CULLODEN
ACADEMY

S2 > S3
Pupil and Parent
COURSE CHOICE INFORMATION



2027/28 Version

Introduction

This booklet gives S2 pupils and parents some of the information needed to make course choices for S3 and S4.

At Culloden Academy from Session 2027-28, S2 pupils moving into S3, will do seven subjects. These will be English and Maths which are compulsory for all, plus five other subjects. ***These five subjects can be any combination of the ones listed in this booklet***.

The seven subjects taken in S3 will continue into S4 and will lead to the qualifications you do at the end of S4. You will be timetabled for each subject for four blocks per week. As there are 32 blocks in a week, the other four blocks are Core PE (2 blocks), Core RMPS (1 block), and PSE (1 block).

S1 - S4 Curriculum 2027-2028

	1 2 3 4	5 6 7 8	9 10 11 12	13 14 15 16	17 18 19 20	21 22 23 24	25 26 27 28	29 30	31	32
S4	English	Maths	Subject 1	Subject 2	Subject 3	Subject 4	Subject 5	PE	RMPS	PSE
S3	English	Maths	Subject 1	Subject 2	Subject 3	Subject 4	Subject 5	PE	RMPS	PSE
S2	English	Maths	General Science	Language One	Social Subjects	Technical	Business Studies / ICT / HE / Music / Drama	Art / PSE / RME / HWB	PE	Skills Academy
S1	English	Maths	General Science	Languages (French & Spanish)	Social Subjects	Technical	Business & ICT / HE / Music / Drama	Art / PSE / RME	PE	Wider Achievement

To help you make your choices, information will be available from a variety of sources:

- This booklet
- S2 Parents' Evening – Wednesday 25th November 2026
- S2 Parent Information Presentation – Wednesday 20th January 2027
- S2 Subject Reports – Thursday 21st January 2027
- PSE Lessons
- Class Discussions

If you want any further information you should speak to your class teachers and / or the Principal Teacher of the department for the subject you are considering.

The deadline for final course choices is ***Friday 29th January 2027***. This will be done on a Google Form that will be issued on 21st January.

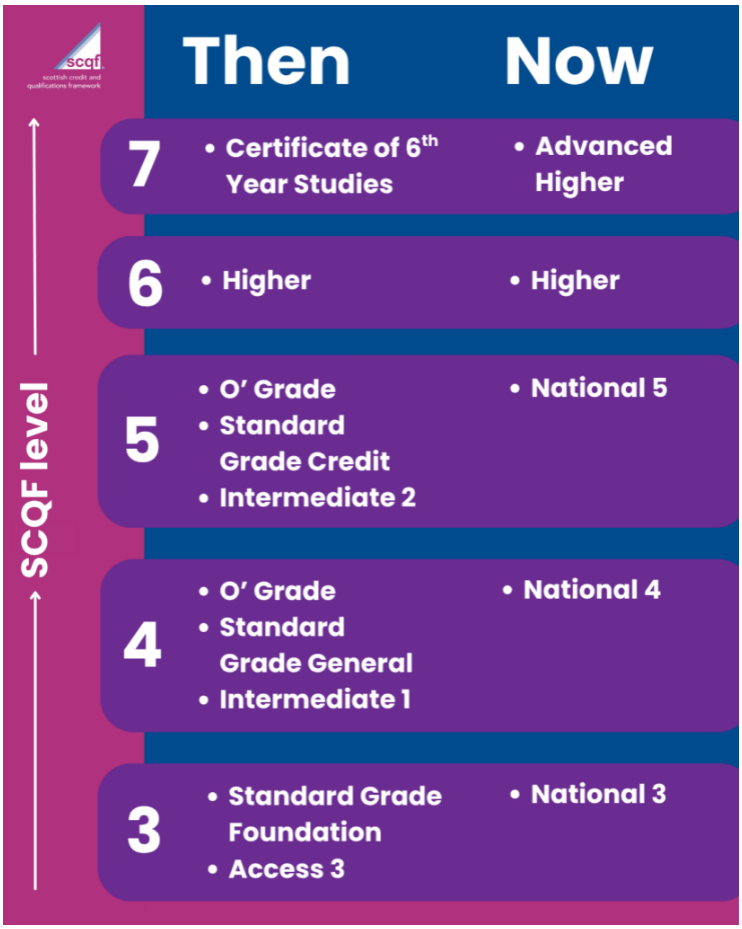
Qualification Levels

The subjects offered for S3 and S4 are either National 4 or National 5 qualifications, or National Progression Awards at Level 4 or 5.

- **National 4** is about building knowledge and skills and demonstrating that you have achieved the required standard throughout the course.
- **National 5** involves a greater level of challenge and usually requires pupils to demonstrate their knowledge in an externally assessed exam.
- **An NPA** offers a different type of learning, often with a stronger emphasis on practical skills, specialist subjects and preparation for further learning or employment.

An NPA is not automatically easier or harder than a National 4 or National 5. Its level depends on the particular award. NPAs can be offered at different Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) levels.

	National 4	National 5	NPA
Main focus	Subject knowledge and skills	More challenging subject knowledge	Specialist and practical skills
Assessment	Teacher assessed	Exam and/or coursework	Mainly teacher-assessed tasks and practical work
Final result	Pass / Fail	A, B, C, D or No Award	Pass / Fail
External exam	No	Usually, depending on subject	No traditional final exam



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Administration & IT with Events

Level of Study	N4/N5 Administration & IT plus NPA Level 4 Events
Entry Requirements	Interest in Digital Literacy, IT, Computing, Business, Customer Service
Course Description	**Every job includes working with IT and dealing with some administrative elements. This practical based course is very much aimed at boosting your skills for life, work and learning and is a useful and enjoyable option for all pupils.** Pupils spend one block per week studying theory topics such as *customer service, health and safety in the workplace and events management.* The other three blocks are spent on desktop computers within the department using industry standard software. The practical topics include: • Spreadsheets • Databases • Word processing • PowerPoint, Email and Communication Software • Digital Media – Canva, Capcut As well as a National qualification, pupils will achieve an extra qualification in Events. Pupils will undertake a practical Events focused project during S3.
Homework	Occasional theory based homework plus revision ahead of assessments
Progression	Higher Business Management Higher Administration & IT Higher Accounts Travel & Tourism Retailing
Further Information	We know that employers are looking for employees who have proficient IT skills and can use Microsoft Office and other industry standard software packages. Having advanced IT skills will also be of benefit to pupils in their future studies at college and university. This course focuses on building pupils' attention to detail and achieving high quality professional work.

