

Winchburgh Academy

S4 Curriculum Information Evening

Thursday 5th March

2026



Respect, Kindness & Ambition

Aims

1/ Develop a clearer understanding of the senior phase curriculum in Winchburgh Academy

2/ Understand how to support your child to make the best choices they can for the senior phase - ensuring successful pathways

3/ Develop an understanding of SQA procedures/arrangements

4/ Develop understanding of what to expect in curriculum areas/courses in the senior phase (Atrium)

Our Academy Vision

To be a school community that is sector leading in providing excellent experiences, opportunities and outcomes for all young people - united in the joy of learning, collaboration and improvement to build healthy and successful futures



The Story So Far: S3

- English (200 minutes)
- Maths (200 minutes)
- PE (100 minutes)
- Flexible Learning (100 minutes)
- My Academy (100 minutes)
- 6 options choices (150 minutes each)

Science (150 minutes)		Social Subjects (150 minutes)		Technologies (150 minutes)		Expressive Arts (150 minutes)		Additional Choice 1 (150 minutes)		Additional Choice 2 (150 minutes)		My Academy (100 minutes)	
Biology		Business/Admin		Business/Admin		Art & Design		Art & Design		Art & Design		Duke of Edinburgh	
Chemistry		Geography		CDT		Drama		Biology		Biology		Young STEM Leader	
Physics		History		Computing		Music		Business/Admin		Business/Admin		Sports Leadership	
		Modern Studies		Graphics		PE		CDT		CDT		Music Technology	
				HFT				Chemistry		Chemistry			
								Computing		Computing			
								Drama		Drama			
								Geography		Geography			
								Graphics		Graphics			
								HFT		HFT			
								History		History			
								Modern Studies		Modern Studies			
								Music		Music			
								Physics		Physics			
								PE		PE			
								Spanish		Spanish			

S4 Model

S4 Curriculum Model

6 OR 7 National Qualifications - individual choice/pathway

250 minutes English & Maths

200 OR 250 minutes per NQ course depending on number of subject/course choices

100 minutes core PE/HWB

100 minutes Flex Learning

Total - 1600 minutes

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
E n g	E n g	E n g	E n g	E n g	M a t	M a t	M a t	M a t	M a t	C 1	C 1	C 1	C 1	C 1	C 2	C 2	C 2	C 2	C 2	C 3	C 3	C 3	C 3	C 3	C 4	C 4	C 4	C 4	C 4	P E	P E
S u b 7	S u b 7	S u b 7	S u b 7	S u b 7	M a t	M a t	M a t	M a t	M a t	C 1	C 1	C 1	C 1	E n g	C 2	C 2	C 2	C 2	E n g	C 3	C 3	C 3	C 3	E n g	C 4	C 4	C 4	C 4	E n g	P E	P E

SCQF Levels	SQA Qualifications			Qualifications of Higher Education Institutions	Apprenticeships & SVQs	
12					Doctoral Degree	Professional Apprenticeship
11					Masters Degree, Integrated Masters Degree, Post Graduate Diploma, Post Graduate Certificate	Graduate Apprenticeship Professional Apprenticeship SVQ
10					Honours Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate	Graduate Apprenticeship Professional Apprenticeship
9				Professional Development Award	Bachelors / Ordinary Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate	Graduate Apprenticeship Technical Apprenticeship SVQ
8		Higher National Diploma		Diploma Of Higher Education	Higher Apprenticeship Technical Apprenticeship SVQ	
7	Advanced Higher, Awards, Scottish Baccalaureate	Higher National Certificate		Certificate Of Higher Education	Modern Apprenticeship SVQ	
6	Higher, Awards, Skills for Work Higher				Modern Apprenticeship Foundation Apprenticeship SVQ	
5	National 5, Awards, Skills for Work National 5				Modern Apprenticeship SVQ	
4	National 4, Awards, Skills for Work National 4	National Certificate	National Progression Award		SVQ	
3	National 3, Awards, Skills for Work National 3					
2	National 2, Awards					
1	National 1, Awards					

SQA - National Qualifications Overview



SCQF Level	Previous/Existing	Replaced by	Resulting
7	Advanced Higher	Advanced Higher	Graded A-D
6	Higher	Higher	Graded A-D
5	SG Credit/Int2	National 5	Graded A-D
4	SG General/Int1	National 4	Pass/Fail
3	Access 3/SG Foundation	National 3	Pass/Fail
2	Access 2	National 2	Pass/Fail
1	Access 1	National 1	Pass/Fail

Scottish Qualifications - Information Videos

- [Bing Videos](#)
- [SCQF levels: Understand Scotland's qualifications](#)
- [Parents & carers of learners - Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework](#)

Maths & Applications of Maths

- In recent years, nationally, Maths has been offered in two different course formats (Maths and Applications of Maths)
- Both courses are offered from National 3 to Higher and are recognised as equivalent qualifications by employers, colleges and universities
- Maths entails more 'pure' maths such as algebra and trigonometry etc.
- Applications of Maths more based around 'real life' application of maths
- Personalised student S4 options forms will indicate (based on tracking) the Maths course that provides the best pathway for your child and their attainment

SQA Assessment Arrangements

- [Assessment arrangements guide for learners - SQA](#)
- Assessment Arrangements support those with additional support needs to access qualifications
- We can make adjustments to give learners with additional support needs, an equal opportunity to demonstrate what they know and can do. These adjustments are called ‘assessment arrangements’.
- School staff are best placed to know the requirements of each qualification, and what types of assessment arrangements would be allowed (or not allowed) in an assessment.

