

Introduction to subject preferences

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Subjects

	H	N5	
Art and Design	✓		6
Biology	✓		7
Business Management	✓		8
Chemistry	✓		9
Classical Studies	✓		10
Computing Science	✓	✓	11
Drama	✓		13
Economics	✓		14
Engineering Science	✓		15
English	✓	✓	16
Environmental Science	✓		17
Geography	✓		18
History	✓		19
Latin	✓		20
Mathematics	✓	✓	21
Modern Languages: French / German / Mandarin / Spanish	✓		23
Modern Studies	✓		24
Music	✓	✓	25
Physical Education	✓		26
Physics	✓		27
Dundee & Angus College, Senior Phase Programme			28
Sport and Exercise Industry Training Programme		<i>No exam</i>	29
PE and Games		<i>No exam</i>	30
Personal, Social, and Health Education		<i>No exam</i>	31

Please note - the School reserves the right to not run an individual course of the number of pupils selecting the subject in any given year does not justify it.

Introduction

Supporting the Form 5 Curriculum

At the end of this session, Form 4 pupils will have completed four years of what has been a broad, general education in the Senior Years. In the first two years all pupils followed a common course (the only choice being in languages) at the end of which they were required to choose eight certificate subjects to study through Forms 3 and 4. This stage is brought to a close with the National 5 examinations.

At the start of Form 5, the number of subjects studied by each pupil is further reduced to allow a degree of specialisation.

Moving into Form 5

Each pupil in Form 5 will study four or five certificate subjects, not necessarily all at Higher Grade.

Pupils must understand that success at National 5 is not always a good predictor of success at Higher.

It is of the utmost importance that all pupils start to work seriously for the Higher Grade from the beginning of Form 5.

In addition, two periods per week are set aside to afford pupils the opportunity to opt into enrichment activities such as adult First Aid, Instrumental Music, and additional Physical Education. There is also one compulsory period per week devoted to Personal, Social, and Health Education, and all Form 5 pupils are required to attend Core PE and Games.

National Qualifications and Supported Study

Most Higher courses may be continued to Advanced Higher in Form 6. Advanced Highers provide a deeper level of research, study and specialisation in fields often, but not always, directly relevant to a pupil's intended course of study at University. A high level of performance in Advanced Highers can in some cases secure a student's entry directly into the second year of certain university courses.

Pupils who do not wish to attempt or who have been advised against taking five Highers in Form 5 may follow a mix of Higher and National 5 courses or may choose to take part in Supported Study as an alternative to a fifth subject option.

Supported Study involves pupils studying under supervision for seven periods per week. Support is provided throughout the year to help pupils both to understand how best they learn and to plan their studies.

Including National 5s or Supported Study are sensible and practical strategies for many of our pupils and should not be construed as second-best options.

University entry requirements

The importance of the Higher examinations within the Scottish education system cannot be over-emphasised. It should also be noted at this point that the vast majority of pupils are now embarking on a two-year course through Forms 5 and 6, which will not only prepare the way for entry to college or university in terms of entry requirements but will also help to prepare them for the academic demands of university study beyond school.

University entrance is typically based on the number and quality of passes at Higher.

Many courses, especially those which require a higher entry tariff, anticipate that all Higher passes will have been obtained at one sitting.

A pass at Higher is awarded in one of three grades:

A	over 70%	bands 1 and 2
B	60 - 69%	bands 3 and 4
C	50 - 59%	bands 5 and 6.

For the majority of courses, the minimum entry requirements are stated in terms of three or four Higher passes, for example AAAB or AABB or BBBB, although for some highly competitive courses (Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, or any application to Oxford or Cambridge being the most obvious examples, but also some courses in Law and Engineering amongst others) the number of A passes is crucial, with a current minimum 'going rate' of AAAAA or AAAAB. Such courses, and most applications to universities in England, may well also require the pupil to achieve AAA or AAB at Advanced Higher in Form 6, and a few may ask for at least one AH at Band 1.

The quality of the Higher passes is also important for less demanding courses and BBBB at one sitting is preferable to BBBC. Many Scottish universities have made it clear that in some courses candidates whose four Highers in Form 5 include a C pass will not be made an offer. If the goal is to gain entrance to a course where four B passes are required, it may be wise to postpone sitting a very weak subject until Form 6.