Art & Design

Level of Study	N5
Entry Requirements	Successful completion of S1 and S2 Broad General Education Art & Design, with good attendance and positive attitude. Strong initiative, drive, and problem-solving skills to develop original creative ideas. Good written skills to effectively answer critical studies questions in the exam.
Course Description	National 5 Art and Design covers three main areas: Expressive Unit: Creating artwork for an expressive project (such as portraiture, still life, or landscape) using a variety of materials, media, and techniques. Design Unit: Completing a practical design project (such as graphic design, jewellery, or product design) by working from a design brief through to a finished outcome. Critical Studies: Studying artists and designers for an exam, where good written skills are key to analysing work and expressing your ideas. The majority of course time is dedicated to developing your practical portfolio step-by-step during class lessons, therefore, homework is key to your success.
Homework	Regular homework is required to keep pace with course demands. Tasks include conducting visual research, gathering primary source materials, developing drawing skills, completing critical written tasks, and revising artist / designer facts and written technique for the exam. Strong attendance of weekly after school supported study is expected.
Progression	• Higher Art and Design • Higher Photography • Creative Thinking, Level 6 • Costume, Level 5
Further Information	Good attendance is essential because your final grade depends on a practical portfolio built step-by-step during class, therefore attendance is. The course is assessed by Qualifications Scotland through an Expressive Portfolio, a Design Portfolio, and a Critical Studies Exam.

Bakery and Cake Making Skills NPA

Level of Study	Level 4 NPA
Entry Requirements	Pupils will need organisational, time-keeping- and independent working skills, as well as good attention to detail and a creative mind. Pupils should have demonstrated throughout S1 and S2 in Home Economics that they have a positive attitude towards the subject and an enthusiastic approach to learning.
Course Description	The National Progression Award (NPA) in Bakery at SCQF level 4 develops practical bakery skills in craft baking, bread making, cake decoration and pastry making. This award is aimed at candidates who are interested in pursuing a career in the bakery or catering industries. The Level 4 Bakery course consists of 4 mandatory units: • Bread Making L4 – Pupils will learn about different methods of bread making. Pupils will make a range of breads using different flours. • Cake Decorating L4 – Pupils will learn how to apply a range of decorative cake decoration techniques on a range of cakes. • Craft Baking L4 – Pupils will learn how to make a range of products using powder goods, yeast goods, cakes, puff pastry, short and sweet pastry. • Pastry L5- Pupils will learn how to make a range of pastry products; choux, puff, short and sweet pastry. Pupils will also work towards various level 4 and 5 qualifications in Barista, Food Hygiene and Cakecraft across the 2 years.
Assessment	There is no external examination for this course. All units are completed/assessed in class time on a pass/fail basis.
Progression	National 5 Practical Cakecraft Course.
Further Information	

Business Management

Level of Study	N4 / N5
Entry Requirements	Interest in Business, Events Management, Sports Management, Retail, Tourism, Hospitality, Accounts, Finance, Economics
Course Description	**Wherever you end up working in future, you will be in some form of business organisation.** Having an understanding of the world of business, how functional areas work, and your role, responsibilities and rights as an employee is crucial in boosting your employability skills. Our Business Management courses provide a general grounding for lots of other specialist pathways within the department in S5/6. It is a popular National course with lots of active learning opportunities such as class trips, visiting speakers and collaboration projects with local businesses. These are theory based courses where you will develop your literacy skills. Topics include: • Understanding Business (structure of the economy, types of businesses, entrepreneurs, factors affecting businesses) • Operations • Marketing • Human Resources • Finance • Added Value Unit/ Assignment – investigation and reporting on customer satisfaction at a local business of your choice There will be in class assessments at the end of each topic. Your final grade is comprised of 70% exam and 30% coursework.
Homework	Around one formal piece of homework per month as well as revision ahead of assessments.
Progression	Higher Business Management Higher Administration & IT Higher Accounts Higher Economics Travel & Tourism Retailing
Further Information	Business and management degrees are some of the most popular in Scottish universities at present due to their dynamic nature. They lead on to a multitude of other pathways. Studying Business in school is a great starting point!

Biology

Level of Study	N3 / N4 / N5
Entry Requirements	N/A
Course Description	Do you enjoy learning about the human body, living organisms and the world around you? Are you interested in finding out how living things work and how biological discoveries can improve our lives? If so, Biology could be the course for you! The S3/4 Biology course develops your knowledge and understanding of living things, including cells, the human body, genetics, reproduction and the environment. You will also develop important practical skills through investigations, experiments and analysing scientific information. In S3, you will work towards National 3 and National 4 Biology, while also being introduced to some National 5 topics. You will complete the assessments for National 3 and National 4 during S3. Pupils who successfully achieve National 3 and National 4 Biology and demonstrate confidence in their learning will progress to complete the remaining National 5 course in S4, preparing for the National 5 final exam. Pupils who find the National 3 and 4 Biology content more challenging will have the opportunity to follow the National 4 Skills for Work Health Sector course in S4. This course provides an introduction to working in the health sector. You will explore different healthcare roles and the skills and qualities needed to work in this area. Through practical and realistic activities, you will learn about working safely in healthcare settings, effective communication, the needs of individuals receiving care and the importance of teamwork. You will also have opportunities to develop practical skills and investigate potential careers within the health sector. Whether you progress to National 5 Biology or the Health Sector course, you will develop valuable knowledge and skills to support your future learning and career choices. Biology can open the door to a wide range of future careers in science, the environment, healthcare and beyond.
Homework	Regular retrieval homework that helps to consolidate learning of knowledge and skills will be expected to be completed after each sub-unit.
Progression	Pupils who pass N5 Biology at a grade A or B will be recommended to take Higher Biology or Higher Human Biology in S5. (Level 6 Scientific Technologies NPA will also be an option for pupils who pass N5 Biology at a C grade). Pupils who pass N3/4 biology and the N4 Skills for Work Health Sector Qualification will be recommended to take the National 5 Skills for Work Health Sector course in S5.
Further Information	For further information please speak to your science teacher or one of the biology staff.

Chemistry

<table>
<tr><td>Level of Study</td><td>N4 / N5</td></tr>
<tr><td>Entry Requirements</td><td>

Genuine interest in chemistry (BGE courses were S1 Science Matters & S2 Colourful Chemistry)
Good literacy and numeracy skills for information processing
Strong performance in Maths at 3rd level is highly recommended

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<tr><td>Course Description</td><td>
Chemistry is the study of the substances that make up our world, how they are made, how they react, and how they can be used to improve our lives. It helps us understand everything from medicines and materials to food, fuels and the environment.

