

Winchburgh Academy

S5 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 QS procedures/arrangements
- 4/ Further understanding of study leave and exam diet in-school programme
- 5/ 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



Higher & SCQF Offer 2026-27*

National 5 Course	Higher Available?	SCQF Additional Offer
Applications of Maths	Yes	L5/L6 Personal Finance
Art & Design	Yes	
Biology	Yes	L5 Health Sector
Business	Yes	
Computing	Yes	L5/6 Computing Technologies or Games Development
English	Yes	L5/6 Literature & Communications
Environmental Science	Yes (Geography)	L5 Travel & Tourism
Graphics	Yes	
History	Yes	
Maths	Yes	L5/L6 Personal Finance
Modern Studies	Yes	
PE	Yes	L5/6 Sports Coaching
Practical Cookery	No	L5 Childcare & L6 Events
Practical Woodworking	No	
Spanish	Yes	

All courses subject to student uptake and staff recruitment

S5 Senior Phase Pathways Form



Name: _____

PSR Class: _____

This form will be used to indicate your subject preferences for SS. All students will have an allocation of 200 minutes of Wider Achievement time (Work experience and Leadership), 50 minutes of PSE and 100 minutes of Core PE/Health & Wellbeing each week. The remaining 1250 minutes will be split evenly across 5 subject choices (250 minutes each).

Where possible, and to support positive attainment, we would strongly encourage students to select from the recommended progressions from within their current subject areas. Where there is a recommendation for progression to Higher in a subject, these should be prioritised over opportunities for National 5 or L5/6 qualifications. Where it is not feasible to make 5 choices from the table offering subject continuation, the second table provides a range of SCQF Level 5 & 6 qualifications, and the bottom box provides the option of choosing a National 4/5 qualification in a subject not previously studied.

To complete the pathways form, please number your subjects from 1 – 5 in order of preference. The subject with a number 1 in the order preference box will indicate your first-choice subject, and so on until you reach number 5. Having identified your subject preferences, 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 due to uptake, staffing or timetable clashes, so please give your reserve choice due consideration.

Please ensure you have your completed pathways form in your bag for your pathways interview, which will take place on Monday 16th March.

Current S4 Subject	Current Level of Study	Current Working Grade	Recommendation for study in SS	Order preference
Mathematics	National 5	A	Higher	
English	National 5	A	Higher	
PE	National 5	B	Higher	
Environmental Science	National 5	A	Higher Geography	
Computing Science	National 5	A	Higher	
Biology	National 5	A	Higher	
Physics	National 5	B	Higher	

Subject	Delivered through	Level of Study Available	Order preference
Childcare	HFT	National 5	
Computer Games Development	Computing	SCQF L4/5/6	
Health Sector	Science	SCQF L5	
Events	HFT	SCQF L6	
Practical Woodwork	CDT	National 5	
Sports Coaching	PE	SCQF L5 & L6	

Use the box below to list any other N4/5 course not previously studied	Level of Study	Order preference

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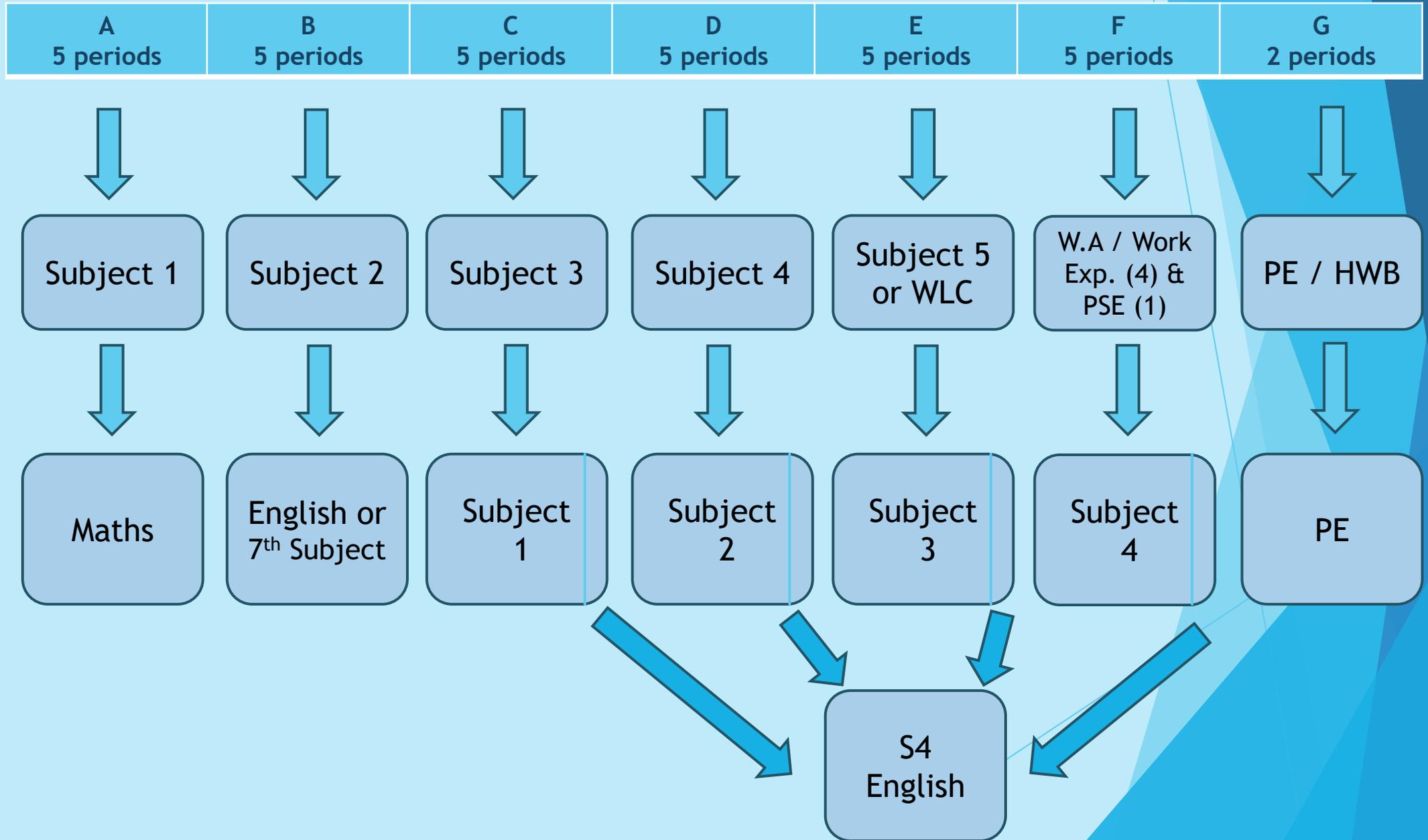
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Current S4 Subject	Current Level of Study	Current Working Grade	Recommendation for study in SS	Order preference
Applications of Mathematics	National 5	F	L6 Personal Finance	
English	National 5	B	Higher	
PE	National 5	D	L6 Sports Coaching	
Practical Cookery	National 5	A	Alternative curricular pathway	
Biology	National 5	C	Higher	
Modern Studies	National 5	B	Higher	