Work has already begun in Form 4, to raise awareness of these issues through PSHE lessons, as well as an opportunity to request a discussion with an independent Careers Advisory service.

Now that we have Unifrog <https://www.unifrog.org>, pupils currently in F5 have access to a very powerful tool to assist them with looking for interesting degrees, colleges and apprenticeships. It offers a range of filters to guide users towards areas they may not have previously considered, especially if they are as yet undecided about their future path.

UCAS applicants should then proceed to university websites and read up carefully about every course which they might consider. They should pay particular attention to keeping up to date with their awareness of the appropriate entry qualifications for these. Pupils should also make use of the Unifrog website by recording competencies and activities, as these may be useful when compiling their Personal Statement or CV.

It is the responsibility of the pupils to carry out sufficient research and to ensure that they do not find themselves under-qualified for courses for which they apply.

The UCAS website offers a comprehensive list in its Course Search facility, providing a guide to check the entry requirements, on the website of the relevant university, for every course for which an application is submitted.

Making the choice for Form 5

A major factor governing entry to a subject at Higher is the level of attainment achieved in Form 4. A B pass or better at National 5 would be an indication of likely success at Higher. However, with application, a pupil may be able to progress to Higher from a C pass.

Some important factors

There are several factors which should be taken into account before choices are finalised. The first of these is the pupil's ability to cope with each subject.

Maximising good passes and minimising the chance of fails has already been stated as a prime concern, and this must be borne in mind when considering both the choice of subjects and the number taken at Higher level in Form 5. Pupils must be realistic in their aims and be aware that changes of course in mid-session are discouraged and often unlikely to be possible. Before opting for a Higher course, pupils should also consider how well they are doing in each element of the subject at National 5. Advice on the relative importance of each element is available from class teachers and Heads of Department.

Personal preference is another important consideration. Pupils are much more likely to be successful in subjects which they enjoy. There is also the need to maintain an awareness of the requirements of possible future university courses, or, if these are not clear at this stage, then it is advisable to choose as wide a range of subjects as possible in order to keep later options open.

Where to go for advice

There are various avenues open to pupils before making their choices.

- A first should be the subject teacher or perhaps the Head of Department who will be able to offer sound advice, based on experience, on the likely chance of success in that subject.
- A second avenue is the relevant member of the Pastoral Care & Support team, who will be able to offer advice on the number of Highers which should be taken and also with the balance of subjects.
- The direct advice of the Head of Department must be sought by any pupil considering studying a subject at Higher which they have not studied in Form 4. Such a choice is not generally recommended by the School.
- A range of resources is available on *Firefly* on the UCAS tab; detailed advice on *How to Apply*, a step-by-step template for writing a PS, subject-specific booklists and advice on entry requirements for certain courses. These may also apply to Form 5 subject preferences and should be consulted at an early stage.

Members of the Senior Team and Pastoral Care & Support staff are available for advice. Particular support is available from Mr Downie with regard to careers information, and Mr Smith will help where college and university entrance requirements are involved.

Subject Preferences

As may be seen on the timeline below, all pupils will have individual interviews with Pastoral Care & Support staff to discuss subject preference and a programme is delivered during PSHE classes which is designed to help them make informed decisions.

Pupils will state their preference of subjects electronically in school, taking account of the following:

- It is expected that subject preference will include English except where discussed in advance with Pastoral Care & Support staff.
- All five subject preferences, including the level, should be entered in **descending** order of priority.

Subject preference timeline

November Next Steps Parents' Information Evening

November F4 prelim exams

December **Subject Preference information**

This Form 5 curriculum booklet is available on *Firefly*.

January **Wednesday 7 January: Form 4 Virtual Parents' Evening**, when parents will have the chance to discuss their son/daughter's progress and potential with subject teachers.

Pupils will have a subject preference interview with their Pastoral Care & Support teacher. During this meeting pupils will indicate provisional subject preferences. A copy of these preferences will be sent to parents for information, and to allow for changes to be discussed.

February The **last date for changes** to subject preferences previously indicated by pupils will be **Friday 30 January**

Art and Design *(Head of Department: Mr A Kerr)*

Higher

Art and Design builds self-confidence and helps nurture problem-solving ability, and therefore makes a very important and significant contribution to pupils' personal development. The Higher Art & Design course consists of three elements: an Expressive Portfolio, a Design Portfolio, and a Written Exam. The creation of these portfolios will take up the majority of classroom activities along with preparation for the Written Exam. The course requires pupils to produce work of a good standard continually during class time.