The course content includes the following areas of chemistry:

Chemical changes and structure: rates of reaction, atomic structure and bonding, energy Changes of Chemical Reactions, formulae and reacting quantities and acids & bases.

Nature's chemistry: fuels, homologous series (e.g. alkanes and alkenes), everyday consumer products (alcohols and carboxylic acids), plants to products and energy from fuels.

Chemistry in society: metals & alloys, materials and plastics, fertilisers, nuclear chemistry and chemical analysis.

National 5 Assessment
<table>
<tr><th>Component</th><th>Marks</th><th>% Total of Mark</th><th>Duration</th></tr>
<tr><td>Question Paper</td><td>80</td><td>80%</td><td>2 hours</td></tr>
<tr><td>Assignment</td><td>20</td><td>20%</td><td>8 hours (1 hr 30 for report)</td></tr>
</table>
National 4 Assessment
<table>
<tr><th>Component</th><th>Assessment</th></tr>
<tr><td>Three unit assessments, one for each topic (including one practical investigation)</td><td>Internally assessed on a pass / fail basis</td></tr>
<tr><td>Added Value Unit</td><td>Internally assessed on a pass / fail basis</td></tr>
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</td></tr>
<tr><td>Homework</td><td>1. Independent homework – revision of course work (minimum 1 hour per week)
2. Approximately 30-45 mins per homework given every two weeks</td></tr>
<tr><td>Progression</td><td>

National 5 Chemistry (level 5) for those pupils who achieve National 4 chemistry.
Higher Chemistry (level 6) for those pupils who achieve a grade A or B at National 5 level.
NPA in Scientific technologies (level 6) for those pupils who achieve a grade C or D at National 5 level.

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<tr><td>Further Information</td><td>
Practical work is regularly used where appropriate to consolidate learning, but the course is mainly theory based. Further information on the course can be found at:

National 4: https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47423.html
National 5: https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47428.html

or speak to any of the chemistry staff for further information.
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Computing Science with Games Development

Level of Study	N4 / N5 Computing Science & L5 Games Development
Entry Requirements	Interest in any of IT, Computing, Coding and Gaming
Course Description	Computing Science is a modern course covering theory and practical for the advancing world of digital IT development. This course aims to produce more young people for the ever-growing employment opportunities in the digital sector. In Software Development the pupils will be programming in the real world language Python. For creating Websites pupils will be writing HTML and CSS coding. There is a theory unit called Computer Systems that covers basic system parts and their working. We work on e-materials on the computer and these are available through Google Classroom online for study anytime. The course assessment is made up ⅔ Exam and ⅓ Project. If students move to National 4 there is no exam but a software Scratch unit, a graphical website building unit and a game project with a website as the final Added Value Unit project. The Games Development course is a National Progression Award so doesn't have an exam but 3 units to complete. These are Design that covers coming up with an idea for a few games and then fully planning a game to build. The unit on Media Assets covers obtaining multimedia for you game and creating assets of your own. The final Development unit is building, creating, testing and evaluating their own game
Homework	Works out to around 1 homework a month as a worksheet and a few coding tasks to do.
Progression	Can move on to Higher Computing Science course in S5/6 and/or a Level 6 Games Development & Level5/6 Cyber Security NPA class
Further Information	Computing Science is ever progressing but it has a wide number of pathways into future jobs and makes the most new money in the world economy from new business ideas

Creative Industries – Architecture and Product Design NPA

Level of Study	Level 5 NPA
Entry Requirements	NA
Course Description	The L5 Creative Industries course is a Unit by Unit assessed subject that does not require a final exam. The course looks to help candidates find creative solutions to real world situations and briefs in the form of sketches, 3D models and presentations. Candidates will work independently, and in groups to find innovative answers to these real-world design briefs. Candidates will learn drawing techniques, research styles and model making techniques to bring their ideas to life whilst learning about how to self-evaluate and find effective pathways for improving their skills. This course will run for two years; third and fourth year.
Homework	Homework is based on projects that the candidates undertake. Homework can be in the form of research, surveying with friends and family and in some cases sketching designs.
Progression	Pupils would progress to alternative related subjects: • Foundation Apprenticeship in Construction L5 • NPA Furniture making L5 • N5 Practical Metalworking • NC Architecture and Interior Design L6 • NPA L6 Creative Industries – 3D Computer Games design
Further Information	All equipment and materials are provided by the school.

Drama

Level of Study	N4 / N5
Entry Requirements	Willingness work creatively with others
Course Description	Ever wondered what goes into making a great piece of theatre? Whether you love performing, creating, designing or working behind the scenes, Drama gives you the chance to explore it all! In S3, you'll have the opportunity to: • Act – Develop characters, learn performance skills and take to the stage. • Create – Work with others to devise and perform exciting dramas. • Design – Explore set, props, costume and make-up. • Tech– Get hands-on experience with lighting and sound. • Experiment– Take part in workshops and practical projects to discover what you enjoy most. In S4, it's time to specialise! Choose the area you enjoy most: • Acting: Develop your performance skills and perform in a scripted extract. • Technical Theatre: Take responsibility for an area such as lighting, sound, set or make-up and help bring a performance to life. How will I be assessed? 60% Practical Exam You will choose between: • Acting: Perform a scripted extract with others for an audience and examiner. • Technical Theatre: Take on a technical role as part of a performance for an examiner. 40% Written Exam • Evaluate your own practical work. • Create and develop a drama from a given starting point. WHY CHOOSE DRAMA? Drama is about much more than learning lines! It's about developing creativity, teamwork, confidence, communication and problem-solving skills. The skills you develop in Drama are valuable far beyond the theatre. They help you become a more confident communicator, a creative thinker and an effective team player – skills that can support your success across other subjects and in the wider world.
Homework	Rehearsal of practical work out of class time (e.g. lunch / after school) Development of folio work as evidence for SQA
Progression	• N5 Drama (from N4) • National Progression Award: Acting and Performance • National Progression Award: Technical Theatre • National Progression Award: Professional Theatre Preparation
Further Information	Excellent attendance is imperative for this course.

