

S5/6 OPTIONS

This booklet is designed to provide parents and pupils with information about the different subjects which may be offered next year in S5/6.

It provides basic details about the content of each course and also the requirements for entry to them. It is important that you read these carefully before deciding on the curriculum you wish to follow.

Further advice or information can be gained from the Departments themselves, or from Pupil Support.

S5

As students entering S5 you are faced with some very important decisions. The subject choices you make now will affect the opportunities you have for employment, training, further education and higher education. Your aim over the next 2 years should be to acquire the best qualifications and skills that you can.

In S5 you will study 5 subjects ranging from National 4 and 5 to Higher courses whilst continuing with RE and PSHE.

To give yourself every opportunity of success in your SQA examinations in May 2019 you should select your **BEST** five subjects. (Where possible)

For everyone in S5 these five choices must include English.

S6

You must start to plan now what you intend to do next session and beyond. The decision to return to S6 should not be something you drift into. You must have definite goals and be quite clear what they are. You must be prepared to work as hard or, even harder, as you have in previous years; it is not an easy option and should not be viewed as such.

Students must study 4 subjects whilst continuing to participate in RE and PSHE. Students intending to proceed to Further/Higher Education courses should check the actual entry requirements before making any choices.

Students should have obtained A or B in the Higher Grade to proceed to Advanced Higher. It is not advisable to study Advanced Higher without a good pass at Higher Grade. For further information consult subject departments.

STUDENT AGREEMENT

All S5/6 students who intend to return to school in August 2018 will be required to complete and sign a student agreement.

Pupil Support staff and School Leadership team will be available in August (a day or two before the end of the summer holidays) to meet individual students to discuss changes to their original option choices (especially in light of exam results).

GENERAL

In addition to curriculum commitments, students in S5/6 are encouraged to participate in some of the following;

- Paired Learning
- Yearbook Committee
- Open Days at Colleges/Universities
- Careers Interviews
- Mentoring
- Buddy Programme for younger children
- Prom Committee
- Social Committee
- Senior School Leadership
- Caritas Award

MAKING THE CHOICE

When choosing your S5/6 course you will have to decide what subjects and what **type of course** (Higher, National 5, National 4 or Advanced Higher) would suit you best. When making your choice you should consider your **abilities, interests and future career needs**. Your past success in subjects will be of great help in your decision.

PRESENTATION POLICY

It is likely that you will take a mix of subjects at different levels reflecting different ability and level of prior achievement in those subjects.

Therefore it is important that you opt for subjects at the correct level. In line with South Lanarkshire Council policy, you should follow the guidelines below regarding general entry requirements. (Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the school/department if there are special circumstances).

National 5, A, B	→	Higher
National 4	→	National 5
National 3	→	National 4

Please note that Senior students may also take a Foundation Apprenticeship in S5 or S6. (Equivalent to a Higher) or attend College (GradU8) on a Part time basis. Details are these are in a separate brochure. Please note that these will require a separate application form to be completed by the student. Expressions of interest in FA or GradU8 must be submitted to Pupil Support by 1st March 2018.

If students opt for subjects at the correct level, they will be able to remain at that level throughout the session. However, **any changes to levels or subjects must be sanctioned by:**

- The class teacher
- The Principal Teacher (Subject)
- The Parent
- The Principal Teacher (Pupil Support)
- The DHT in charge of the Senior School (Mrs R Rea)

It should be stressed that, should a student fail a formal internal assessment, they will be given the opportunity for **ONE** re-assessment.

Teachers will use evidence of past performance, their professional judgement and their vast experience to suggest the most appropriate presentation levels for students, eg: a student is advised to study National 5 rather than Higher in S5. This advice is always given in the best interests of the student concerned.

ADVANCED HIGHER COURSES

This booklet also gives information about Advanced Higher courses in several subjects. The entry requirements for an Advanced Higher Course is an A or B at Higher level.

FEASIBILITY OF COURSES - IMPORTANT

In order for any subject to run next session numbers must be viable. This is the case at all levels, from National 4 to Advanced Higher. In some cases it is possible to run bi-level classes, which combine different levels in the same class - unfortunately this is **not** possible in all subjects. Students who are affected by decisions to remove a class will be interviewed and invited to re-opt from the remaining subjects in the column.