1 Expressive Portfolio

This aspect of the course requires pupils to create a series of still lifes or Portraits that will be mounted together to create the final Expressive Portfolio. It specifically focuses on developing pupils' practical skills in drawing and painting but allows pupils freedom to explore specialisms that they enjoy. There is also an evaluation aspect that requires pupils to critically analyse their own artwork.

2 Design Portfolio

This section of the course requires pupils to design and create a piece of body adornment based around a theme of their own choosing. The process demands they experiment with different materials and techniques to create a number of 3D outcomes before choosing a final design to construct. A good understanding aesthetics and design principles will facilitate the journey to a successful outcome. Pupils will also need to devise a brief, look at market research and identify inspiration images. There is also an evaluation aspect that requires pupils to critically analyse their own design work.

Written Exam

Pupils will sit a prelim which is the same structure as the final Written Exam. Then they will then sit a final Witten Exam during the SQA exam timetable. The written exam will assess the pupils' ability to explain influences on an artist and designer and critically analyse art and design work. Some of the work they are analysing will be familiar to them and some will be new to them.

Assessment

All three elements of the course are externally assessed by the SQA. Each folio is marked out marked out of 100. The Written Exam is 2 hours long and will count for 23% of the overall mark. The final grade is based on the total maximum mark of 260.

Biology (*Head of Department: Mr R Bunting*)

Higher

The course enables learners to develop and apply knowledge and understanding of biology and form an appreciation of biology's role in scientific issues and relevant applications of biology, including the impact these could make in society and the environment. Scientific inquiry and investigative skills are developed, including analytical thinking skills and evaluation in a biology context. The course may provide progression to Advanced Higher Biology or further study, employment or training.

The Higher Biology course offers a broad and up-to-date selection of concepts and ideas relevant to the central position of life science within our society. Learners will develop a deeper understanding of the underlying themes of biology; evolution and adaptation, structure and function, genotype and niche and the scale of topics ranges from molecular through to whole organism and beyond.

The course consists of three mandatory units:

1 DNA and the Genome

This covers the structure and replication of DNA, gene expression, and the genome as well as exploring the molecular basis of evolution and biodiversity. The study of gene expression at a cellular level leads to an understanding of differentiation in organisms.

2 Metabolism and Survival

The Metabolism and Survival Unit covers the central metabolic pathways of ATP synthesis by respiration and how control of such pathways is essential to cell survival. In whole organisms the unit considers adaptations for the maintenance of metabolism for survival and examines the importance of the manipulation of metabolism in microorganisms, both in the laboratory and in industry.

3 Sustainability and Interdependence

This covers human dependence on sufficient and sustainable food production from a narrow range of crop and livestock species, focussing on photosynthesis in plants. The importance of plant productivity and the manipulation of genetic diversity to maintain food security are emphasised. The unit also covers interrelationships and dependence through symbiosis and social behaviour and human impact on the environment.

Recommended entry

Pupils would normally be expected to have attained the skills, knowledge and understanding required for successful completion of the National 5 Biology Course.

Assessment

Internal assessment for reporting consists of end-of-unit tests and the prelim exam. To gain the Higher course award, pupils must complete the external course assessment consisting of a written exam paper (80%) and an assignment (20%). The external course assessment will provide the basis for grading attainment in the Higher course award.

Business Management *(Head of Department: Mr N Higgins)*

Higher

This course may be taken as a 'crash' Higher in Form 5. It is ideal for pupils who want to study business on leaving school or want an insight into how businesses work. It explores the important impact businesses have on everyday life, thereby giving pupils experiences which are topical. It develops skills for learning, life and work that will be of instant use in the workplace, and is an excellent course to take alongside Economics.

The course consists of five areas of study:

1 Understanding business

Pupils develop their understanding of how large organisations in the private, public and third sectors operate, make decisions and pursue their strategic goals. We analyse the impact that internal and external environments have on an organisation's activity and consider the implications of these factors.

2 Management of marketing

This unit builds an understanding of the importance of effective marketing systems to large organisations. We look at the relevant theories, concepts and procedures used by organisations to improve competitiveness and customer satisfaction.