Electronics

Level of Study	N4 / N5
Entry Requirements	Candidates should be embarking on a National 4/5 Maths qualification.
Course Description	Do you think you might enjoy designing, building and understanding how electronic devices work? Would you like to develop practical skills while learning how technology is used in everyday life? If so, Electronics could be the course for you! In this course, you will learn how electronic circuits work and how they can be designed to solve real-world problems. You will explore a range of electronic components, including resistors, capacitors, transistors, LEDs and integrated circuits. You will also investigate digital electronics, learning how logic gates can be combined to make decisions and control electronic devices. A major part of the course involves **designing, building, testing and improving your own electronic circuits**. You will develop practical skills in soldering, circuit construction, fault-finding and using electronic test equipment. You will also use computer software to simulate and test circuits before building them. Electronics develops valuable skills in problem-solving, creativity, logical thinking and practical working. These skills are useful in a wide range of careers, including engineering, computing, telecommunications and renewable energy. Whether you are interested in how everyday technology works or would like to pursue a future in engineering, Electronics offers an exciting opportunity to turn ideas into working circuits! Pupils will work towards achieving either a **National 4 or National 5 Electronics qualification**, depending on their progress and level of achievement. Both qualifications recognise the knowledge, understanding and practical skills developed throughout the course, providing a valuable qualification for further study and future career opportunities.
Homework	Pupils will receive theory H/W in order to prepare them for the exam in S4 at National 5 level.
Progression	Pupils can progress from National 4 to National 5 however, there is no Higher Electronics Qualifications. Progression to National 5 Physics is an option on completion of the course.
Further Information	At National 4, pupils complete a series of internally assessed unit assessments, including a practical Added Value Unit in which they design, simulate and construct an electronic solution. All assessments are marked as pass or fail, and pupils must pass all units to achieve the qualification. At National 5, assessment consists of an externally marked question paper (30%) and a practical activity (70%). The practical activity allows pupils to demonstrate their ability to design, simulate, construct and test an electronic circuit. The final National 5 qualification is graded from A to D.

Film and Screen (pending approval) NPA

Level of Study	Level 5 NPA
Entry Requirements	Willingness work creatively with others
Course Description	**Film & Screen** is a creative, practical course where you'll explore how films are developed, produced and edited. You'll have the opportunity to take an idea from its first stages of development through to a finished film. Whether you're interested in storytelling, acting, camera work, editing or working behind the scenes, there is a role for you. **Throughout the course, you'll get to:** • **Create**– Generate ideas and develop them into engaging film stories. • **Write** – Develop scripts, characters and storylines. • **Plan** – Create storyboards and plan your film production. • **Film** – Learn camera techniques and develop your skills in capturing stories • **Edit** – Use digital editing software to bring your footage together. • **Explore** – Discover the different roles in the film and screen industry. **How will I be assessed?** You'll build a **Creative Portfolio** throughout the course, demonstrating your ideas, planning, practical skills and development as a filmmaker. You'll demonstrate your learning through: • Practical filmmaking activities. • Presentations and discussions about your work. • Taking on creative and technical roles during film production. • Evaluating your finished film and reflecting on the creative process. **WHY CHOOSE FILM & SCREEN?** Film & Screen is about much more than making movies! You'll develop creativity, communication, teamwork, organisation, problem-solving and digital skills. These skills help you become a more confident communicator, a creative thinker and an effective team player – skills that can support your success across other subjects and in the wider world.
Homework	Filming can take place out of the classroom/school environment. Production time outside of class will likely be required. Development of Folio work to support practical learning tasks.
Progression	• Film and Screen Level 6 • N5 Drama • National Progression Award: Acting and Performance • National Progression Award: Technical Theatre • National Progression Award: Professional Theatre Preparation
Further Information	Excellent attendance is imperative for this course.

Football and Fitness NPA

Level of Study	Level 5 NPA
Entry Requirements	Has a keen interest in football, both playing and coaching. Enjoys keeping physically active. Interested in knowing more about the muscles of the body and how to develop health and fitness. Has demonstrated high levels of effort and engagement in S1 & S2. Wears PE kit every lesson.
Course Description	Through practical learning, pupils will develop their knowledge and understanding of exercise and fitness development. They will spend a large proportion of the course working in the gym, participating in programmes to develop their own and other's fitness and learn about how to appropriately tailor exercise to meet the needs of the individual. They will learn about the muscular and skeletal properties of the body and the role nutrition plays in fitness development. As part of the course the pupils will also enhance their levels of performance in football and their ability to both coach and officiate in this sport. Pupils will complete the following units over the 2 years: Mandatory Unit 1 - Coaching Development: Football Mandatory Unit 2 - Sporting Activity Participation and Performance: Football Mandatory Unit 3 - Sports Officiating and Organising: Football Additional Unit 4 - Contemporary Fitness and Exercise Training Methods Additional Unit 5 - Human Anatomy, Physiology and Physical Activity Additional Unit 6 - Nutrition, Health and Wellbeing
Assessment	The course is assessed in class time through logbook work and assignments throughout the year
Progression	Level 6 Exercise and Fitness Leadership and then onto the Level 7 Fitness Health and Exercise Course (for S6 pupils only)

French

Level of Study	N4/N5
Entry Requirements	An interest in, and grasp of, Languages in S1&2 – working at Level 3 and above
Course Description	The Course offers learners the opportunity to develop straightforward language skills in the meaningful real-life contexts. The Course also provides learners with the opportunity to: use creative and critical thinking to express ideas and arguments; enhance their enjoyment and understanding of their own and other cultures; and explore the interconnected nature of languages. Topics covered will be: Society Family & Friends, Lifestyles, Media, Global Languages, Citizenship Learning in context, Education Employability Jobs, Work & CVs Culture Planning a trip, Other countries, Celebrating a special event, Literature, Film & TV The N4 course will be internally assessed, while the N5 course has an exam marked by the exam board. Both courses have an assignment which counts towards your final grade
Homework	Studying a language provides the learner with many employability skills, including managing time, meeting deadlines, understanding strategies to learn. Homework is an essential part of this process. Pupils will review vocabulary and grammar at home and prepare for talking and writing assessments.
Progression	N5/Higher in another language. Employment in a variety of fields, including tourism, hospitality, armed forces, technology, media, sport, medical, finance, education, interpreting/translation. Entry to college/university.
Further Information	The study of a modern language has a unique contribution to make to the development of cultural awareness, providing candidates with opportunities to enhance their understanding and enjoyment of other cultures and of their own. They gain insights into other ways of thinking and other views of the world and, therefore, develop a much richer understanding of active citizenship. “Languages really helped me in my job as cabin crew where I work with people who speak a variety of languages around the world”. (Former pupil) For more information, please see https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47415.html

Geography

<table>
<tr><td>Level of Study</td><td>N4 / N5</td></tr>
<tr><td>Entry Requirements</td><td>

Good literacy and numeracy skills for information processing
Genuine interest in this subject

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<tr><td>Course Description</td><td>
Geography is the study of places and the relationship between people and their environments. Geographers explore both the physical properties of Earth's surface and the human societies spread across it. They also examine how human culture interacts with the natural environment and the way that locations and places can have an impact on people.