CAREERS ADVICE AND USEFUL WEBSITES

Most of you will have spent a lot of time thinking about what you might like to do when you leave school. You will have the opportunity to discuss this with your Pupil Support Teacher when you are choosing your S5/6 Options. There are also other ways in which you can find some more information about possible careers.

Useful websites to look at are www.planitplus.net and www.ucas.com

These websites will give you links into individual college or university websites as well as detailing the entry requirements for courses.

During the Options process you may meet the Careers Adviser for Holy Cross High School - Ms Susan Higgins or Mrs Veronica Rankin

You may also take the opportunity to meet the Careers advisers at a lunchtime in their office.

Ms Higgins' days in school are as follows:
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

Mrs Rankin's days in school are
Monday, Thursday & Friday

You could also request an individual interview through your Pupil Support Teacher.

You are advised to log on to the website www.myworldofwork.co.uk and register where there also is a lot of useful information for young people.

UCAS (School Leavers)

With a few exceptions, applications to full-time courses of higher education are made through a central clearing house called UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admission Service).

All UCAS applications are now completed online and all information is available on the UCAS website www.ucas.com/apply.

An applicant can apply for up to 5 courses: Before beginning the process, all applicants will attend a UCAS training session with your Pupil Support Teacher and help is given with personal statements during the PSHE programme and from your Pupil Support Teacher.

The school will provide a reference which is sent with the application form. Students can either pay for their application by debit card or by cheque to the school. In 2017-2018 the fees were £23 for up to 5 courses or £12 if only 1 course was applied for.

The form should be completed and sent to pupil Support for adding the reference by the date the school chooses as the closing date for applications is usually 15 January - however for students wishing to apply for Medicine, Dentistry, Vet Medicine and some Music Courses their applications **MUST** be received by UCAS by October, so it needs to be given to Pupil Support before the end of September.

Applicants for these courses also have to sit an entrance test (UKCAT). Similarly applicants for law must arrange to sit the LNAT entrance test. Details of how to go about this can be found in the UCAS website.

There are also special arrangements for specific courses, eg: music and drama. Students must ensure they read details of how to apply for these courses carefully to ensure they meet the criteria. **There are definite advantages in applying early so it is important that you give the application prompt attention.**

College Applications for NC/HNC/HND Courses (School Leavers)

College applications tend to open in the January of each year for the August start courses. Each College is a separate application form (online) unlike UCAS and also requires a Personal Statement. Pupil Support staff and SDS Careers Staff help with this process and reminders are issued closer to the opening date. Applications to college courses are currently free of charge. You are usually invited for Interview once you submit your application form.

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE/BURSARIES

1. INTRODUCTION

Education Maintenance Allowances (EMAs) are provided by all local education authorities in Scotland. The EMA is a weekly allowance, payable from Monday to Friday, and can only be paid for weeks with 100% attendance.

EMAs provide financial support for 16 to 19 year olds from lower income households who undertake appropriate full-time courses at school or college. The scheme is administered by South Lanarkshire Council.

2. KEY FEATURES OF THE EMA

- EMAs will be paid direct to the young person's bank account.
- The EMA will comprise a weekly allowance payable during term time.
- The allowance will be paid in batches of two weeks at a time.
- Payment of an EMA will normally be restricted to a maximum of two years for any individual student. However, some young people with special educational needs may be entitled to more than two years.

3. ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

In order to qualify for receipt of an EMA from August, applicants need to satisfy the following eligibility conditions:

- The applicant must be in S5 or S6. EMAs can only be paid once the young person has reached the school leaving age. For August payments, they need to be 16 before the end of September and for January payments they need to be 16 before the end of February.
- The applicant must normally be resident in Lanarkshire but full details are available in the EMA form.
- Once the application has been approved, the applicant must obtain a learning agreement from their Pupil Support Teacher.

4. THE FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT

Applicants will be required to satisfy a financial assessment, based on total taxable parental income. Documentary proof will have to be supplied to support the application. Full details are available in the EMA form.

- (a) A P60 (or P60 substitute) from 2017-2018.

5. THE EMA LEARNING AGREEMENT

General Guidance

To be eligible for an EMA students must have signed a learning agreement that must also be countersigned by their parent or responsible adult and by an appropriate representative of the school.

South Lanarkshire Council may discontinue EMA payments where the information supplied by the institution states that the student has failed to comply with their learning agreement regarding meeting course requirements, attendance, time-keeping and behaviour.

S5/6 Options Information 2018-2019