3 Management of operations

We look at the importance of effective operations systems to large organisations in this unit. This includes learning about the relevant theories, concepts and procedures used by organisations to improve and/or maintain quality, and the importance of satisfying both internal and external customers' needs.

4 Management of people

This unit investigates the issues that large organisations face when managing people. We will learn about the relevant theories, concepts and procedures used by organisations when dealing with staff, including retention, training, leadership and motivation.

5 Management of finance

Pupils develop their understanding of the issues that large organisations face when managing finance. We learn about the relevant theories, concepts and procedures used by organisations in financial situations.

Assessment

Pupils are assessed using a combination of the final exam, worth 75%, and the assignment, which is 25% of the final mark.

The assignment will require the pupils to conduct research into an aspect of a business of their choice and to produce a report, which will be submitted to the SQA for marking. This will develop the practical skill of writing a business report and the ability to analyse and evaluate a current business issue, such as examining the impact of a firm's marketing mix.

Chemistry (Head of Department: Dr N Kiernan)

Higher

The course is designed for pupils who wish to acquire a deeper understanding of the central concepts of Chemistry beyond National 5 level. Higher Chemistry is a one-year course and its study provides pupils with core scientific knowledge and understanding of the physical and natural world. As such, it serves as a central science which links with both Higher Physics and Higher Biology.

Chemists play a vital role in the research, development and production of new everyday materials with an increasing focus on finding sustainable solutions.

The study of Chemistry will not only benefit those intending to pursue analytical chemistry as a discipline, but serve as fundamental training for those interested in interdisciplinary STEM careers, such as chemical engineering, forensic science, toxicology, environmental and sustainability sciences and food science and technology. It also provides an essential academic qualification for those hoping to study the biochemical sciences and engineering, medicine, pharmacy, dentistry or veterinary medicine.

Pupils embarking on the Higher Chemistry course should have obtained an A or B grade at National 5 and a similar grade in National 5 Maths.

The course content develops a wide range of practical and analytical skills alongside knowledge and understanding from the following topics within four key areas of chemistry:

- **Chemical Changes and Structure:** periodicity, structure and bonding, oxidising and reducing agents.
- **Nature's Chemistry:** systematic carbon chemistry, alcohols, carboxylic acids, esters, fats and oils, soaps, detergents and emulsions, proteins, oxidation of food, fragrances, skin care.
- **Chemistry in Society:** getting the most from reactants, controlling reaction rates, chemical energy, equilibria and chemical analysis.
- **Researching Chemistry:** common chemical apparatus, general practical techniques, reporting experimental work.

Assessment:

Pupils will be assessed on completion of the course by an external SQA written examination worth 120 marks and an assignment worth 20 marks (scaled to 30).

The 2 examinable components are: Paper 1: multiple choice (25 marks)

Paper 2: section 2 (95 marks)

Classical Studies (*Head of Department: Mr G Fyall*)

Higher

The course is designed either for those who have studied a National 5 in the subject or can be taken as a crash Higher by those with suitable grades in similar subjects.

We will study the politics and society of ancient Athens and Rome during the period when these two states were at the height of their power. We shall investigate what it meant to be a citizen in Athens and Rome, how the governments of Athens and Rome financed their activities, what the role of women was, and the role and treatment of slaves.

The study of these topics will involve examining a variety of types of evidence, including archaeological evidence and the writings (in English translations) of Greek and Roman authors. A major element of the course is the comparison of Athenian and Roman society with our modern society. We also study Classical literature in translation, particularly Classical Drama, for the insight this offers into a variety of social issues including the individual and authority, gender conflict and the role of women, the generation gap, nationalism and anti-nationalism, tradition and change, and social exclusion.

There are three taught units: Life in Classical Greece, Classical Literature, and Life in the Roman World. There is also an added value unit which takes the form of an extended essay prepared on a subject of the candidate's own choice.

These three units are studied in parallel.

The external assessment will consist of two papers – Life in the Classical World and Classical Literature.

The preparation for the added value unit will be done for the most part in class time, using the extensive library that the Classics Department possesses in the Classics classrooms.