Learning takes place both inside the classroom and out in the field. The National course covers three primary areas of study alongside core mapwork:
Physical Environments

Glaciated Landscapes
Coastal Landscapes
Weather
Land Use

Human Environments

Development
Population
Urban geography
Rural geography

Global Issues

Natural regions: Tundra and rainforests
Health: Malaria, heart disease and AIDS

Mapwork

Integrated across all topics, pupils learn OS map techniques.

Fieldwork

Fieldwork is an exciting part of the geography course. Where possible, pupils will take part in local field trips to experience real-world geography.

The N5 course is assessed as follows:
<table>
<tr><th>Component</th><th>Marks</th><th>% of Total Mark</th><th>Duration</th></tr>
<tr><td>Exam Paper</td><td>80</td><td>80</td><td>2hr 20mins</td></tr>
<tr><td>Assignment</td><td>20</td><td>20</td><td>1 hour</td></tr>
</table>
The N4 course is assessed as follows:
<table>
<tr><th>Component</th><th>Assessment</th></tr>
<tr><td>Three unit assessments, one for each topic</td><td>Internally assessed on a pass / fail basis</td></tr>
<tr><td>Added Value Unit</td><td>Internally assessed on a pass / fail basis</td></tr>
</table>
</td></tr>
<tr><td>Homework</td><td>

Students are expected to regularly read over class notes, textbooks and resources posted on the Google Classroom on a weekly basis.
Students will be expected to complete formal assessed pieces of work which help prepare them for the formal exam and Assignment.
Students are issued with resources which they should be completing as we progress through topics

</td></tr>
<tr><td>Progression</td><td>

National 5 candidates are recommended for Higher Geography
National 4 candidates are recommended for National 5 Geography
An alternative Social Subjects at the appropriate level

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<tr><td>Further Information</td><td>Students are either presented at either National 4 or National 5 level. The final level of presentation is determined by classwork, homework, end of unit assessments and prelim grade.</td></tr>
</table>

Graphic Communication

Level of Study	N5
Entry Requirements	
Course Description	National 5 Graphic Communication is a creative and practical subject where you learn how to communicate ideas, designs and information through a range of graphical techniques. You will develop skills in producing technical drawings by hand, using design software and Computer Aided Design (CAD) software. Throughout the course, you will learn how to create accurate drawings, 3D models and promotional graphics that are used in design, engineering and architecture. You will develop problem-solving, creativity and visual communication skills while learning how graphics are used in real-world situations. The course encourages attention to detail, creativity and the ability to understand and present objects and designs in both 2D and 3D. By the end of the course, you will have developed a portfolio of graphical work and gained valuable skills that can lead to further study or careers in engineering, architecture, product design, construction and creative industries. Assessments are broken down as follows: Third year – Skills building in graphical communication, including manual drawing, CAD and graphic design techniques, working towards National 4 level. National 4 Assignment completed in class time. Fourth year – Further development of graphical communication skills working towards National 5 level. National 5 Assignment completed in class time alongside preparation for the final National 5 question paper examination. Results are graded from A-D. The National 5 award is made up of two parts: A practical assignment (30%) and a final written examination (70%).
Homework	Homework is issued approximately once per week in S4 and is designed to reinforce and extend the skills and knowledge covered in class.
Progression	Pupils would progress to alternative related subjects: • Higher Graphic Communication • NC in Architecture and Interior Design
Further Information	

Hospitality, Catering and Barista

Level of Study	N5
Entry Requirements	Excellent organisational, leadership and teamwork skills. Comfortable with the idea of serving to parents, pupils and members of the public. Pupils should have demonstrated throughout S1 and S2 in Home Economics that they have a positive attitude towards the subject and an enthusiastic approach to learning.
Course Description	In this course you will learn what it takes to be a successful member of a hospitality or catering team by gaining experience working with local hotels. You will be given specialist opportunity to develop skills which will be useful for anyone considering career progression to vocational areas of care, hospitality or the food industry. You will learn skills in problem solving, personal effectiveness in real-life situations and working with others. The emphasis throughout all the units is on employability skills and attitudes, which help prepare you for working in the hospitality industry The 4 units pupils will cover in the National 5 Hospitality course are: • Developing skills for working in a professional kitchen • Developing skills for working in the hospitality industry • Front of house operations • Hospitality events Pupils will also work towards other level 4 qualifications in Barista, Food Hygiene and Events Management. The nature of the course is such that it will be necessary, on occasion, for you to be present at events that run at lunchtimes and/or in the evening.
Assessment	There is no external examination for this course. All units are completed/assessed in class time on a pass/fail basis.
Progression	Various College Courses. The course makes an important contribution to general education through developing a range of essential skills which stand candidates in good stead for their future. Its contribution to vocational education is significant because it is a springboard for a range of careers in the bakery, confectionary and hospitality industries.
Further Information	

History

Level of Study	N4 / N5 Final level of presentation is determined by performance over the course.
Entry Requirements	If you enjoyed history in S1 and S2 and have an interest in history. Want to find out about historical events in the past and how this has shaped our world today. Good literacy skills are helpful, but we can help develop these.
Course Description	History is the study of events in the past and how these have shaped our modern world. The past causes the present, so the future. History develops your analytical, communication, critical thinking, literacy and social skills. Scottish section - The Era of the Great War 1910-1924 We learn about the reasons why Scots joined the army on the outbreak of war, what trench conditions were like, some WW1 battles and how new technology shaped how the war was fought. We examine how WW1 affected people at home in Scotland, in particular what women did in the war and how their lives changed as a result, including votes for women. We also learn how the impact of the war affected Scotland industry during and after the war. British Section – The Trade in Enslaved African People 1770-1807 In this topic we find out how this trade was organised and the impact it had on Britain, Africa and the Caribbean. We study how enslaved people were captured, transported and what happened to them during enslavement. We learn about captives attempts to gain freedom and the abolitionist campaigns in ending the trade. European and the World Section - USA 1850-1880 In this unit we learn why and how America expanded from the original 13 states to form the USA. We discover the impact of this and how this led to the defeat and demise of Indigenous Americans. We will also investigate the practice of slavery in the southern states of America, how this contributed to the causes of the American Civil war. We find out what happened to former enslaved people after the war and practice of slavery ended. The N4 course will be internally assessed while the N5 course has an exam marked by the exam board. Both courses have an Assignment which counts towards your final grade. Assignment topics are chosen by the student.
Homework	• Homework is a regular feature of the National course. • We value homework because it deepens knowledge and understanding on the topics we study as well as giving students a chance to develop their skills. • Students will be expected to do regular homework because this helps to move their learning forwards.
Progression	National 5 students can progress to Higher History then Advanced Higher in S6. National 4 students can progress to National 5 history or another social subject at N4/5 level. A crash Higher in any of the social subjects is possible if students pass National 5 in any social subject or English. National Progression Award in Legal Studies and Criminology is also possible at Level 6.
Further Information	Most student who study history find the courses very interesting and tell us that the skills they develop helps them in other subjects. Colleges and Universities view History as a strong subject when considering applications. History develops skills which employers value. There are plenty of careers in history such as archivist, museum work, business, civil service, police, teaching, journalism, legal profession, social work, management, media and so much more.