SQA Learner Support/Information

- Further information available to support learners/parents and carers via the links below:
- [Learner support for National Qualifications - SQA](#)
- [Your coursework - SQA](#)

- Prelims will take place in December 2026

- This year, exams start on Monday 27th April and end on Monday 1st June (dates vary year to year)

Supporting Students & Families (S4 Course Choice)

- ▶ Student attainment is best supported by continuing with subjects they have studied in S3
- ▶ Use of data and information from prior attainment will inform recommendations and best pathways for individual students (CAT, SNSA, CFE Teacher Judgements)
- ▶ Mindful of national stats in subjects/courses (where do students do well?)

Qualification Name	National 2024 S4 Attainment				
	% of cohort N5 presentation	% of cohort N4 presentation	% of cohort presented for N4 or N5	% of students in subject presented for N5	% of students achieving N5 A-C
Physical Education	32.51	6.21	38.7	84	79.5
Drama	7.17	1.22	8.4	85.5	79
Music	11.8	2.22	14	84.2	76.8
Art and Design	15.52	5.28	20.8	74.6	68.5
Music Technology	2.07	0.64	2.7	76.4	66.5
English	71.23	28.9	100.1	71.1	61.6
Spanish	9	4	13	69.2	58.8
Business Management	13.33	6.01	19.3	68.9	58.3
Chemistry	22.82	7.51	30.3	75.2	58.1
Computing Science	9.66	3.86	13.5	71.4	56.8
Physics	18.66	6.07	24.7	75.5	56.7
Design and Manufacture	6.03	2.05	8.1	74.6	55.3
Graphic Communication	7.75	1.97	9.7	79.7	54.1
Geography	13.97	6.87	20.8	67	52.4
Modern Studies	19.06	8.75	27.8	68.5	52.3
Health and Food Technology	2.05	0.81	2.9	71.7	51.6
Practical Cookery	10.2	6.3	16.5	61.8	51.3
Biology	30.13	12.05	42.2	71.4	48.4
History	24.06	14.19	38.3	62.9	45.4
Mathematics	42.85	28.24	71.1	60.3	44.8

S4 Options Form

S4 Senior Phase Options Form

Name: _____ PSR Class: _____

This form will be used to indicate your draft subject preferences for S4, to help support us in planning the next stages of our S4 curriculum. All students will study English and Maths (200 mins per week for both), alongside Core PE (100 mins) and flexible learning (100 mins). The remaining 1000 mins will be split, either as 4 subjects (250 mins each) or 5 subjects (200 mins each). To support each individual student to maximise their attainment in S4, you will see below the number of subjects we recommend for your child, based on our knowledge of them and their progress in learning to this point. We always advise that students continue to study a selection of subjects from those they have experience of in S3.

We would recommend that _____ studies 7 subjects, inclusive of English and Maths for S4

To complete the options form, please number your subjects from 1 - 5 in order of preference. The subject with no. 1 in the subject preference box will indicate your first choice subject, and so on until you reach number 5. Having identified your subject options, please mark one further subject as your reserve choice (R). Whilst every attempt will be made to offer preferred subjects/courses, this may not always be possible, so please give your reserve subject due consideration.

Current S3 subjects	Current recommended level of study in S4	Order preference
English	Likely to be successful at N5	Compulsory
Maths	Potential of success at N5 with appropriate support	Compulsory
Biology	Likely to be successful at N5	4
Business	Likely to be successful at N5	1
Graphics	No current recommendation	R
Music	Likely to be successful at N5	2
PE	Likely to be successful at N5	3
Computing studies	Likely to be successful at N5	



Key dates in pathways programme

Date	Event
30th January	S3 Reports issued
24 th February	S3 Student Pathways Assembly
By Friday 27 th February	Class teachers provide S4 curriculum overview presentations
2 nd March	S3 Students issued with personalised Pathways form
5 th March	Parent/Carer Curriculum Information Evening
5 th March	Course descriptors available via school website
10th March	S3 Parent Feedback Appointments
16th March	S3 into S4 Pathways Interviews

Other Information/FAQs

When will my child see their S4 timetable?

W/b Monday 25th May

When will the new timetable start?

Monday 1st June

What happens in the event of my child not being able to access all their first-choice subjects?

A relevant member of staff will arrange a discussion with your child and be in contact with you at the earliest opportunity to discuss further.

If my child decides that they want to study a subject they haven't done in S3, are they able to do this?

Whilst not encouraged or advised, courses are designed to support this as much as possible. Changes to other courses would be best made asap

If my child and I feel that we need some additional support/guidance to choose courses, can I contact someone at the school?

Yes, of course. Please contact your child's PSR teacher via the school office in the first instance