Computing Science *(Head of Department: Mr S McBride)*

Higher

The Course provides an understanding of the technologies that underpin our modern, digital world and develops a wide range of transferrable skills. It brings together elements of technology, science and creative digital media and has wide-ranging social implications, providing an excellent opportunity for making links across learning in the senior phase. Like National 5, the course covers large amounts of the content using practical activities.

At this level, the course will cover a core of advanced concepts which underpin the study of Computing Science and explore the role and impact of contemporary computing technologies, providing an insight into the challenge, excitement and reward to be found in these areas. The study of National 5 Computing Science is extended in the Higher, with pupils gaining deeper understanding and skills in a range of disciplines.

Prerequisites

It is expected that pupils will have undertaken National 5 Computing Science, but this is not set in stone. Often pupils decide of a different career path or realise the importance of technology in the modern world and select a 'crash higher'. Each case would be discussed with the department.

Assessment

The overall grade for the course is calculated by combining marks from the coursework assessment and the final examination:

Coursework	30%	Final examination	70%
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Course topics

The course consists of four units, which are explored through a variety of means including teacher-led discussion, independent and group practical work, and self- and peer-evaluation. These are:

- 1** Software Design and Development
- 2** Databases Design and Development
- 3** Web Design and Development
- 4** Computer Systems

The topics of study include:

- designing, implementing, testing and evaluating computer programs
- designing and implementing static and interactive web pages/sites
- designing and implementing database systems
- understanding and developing problem-solving algorithms
- understanding the hardware requirements of an information system
- understanding the security implications of running an information system
- investigating and evaluating emerging and innovative technologies
- considering the impact of computing on the environment and society.

National 5

The study of Computing Science is appropriate for general university entrance, entry to computer-based as well as non-technical courses, pupils aiming for a Higher or Advanced Higher Computing qualification and for pupils who wish to have a range of general Information Technology skills to assist them in a wide array of careers.

Programming now has a place across a wide range of courses and career paths including Maths, Sciences, Engineering and Computing. These often use languages such as Python, which is currently the main language taught in the department. The course is very practical in nature and pupils will spend large amounts of time working through problems at the computer.

Prerequisites

It is expected that pupils will have undertaken an introductory Computing course in Forms 1 and 2, on which the Form 3 course builds.

Assessment

The National 5 has an externally assessed assignment (30% of final grade) and a written 90 minute exam (70% of final grade).

Course topics

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- understanding and developing problem-solving algorithms
- understanding the hardware requirements of an information system
- understanding the security implications of running an information system
- investigating and evaluating emerging and innovative technologies
- considering the impact of computing on the environment and society.

The units also provide an opportunity to develop the following transferable skills:

- problem analysis
- design and modelling
- application of computational thinking
- critical thinking and evaluation
- communication of key facts using appropriate terminology.

Drama (*Head of Department: Mrs L Carne*)

Higher

This Higher course provides directors, designers and actors with a creative and collaborative style of learning. Drama has long been acknowledged as an excellent medium for personal growth and social development; for the promotion of personal and interpersonal skills and creative and analytical thought. It is particularly effective for the development of communication skills in both written and spoken modes.

Entry requirements: National 5 Drama and/or National 5 Art and Design. 'Crash' Higher may be possible for creative and keen pupils.

Course

Higher Drama develops the central concept of exploring relationships, form, structure, genre and theatrical style. It promotes the candidates' knowledge and understanding of theatre and the social and cultural influences of drama. The course focuses on the skills of acting, directing, design, lighting, sound, costume, make-up, hair and props as production roles. Investigating, analysing and planning in a variety of contexts to show complex production skills are an integral part of the course. There are two main units; Drama Skills and Production Skills. Both these Units prepare pupils for the practical and textual study of their Set Text and Performance. Pupils must attend at least two live theatrical performances. The external components of the course are a question paper and a practical performance. The course will articulate with Advanced Higher in Form 6.

Drama Skills

In this unit, students will apply complex drama skills and develop ways of communicating thoughts and ideas to an audience as directors and actors. They will learn how to respond to stimuli, including text. They will also learn how to portray character in a range of ways and explore form, structure, genre and style when creating and presenting drama. Students will develop knowledge and understanding of the social and cultural influences on drama. They will also learn how to evaluate their own progress and that of other learners.