Jewellery Making NPA

Level of Study	Level 5 NPA
Entry Requirements	NA
Course Description	The NPA Level 5 Jewellery course is a practical and creative subject where you will learn how to design, make and finish a range of jewellery pieces using a variety of materials, tools and techniques. You will develop skills in measuring, marking out, cutting, shaping, forming and assembling components to produce high-quality jewellery safely and accurately. Throughout the course, you will explore jewellery design, metalworking processes and decorative techniques while developing craftsmanship and attention to detail. You will learn how to work independently and solve design challenges, turning your ideas into finished products that meet a design brief. The course encourages creativity, precision and confidence when using specialist workshop tools and equipment. By the end of the course, you will have produced a portfolio of practical jewellery pieces that showcase your technical skills, design ability and understanding of the manufacturing process. These valuable skills can support progression to further study in jewellery, product design, art and design, apprenticeships, or careers within the creative industries and manufacturing sectors. Assessments are broken down as follows: Third year – Practical skill building, working towards completion of Level 5 Basic Techniques 1 completed in class time. Logbooks are completed to document all progress and theoretical knowledge. Fourth year – Practical skill building, working towards completion of Level 5 Basic techniques 2 completed in class. Logbooks are completed to document all progress and theoretical knowledge. Results are graded as a PASS or No Award.
Homework	There is no homework for the course due to the practical nature of this National qualification, however class attendance is vital to see success and the upkeep of logbooks.
Progression	Pupils would progress to alternative related subjects: • NPA Furniture making L5 • N5 Practical Metalworking • NC Architecture and Interior Design L6 • NC Jewellery L6
Further Information	All equipment and materials are provided by the school.

Modern Studies

Level of Study	N4 / N5 Final level of presentation is determined by performance over the course.
Entry Requirements	Modern Studies is for you if: You have enjoyed our units of study in S1/S2 You want to know more about the world around you or the way your country works. You want to know more about the issues the modern world faces and current events around the world.
Course Description	National Modern Studies develops your understanding of contemporary issues in the key areas of politics, crime and international relations. In addition, Modern Studies will develop your literacy, research, statistical analysis and critical thinking skills. Democracy in the UK In this unit we will learn about the UK political system and how it works. We'll study the role of our elected representatives and how they shape decision-making in the UK. We'll look at the role and powers of the Prime Minister and how the media influence our politics also. Social Issues in Scotland: Crime and the Law We will study crime and the criminal justice system in Scotland. We'll explore the different causes and types of crime, as well as the role of the police in trying to combat it. We also look at how we respond to crime through the court system, prisons and alternative punishments. World Issues: Terrorism We will examine terrorism as a major world issue in this unit. We will look at the causes of terrorism and how it impacts societies across the world. We will look at prominent examples of terrorism, but also how the UK Government has tried to tackle it as an issue. The National 4 course is internally assessed while the National 5 course has an exam marked by the exam board. Both courses also have an assignment which counts towards your final grade. You will choose your assignment topic from something that you're interested in.
Homework	• Homework is a regular feature of the National course. Students will be expected to do regular homework because this helps to move their learning forwards. • We value homework because it deepens knowledge and understanding on the topics we study as well as giving students a chance to develop their skills.
Progression	N5 students are recommended for Higher Modern Studies. N4 students are recommended for N5 Modern Studies. A crash higher in any of the alternative Social Subjects is possible if students pass National 5 in any Social Subject or English. National Progression Awards at Level 6 are available in Criminology and Legal Studies also.
Further Information	Most students who study Modern Studies thoroughly enjoy the course and tell us that the skills they develop helps them in their other subjects also. These skills include: literacy skills (reading, writing, listening), data literacy, critical thinking and analytical skills, research skills & digital literacy. The skills that you will develop in Modern Studies are highly transferable to jobs in a variety of career sectors ranging from construction, to banking or education to baking. However, industries that love a Modern Studies qualification include: • Journalism and the Media (newspapers, TV & radio) • Law & Advocacy • Politics, Diplomacy & Local Government • Business (Marketing, Human Resources etc.) • Policing, the Emergency Services and Armed Forces • Medicine and Healthcare jobs • Teaching (Nursery, Primary, Secondary)

Music Performance

Level of Study	N4 / N5
Entry Requirements	An interest in making music and developing your performing skills on your chosen instruments. Speak to your music teacher about suitable instruments or voice and your current progress.
Course Description	Do you enjoy playing an instrument, singing or creating your own music? This course develops your confidence and musicianship through practical music making, composing and listening. Performing: develop skills on two instruments, or one instrument and voice. You will work on accuracy, fluency and expression through individual practice and opportunities to play with others. Composing: create your own music, explore musical ideas and learn how to develop and review a composition. The department can offer a range of online music applications like Note flight, Sound Trap and Logic Pro to develop creative skills. Understanding music: listen to a range of styles, recognise musical concepts and develop your knowledge of notation. Across S3 and S4, you will develop skills towards National 4 or National 5, with the appropriate level agreed through your progress and teacher advice. National 4 is assessed in school through units and a performance added value assessment. National 5 includes performances on both instruments or instrument and voice, a composing assignment and a listening question paper.
Homework	Google Classroom will be used to share resources, revision activities and homework tasks to reinforce and extend learning from class.
Progression	National 4 Music can lead to National 5 Music as skills develop. National 5 Music can lead to Higher Music at SCQF level 6, followed by Advanced Higher Music at SCQF level 7. Progression depends on achievement, practical skills and teacher advice. NPA music performance is also an option. Further pathways include music performance, composition, music education and related creative industries courses.
Further Information	Please speak to your music teacher about instrument choices, practice arrangements and the most suitable pathway for you.