Subject	Delivered through	Level of Study Available	Order preference
Childcare	HFT	National 5	
Computer Games Development	Computing	SCQF L4/5/6	
Health Sector	Science	SCQF L5	
Events	HFT	SCQF L6	
Practical Woodwork	CDT	National 5	
Sports Coaching	PE	SCQF L5 & L6	

Use the box below to list any other N4/5 course not previously studied	Level of Study	Order preference

Integrated Senior Phase Structure



Wider Achievement Column (inc. Work Experience)

- ▶ 4 periods per week plus 1 period each week of PSE
- ▶ Extended work placements on Friday mornings
- ▶ ½ year group before Christmas, ½ year group after Christmas
- ▶ Placements via Workit or self-found opportunities
- ▶ Opportunity for DoE Gold Award in S6

Example Monday Timetable

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Col A	Col B	Col C	Col D	PSE	Leadership	

Example Friday Timetable

1	2	3	4
HWB	HWB	Leadership service)	(school service)

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

QS- 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

S5 Pathways Timeline

Date	Event
Thursday 8th January	S4 Parent Feedback Appointments
Monday 23th February	S5 Pathways Assembly
Friday 27th February	S4 Full Reports to Parents/Carers
By Friday 27th February	In class presentations re S5 courses
Monday 2nd March	S5 Personalised Pathways form issued at PSR
Thursday 5th March	Curriculum Information Evening (7pm start)
Friday 6th March	WLC Study Leave Arrangements Letter via Groupcall
Friday 13th March	Personalised letter confirming final QS presentation levels
Monday 16th March	Pathways interview with Mr Mitchell/Mr Kerr
By Wednesday 18th March	Deadline for parents/carers to contact the school regarding any QS presentation level queries



Study Leave Arrangements - WLC Policy

Students sitting 4+ National 5 exams*

- ✓ Study leave commences on Monday 20th April
- ✓ Return to school for S5 induction day on Friday 29th May
- ✓ Immersive study timetable will be in place for in-school study support in the lead up to exams
- ✓ Opportunity to attend school and go to timetabled classes during study leave to gain additional teacher support

Students sitting 1-3 National 5 Exams*

- ✓ In school 3 days per week - exact days to be confirmed. Opportunities to complete outstanding coursework and gain additional SCQF accredited qualifications
- ✓ 2 days per week of study leave, plus any days where you have an exam on an in-school day
- ✓ Immersive study timetable will be in place for in-school study support in the lead up to exams
- ✓ Opportunity to attend school and go to timetabled classes during study leave to gain additional teacher support
- ✓ Potential for work experience for those planning on leaving school after S4, if there is an appropriate space between exams

*(National 5 PE & Practical Woodworking are not counted in the figure as they have no exam)

Other Information/FAQs

When will my child see their 2026-27 timetable?

Friday 29th May during S5 Conference/Induction Morning

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 S4, are they able to do this?

Wherever possible, it will be recommended to progress in course/subjects previously studied.

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.

When will I know about the in-school programme during the exam diet?

W/b 14th April during S4 assemblies