Production Skills

In this unit, students will explore and apply complex production skills for **two** areas of production from either acting, directing, design, lighting, sound, costume, make-up and props. They will learn how to respond to stimuli, including text, to communicate ideas for a production through presentation. They will develop ideas and production skills within their chosen production roles. Both areas will be explored and assessed through research, rehearsal and presentation.

External Course Assessment

- **Question Paper** – 50 marks
Testing written analysis of theatrical performance, set text and performance concepts.
- **Performance** – 60 marks
Demonstrate knowledge, understanding and skills in a practical presentation as an Actor, Director or Designer.

Economics (*Head of Department: Mr N Higgins*)

Higher

This course may be taken as a 'crash' Higher.

Economics is an exciting subject that helps us to make sense of what is going on in the UK and the rest of the world. It is about choice and its impact on individuals, businesses and the government, and comprises a range of different applications, from tackling firms that dominate markets to helping provide solutions to climate change, conflict and poverty. It is an excellent course to take alongside Business Management.

The course looks at the role of government, business and global trade and explores the economic environments in which they are set.

The course investigates three areas:

1 Economics of the Market

Pupils will carry out activities that will allow them to analyse the economic problem of unlimited wants in relation to limited resources and how this impacts on the daily choices made by us all. They will examine and analyse how supply and demand drives resource allocation and economic production, which will provide them with an in-depth understanding of markets and how they operate.

2 UK Economic Activity

Through activities, pupils will learn to analyse government income and expenditure. They will evaluate the role of the public and the private sectors in the economy. They will also develop the ability to assess the policies and other methods used by the government to achieve its economic aims and to assess the effects of the Scottish economy on the UK economy. The unit also allows pupils to consider the implications of government actions and suggest solutions to relatively complex economic problems.

3 Global Economic Activity

Pupils will learn how to analyse the global nature of economics. They will explore global trade and the balance of payments and their importance in the UK economy. They will also examine the floating exchange rate system. Lastly, pupils will consider economic features of the European Union, developing countries and emerging economies and their social impact.

Assessment

The pupils will be assessed using a combination of the final exam, worth 75%, and the assignment, which is 25% of the final mark.

The assignment will require the pupils to conduct research into an economic topic of their choice and produce a report, which will be submitted to the SQA for marking. For example, previous assignments have looked at complex issues such as the impact of aid on poorer countries.

Engineering Science *(Head of Department: Dr D Brown)*

This course builds on the National 5 qualification. Engineering brings together elements of technology, science and mathematics, and applies these to real-world challenges.

The course provides an excellent opportunity to make links across learning in the senior phase. It encourages candidates to become successful, responsible and creative in using technologies and to develop a range of qualities, including flexibility, perseverance, confidence and enterprise.

Recommended Entry

Pupils embarking on the Higher Engineering Science course should have obtained a Grade A at National 5 and a similar grade in National 5 Maths.

Course details

The course consists of three course areas, which are explored through a variety of means including teacher-led discussion, independent and group practical work, and self- and peer-evaluation. These are:

1. Engineering contexts and challenges
2. Electronics and control
3. Mechanisms and structures

The topics of study include:

- analysing engineering problems with some complex features
- designing, developing, simulating, building, testing, and evaluating solutions to engineering problems in a range of contexts
- investigating and evaluating existing and emerging technologies
- communicating engineering concepts clearly and concisely, using appropriate terminology
- knowledge and understanding of:
 - the many types of engineering
 - the wide role and impact of engineering on society and the environment
- applying engineering knowledge, understanding and skills in a range of contexts.

Assessment

The course will be assessed by means of assignment (31%) and an external SQA exam (2½ hours) (69%). The assignment is done in class time, near the end of the course. It requires the learner to apply and integrate skills and knowledge from the course to solve an appropriately challenging engineering problem involving practical work and use of simulation software.

Progression

The school does not offer Advanced Higher Engineering Science. However, a qualification in Higher Engineering Science can lead to a degree, HND or HNC in Engineering. Potential candidates are encouraged to study a combination of Maths, Maths of Mechanics, and Physics at Advanced Higher.

English (*Head of Department: Mrs A Tevendale*)

It is expected that most pupils in Form 5 will continue to study English, unless in exceptional circumstances and with the prior agreement of their Pastoral Care & Support teacher.