Music Technology

Level of Study	N4 / N5
Entry Requirements	An interest in sound, music and technology, and a willingness to work carefully and independently.
Course Description	Do you enjoy recording, editing sound or finding out how music is produced? This course develops practical recording and production skills through creative projects. Music technology skills: learn to use microphones, recording equipment and audio software to capture, edit and mix sound. Explore effects and techniques that improve the quality of a recording. Understanding music: explore 20th and 21st century styles and the ways technology has influenced music. Develop your listening skills and understanding of musical and technological concepts. Music technology in context: plan, produce and evaluate audio projects. These may include multitrack music recording, sound design and Foley for film and computer gaming, radio broadcasts or audiobooks. Across S3 and S4, you will develop skills towards National 4 or National 5, with the appropriate level agreed through your progress and teacher advice. National 4 is assessed in school through units and a practical added value assignment. National 5 is assessed through a practical assignment and a listening question paper.
Homework	Google Classroom will be used to share resources, revision activities and homework tasks to reinforce and extend learning from class.
Progression	National 4 Music Technology can lead to National 5 Music Technology as skills develop. National 5 can lead to Higher Music Technology and an NPA in Sound Production at SCQF level 6. Entry will depend on achievement, practical skills and teacher advice. Further pathways include college courses in sound production, audio engineering, broadcasting and music technology, with applications in live sound, film and games.
Further Information	Please speak to your music teacher about recording projects, access to equipment and progression options.

PE

Level of Study	N5
Entry Requirements	Has demonstrated high levels of effort, enthusiasm and engagement in S1 & S2. Play at least 2 sports/activities to a good standard but has the positive mindset to develop skills in other sports and activities, which may include swimming. Enjoys keeping physically active. Wears PE kit every lesson.
Course Description	Course is comprised of 50% practical and 50% theory. During practicals the pupils need to demonstrate a comprehensive range of movement and performance skills in two physical activities. Activities will be selected through availability of facilities, teacher expertise and through personalisation and choice by pupils (where appropriate). The theory aspect is a portfolio of evidence (60 marks). This will be collated by the learner in the form of a written logbook or other appropriate word-processed format and will have 50% of the total mark. This portfolio will be a 'cycle of analysis' through one activity, requiring the pupils to collect data on their performance, create a Personal Training Plan (PDP) and evaluate the impact of the PDP. In year 1 of the course the pupils will be working towards National 4 PE, helping them to develop the necessary knowledge and understanding to complete the National 5 course in S4.
Assessment	50% of the course is a written portfolio done through a Cycle of Analysis in one sport. This is done in class throughout the year. 50% of the course is based on a 'one off' performance in two separate activities. Most sports and activities are acceptable, including football/rugby/basketball/athletics/ dance/gymnastics/martial arts/horse riding, swimming and many more.
Progression	Higher PE

Physics

Level of Study	N4 / N5
Entry Requirements	Candidates should be embarking on a National 4/5 Maths qualification.
Course Description	Are you curious about how the world around you works? Have you ever wondered how electricity is generated, how rockets travel into space or how scientists investigate the smallest particles in the universe? If so, Physics could be the course for you! In this course, you will explore some of the most fascinating areas of science. You will investigate **Electricity**, learning about electrical circuits, energy transfer and how electricity is generated. In **Dynamics and Space**, you will explore forces, motion, projectiles, satellites and the structure of the universe. In **Waves**, you will discover how light and sound travel and how they are used in modern technology. You will also study **Properties of Matter**, investigating heat, temperature and gas behaviour, as well as **Nuclear Physics**, exploring radioactivity, nuclear energy and the structure of atoms. A key part of the course involves practical experiments and investigations. You will develop skills in planning experiments, collecting and analysing data, drawing graphs and using scientific equipment. You will learn to apply mathematical skills to solve problems and explain physical phenomena. Physics develops valuable skills in logical thinking, problem-solving and scientific investigation. These skills are useful in a wide range of careers, including engineering, medicine, renewable energy, computing and technology. Pupils will work towards achieving either a **National 4 or National 5 Physics qualification**, depending on their progress and level of achievement. Both qualifications provide a valuable foundation for further study and future career opportunities.
Homework	Pupils will receive H/W on a regular basis throughout the course.
Progression	Pupils can progress to Higher Physics in S5 and Advanced Higher Physics in S6.
Further Information	At National 4, pupils complete a series of internally assessed unit assessments covering the different areas of Physics. These include assessments of their knowledge and understanding, as well as practical skills. Pupils also complete an Added Value Unit assignment, where they research a topical issue in Physics and investigate its impact on society and/or the environment. All assessments are marked as pass or fail, and pupils must pass all units to achieve the qualification. At National 5, assessment consists of an externally marked question paper worth **80%** of the final grade and an assignment worth **20%**. The question paper assesses pupils' knowledge, understanding and ability to apply Physics principles to solve problems. The assignment involves carrying out a practical investigation, collecting and analysing experimental data, and communicating findings. The final National 5 qualification is graded from A to D.

Photography NPA

Level of Study	Level 5 NPA
Entry Requirements	Successful completion of S1 and S2 Broad General Education Art & Design, with good attendance and positive attitude. Strong initiative, drive, and problem-solving skills to develop original creative ideas, and a good ability to work both independently and in small groups. Good written skills to effectively plan photoshoots in detail and analyse both your own work and that of professional photographers.
Course Description	Photography is a really varied course, where you will do a mixture of written and practical tasks. We will learn about different photography styles, techniques and photographers, researching and analysing them and then applying your learning to create images of your own. You will do a mixture of solo tasks and paired tasks, so you have to be good at working both independently and as part of a team. We will teach you all the digital skills you need to know to complete your work to a high standard, especially with learning how to use cameras responsibly. Confidence with completing digital work on your Chromebook is important – but something we can practice in class! This course also suits people with a good attention to detail and who like receiving feedback to strengthen their performance, as we will often take lots of photos of the same objects and re-take photos with small adjustments in order to keep on improving our work. We like to make sure that we have lots of different ways of showing off our best final photos from across the tasks, so there will be several projects that require following a series of instructions to create little books and other physical creations, as well as digital tasks.
Homework	Revision of technical concepts you have been taught in class, as well as catching up on any work that has been missed is expected. There will be some opportunities for you to complete occasional photoshoots in your own time, after you have planned them in school, in order to give yourself the chance to use a wider range of models and locations not available during timetabled lessons.
Progression	• Higher Photography
Further Information	Good attendance is essential because your final grade depends on the completion of the four units (Understanding Photography, Photographing People, Photographing Places and Working with Photos) over the year, with no final exam.

