relevant links, resources and revision materials as appropriate to the courses.</p>
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mrs Shields is available for advice at intervals and lunchtimes to help with class work, homework, exam skills and revision. Pupils should use class notes and additional revision resources and links posted on the team as part of regular ongoing revision. 2. All pupils are encouraged to attempt questions from the topic past paper booklets accessible on the team and submit for feedback, in addition to those set as homework.
GEOGRAPHY	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teachers are available for advice at intervals and lunchtimes to help with class work, homework, exam skills and revision. Both N5 and Higher pupils should use class notes, additional revision resources and links posted on their class teams as part of regular ongoing revision. This includes using RGS Chalk Talks which have been produced to support revision for all topics at N5, Higher and Advanced Higher levels. 2. All pupils are encouraged to attempt questions from the topic past paper booklets accessible on the team and submit for feedback. Paper copies are also available.

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HISTORY	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teachers are available for advice as required. 2. Teachers are also available most intervals and lunchtimes to help with homework, exam skills and revision. 3. After school revision for History is on Mondays & Thursdays in 3.07 from 15.45- 16.45. Pupils from any History class at any level are welcome to attend. 4. Pupils have been issued with revision notes and past paper question booklets to help them develop their knowledge and skills for the exam in May. Pupils are encouraged to attempt questions regularly for homework and submit for marking.
HOME ECONOMICS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lunchtime support: Staff are available at lunchtimes, on request, to help pupils with work. 2. Past Papers: All pupils will be issued with a revision booklet of past exam papers. Past papers are also available online. They are encouraged to complete these and submit for marking and feedback. 3. Study aids available to borrow eg tarzia puzzles, question and answer cards. 4. Revision/help sessions on Monday after school and any other time as requested by pupil.
MATHS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. After-school Supported Study Sessions (3.45pm - 5pm) are available each week as follows: For N4/N5 Maths/Apps and Higher Maths/Apps: Mondays: Mrs Galbraith (2.04) – Higher, Mr Kingston (2.05) – N5 Thursdays: Mr Irvine (2.37) – N5/Higher Other courses: Extra support available, speak to your Maths teacher. 2. Lunchtime support: Maths department staff are available at lunchtimes, on request, to help pupils with work. 3. Past Papers: All pupils will be issued with a revision booklet of past exam papers. Past papers are also available online. There are also teams for those studying N5 Maths, N5 Apps, H Maths, H Apps where extra resources are available. 4. Maths notes: Always ensure your notes are up to date, if you are missing some notes, speak to someone else in the class or your teacher. Use your notes to help you revise. 5. Teams: There are AHS teams for: N5 Maths, N5 Apps, H Maths, H Apps where extra revision materials are available, including checklists. All pupils taking these courses should be a member of the relevant team. Please speak to your teacher if you need help accessing this. <p>Practice: The key to success in Maths is to practise as much as you can. Keep up with exercises, and spend time persevering with questions, including past-papers, asking for any help that you need.</p>
MODERN LANGUAGES	<p>Teachers are available at lunchtimes Monday –Friday for support. After- school study sessions are available on request for all languages. Arrange this with your teacher. Teams has lists of all the revision websites available to help home revision. Reading and Listening Past papers are uploaded onto Teams pages regularly. Homework – should be focussing mainly on the WRITING and TALKING elements of the course at this stage.</p>
MODERN STUDIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision materials and sample exam questions are available on Microsoft Teams. • Regular practise of exam style questions is recommended – these are also set as homework tasks. • Pupils are encouraged to use a range of revision techniques – e.g. use of flashcards, mind maps, etc. • Teachers are available for advice as required. • After school revision sessions may also be made available on request.

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MUSIC	<p><u>Listening Exam</u></p> <p>Each student has a SCHOLAR account for N5 Music which they can access through Glow. All pupils have access to Achieve for all levels of presentation.</p> <p>Online websites (listed in the “Learn at Home” section of the Music Department area in AHS website) including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NQ Music • BBC Bite Size Music • Classic fm • www.ataea.co.uk • www.mymusiconline.co.uk <p>Books available to borrow upon request from the Department:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to Pass National 5 Music • How to Pass Higher Music <p>Some study books are also available from the School Library.</p> <p>In class Team, study materials are located in the Class Notebook in the folder “Understanding Music”. There are Sway presentations for each period of Music studied and also for Music Literacy.</p> <p><u>Practical Performance Exam: External Examiner – week beginning 23 February (Nat 5 and Higher) late April/early May (AH) – dates still to be confirmed.</u></p> <p>Regular practise on both instruments or instrument/voice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practise using backing tracks and accompaniments as appropriate • With prior arrangement additional support is available from Music staff at lunchtimes and/or after school <p><u>Composing assignment</u></p> <p>Final composition and review (plus analysis at Advanced Higher) to be completed by 13 March. Staff available to offer additional help during lunchtimes with prior arrangement.</p>
MUSIC TECHNOLOGY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils are encouraged to use rooms during study periods to complete projects. • After school sessions on Tuesdays are available from 3:45pm to 4:45pm • Revision resources on Microsoft Teams for both N5 and Higher • www.ataea.co.uk Music Technology is a useful revision site for both N5 and Higher <p>Final Projects to be completed by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 03 March
PE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Study support sessions are available by request. 2. Teachers are available for advice as required. 3. Pupils have received copies of revision materials as well as course notes. 4. Pupils can use Achieve and BBC Bitesize. 5. After school sessions available 3.45pm – 4.45pm in the P.E. classroom.
PHYSICS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Study support sessions are available by request. 2. A'Higher Physics can use AHS TEAMS, SQA Past Papers, Scholar, Mrs Physics. 3. Higher Physics can use AHS TEAMS, SQA Past Papers, Scholar, Mrs Physics. 4. National 5 Physics can use AHS TEAMS, SQA Past Papers, Bitesize, Mrs Physics. 5. Pupils have paper copies of revision materials to help support learning for prelims/exams. 6. Pupils are encouraged to regularly access their AHS Physics TEAM on GLOW as there are useful links to many websites. <p>Physics After School Sessions - Tuesdays 3.45pm-4.45pm (Mrs Hunter)</p>
RMPS & PHILOSOPHY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision materials and sample exam questions are available on Microsoft Teams. • Regular practise of exam style questions is recommended – these are also set as homework tasks. • Pupils are encouraged to use a range of revision techniques – e.g. use of flashcards, mind maps, etc. • Teachers are available for advice as required. • After school revision sessions may also be made available on request.
SUPPORT FOR LEARNING	Staff from the Support for Learning department are available by arrangement to provide support with revision.