Practical Woodworking

Level of Study	N5
Entry Requirements	NA
Course Description	The National 5 Practical Woodwork course is a hands-on subject where you learn how to make and finish a range of wooden projects. You will use different tools, machines and woodworking techniques to create high-quality products safely and accurately. Throughout the course, you will develop skills in measuring, marking out, cutting, shaping and assembling wood. You will also learn about different types of timber and how to read working drawings. The course encourages creativity, problem-solving and attention to detail and accuracy, while helping you build confidence in a workshop environment. By the end of the course, you will have produced practical projects that show your woodworking skills and understanding of the manufacturing process. These valuable skills can lead to further study, apprenticeships or careers in construction, engineering and design. Assessments are broken down as follows: Third year – Practical skill building, working towards N4 level assignment - completed in class time. Fourth year – Practical skills building, working towards N5 level final assignment completed in class time + Written case study assessment - completed in class time. Results are graded from A-D
Homework	There is no homework for the course due to the practical nature of this National qualification, however class attendance is vital to see success.
Progression	Pupils would progress to alternative related subjects: • Foundation Apprenticeship in Construction L5 • NPA Furniture making L5 • N5 Practical Metalworking • NC Architecture and Interior Design L6
Further Information	All equipment and materials are provided by the school.

Religious, Moral & Philosophical Studies (RMPS)

Level of Study	N4 / N5 Final presentation level is determined by performance over the course
Entry Requirements	Enjoyment of RMPS in S1 and S2 If you are interested in people, why they think what they do and are curious about the world around you Good literacy skills are useful, but they are developed through the course
Course Description	RMPS is the study of human identity and moral choices. By exploring religion, worldviews and philosophical perspectives, RMPS enables learners to think independently, understand the world, and build the knowledge and skills required to be a citizen in a complex society. World Religion – Islam We study the main beliefs held by Muslims around the world, exploring how these affect the day-to-day lives of believers and making comparisons between what it is like to be a Muslim in countries such as Saudi Arabia and in Scotland. We look at how these beliefs inform religious practices, and how these weave into the daily lives of those who believe. Pupils are asked to make decisions about the relevance and significance of religious belief and practice in the 21st century. Morality & Belief – Morality & Justice In this section, pupils are asked to consider how the causes of crime affect the purpose and methods of punishment. RMPS asks the moral questions about whether a cause of crime should affect the punishment, or whether it is ever acceptable to execute someone for a crime. Religious & Philosophical Questions – The Problem of Suffering & Evil The final topic is rooted in philosophy, where candidates are asked 3 big questions – firstly, do humans have free will? Secondly, if God exists, why do bad things happen? And thirdly, does suffering and evil prove anything about the traits or nature of God? Pupils will examine both religious and secular responses to these questions, applying a critical lens to all the responses they are presented with to pick out their own beliefs and views. The N4 course will be internally assessed, while the N5 course has an exam marked by the exam board. Both courses have an assignment which counts towards your final grade. Assignment topics are chosen by the student.
Homework	• Homework is a regular feature of the National course • We value homework for the way it deepens knowledge and understanding of the topics we study, as well as promoting independent study skills which are beneficial for exams.
Progression	National 5 students can progress to Higher RMPS. National 4 students can progress to National 5 RMPS or another Social Subject at N4/5 level. A crash Higher in any of the Social Subjects is possible if students pass National 5 in any Social Subject or English. NPA Criminology (Level 5) or Legal Studies (Level 6) are also available.
Further Information	Students report finding the courses interesting and tell us that the skills they develop (literacy, critical thinking and study skills) help them in other subjects. Colleges and Universities value RMPS as a literate subject when considering applications. The ability to think critically and apply moral principles is vital in an ever-changing world, with further education and employers valuing this in a range of fields, such as education, cyber-security, law and medicine, as well as many more.

Spanish

Level of Study	N4/N5
Entry Requirements	An interest in, and grasp of, Languages in S1&2 – working at Level 3 and above
Course Description	The Course offers learners the opportunity to develop straightforward language skills in the meaningful real-life contexts. The Course also provides learners with the opportunity to: use creative and critical thinking to express ideas and arguments; enhance their enjoyment and understanding of their own and other cultures; and explore the interconnected nature of languages. Topics covered will be: Society Family & Friends, Lifestyles, Media, Global Languages, Citizenship Learning in context, Education Employability Jobs, Work & CVs Culture Planning a trip, Other countries, Celebrating a special event, Literature, Film & TV The N4 course will be internally assessed, while the N5 course has an exam marked by the exam board. Both courses have an assignment which counts towards your final grade
Homework	Studying a language provides the learner with many employability skills, including managing time, meeting deadlines, understanding strategies to learn. Homework is an essential part of this process. Pupils will review vocabulary and grammar at home and prepare for talking and writing assessments.
Progression	N5/Higher in another language. Employment in a variety of fields, including tourism, hospitality, armed forces, technology, media, sport, medical, finance, education, interpreting/translation. Entry to college/university.
Further Information	The study of a modern language has a unique contribution to make to the development of cultural awareness, providing candidates with opportunities to enhance their understanding and enjoyment of other cultures and of their own. They gain insights into other ways of thinking and other views of the world and, therefore, develop a much richer understanding of active citizenship. “Languages really helped me in my job as cabin crew where I work with people who speak a variety of languages around the world”. (Former pupil) For more information, please see https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47415.html

Uniform and Emergency Services NPA

Level of Study	Level 4 NPA
Entry Requirements	Interested in the various uniformed services, including the Armed Forces, Police and Fire Service. Enjoys keeping physically active. Has demonstrated high levels of effort and engagement in S1 & S2. Wears PE kit every lesson.
Course Description	In year 1 and 2 this course introduces candidates to a range of uniformed and emergency services, including the Army, Merchant Navy, Royal Air Force, Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Ambulance Service, Coastguard, Fire and Rescue Service, and Police. Learners will explore the structure, purpose, and key functions of each service, with a focus on the roles and responsibilities of personnel working within specific service teams. The course also investigates career pathways, entry requirements, and progression opportunities, helping learners develop a clear understanding of what is required to work within the uniformed and emergency services. Please note: This course is suitable for anyone interested in joining one of the uniformed or emergency services, as well as individuals who wish to develop transferable employability skills that are highly valued within these services, such as teamwork, leadership, communication, self-discipline, and problem-solving. In year 2 of the course the pupils will be looking to work towards level 5 units in preparing for the uniformed and emergency services.
Assessment	The course is assessed in class time through logbook work and assignments throughout the year. Fitness tests also play a big part of these assessments.
Progression	N/A