It is the responsibility of pupils to ensure that their decision regarding Higher English will not preclude entry to any course of their choice at university.

Entry to the Higher course requires a pass at National 5 and pupils who have not reached the required level at the end of Form 4 may be advised to re-sit National 5 in Form 5, going on to sit Higher in Form 6. This route provides more time to acquire the necessary skills in preparation for the exam.

If a pupil is struggling with the Higher course in Form 5, we may well recommend strongly that the pupil should take Higher over two years.

Throughout Form 5, pupils will study poetry, prose, drama and media. Teachers will require pupils to be able to participate in class discussion actively and to ask questions to support their learning. They will also work continuously on the production of a Folio consisting of both creative and discursive writing.

Assessment

The externally assessed examination consists of:

- Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation (formerly known as Close Reading): pupils will answer questions on two linked non-fiction texts
- Critical Reading: pupils will write a critical essay on a previously studied text and answer a textual analysis of a Scottish text by a previously studied author.
- Folio of writing – one piece of writing which is either broadly discursive (persuasive / discursive) or broadly creative (short story or personal writing).
- Talk Assessment (Pass or Fail).

The Higher English course is very full and requires a good deal of commitment. Formal homework will be issued on a regular basis, and it is essential that this homework is submitted. In addition, pupils will be required to read widely and undertake substantial revision of work covered in class.

Note: Presentation at N5 level is an option for pupils studying this course.

Environmental Science (*Head of Department: Miss J Stewart*)

Higher

The course in Environmental Science is delivered jointly by the Biology and Geography departments and is particularly, but not exclusively, suited to pupils who have already obtained National 5 Geography, Biology or both.

Environmental Science provides a balanced consideration of the environment, from a national and global perspective, through the study of natural resources, ecology and land use. It seeks to demonstrate the interactions taking place between people and the environment through the principles of ecosystems and contemporary resource use.

Living Environment

- **Investigating Ecosystems and Biodiversity:** aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, measuring abiotic factors, sampling plants and animals, identifying flora and fauna.
- **Interdependence:** Food webs, energy conversion, biotic factors, endotherms and ectotherms, vegetation succession.
- **Human Influences on Biodiversity:** Intensive agriculture, impacts of biodiversity, impacts of acid rain and sewage, global warming, native and non-native species, legislation and policies.

Earth's Resources

- **Geosphere:** Plate movements, ore minerals, glass making, the formation to the extraction of aluminium, baryte and clay, nuclear power, geothermal power and legislation promoting sustainable use of geosphere.
- **Hydrosphere:** Water sources, oceanic circulation, water distribution and uses.
- **Biosphere:** Soil structure, seaweed, uses of barley and processed biofuels.
- **Atmosphere:** Atmospheric circulation, fractional distillation, uses of neon and argon and advantages and disadvantages of wave power.

Sustainability

- **Food:** Global strategies to increase food production, EU farming/fishing policies.
- **Water:** World demand, improvement and management of water resources, sewage.
- **Energy:** Types of Energy, greenhouse gases, Impacts of climate change, national and international legislation on energy.
- **Waste Management:** Waste Management, life cycle analysis, legislation on waste.

Assessment

Pupils must demonstrate they can meet the learning outcomes in each of the units through the successful completion of an assessment in each.

The end-of-year examination comprises two question papers. Paper 1 is worth 20 marks and Paper 2 is worth 100 marks and constitutes 80% of the final award.

The remaining 20% is gained through the completion of an assignment, in which the pupil will carry out an in-depth study of an environmental science topic.

Higher Environmental Science may lead to a wide range of courses in further and higher education. The nature of the subject and its wide range of transferable skills equip pupils with versatility with regard to employment.

Geography (*Head of Department: Miss J Stewart*)

Higher

The Geography course is clearly suited to pupils wishing to continue their study of Geography beyond National 5. While most pupils undertaking Higher Geography will have obtained a pass at National 5, a number will come to Geography with no previous experience. The structure of the course does not significantly disadvantage such pupils. As a result of its wide scope and its broad coverage of topics which range from the Humanities to the Sciences, it is also a good choice for pupils wishing to maintain a degree of flexibility with regard to a future career.

Physical Environments

- Atmosphere: Atmospheric science, circulation and challenges created by the climate
- Hydrosphere: River basin hydrology and flooding
- Lithosphere: Dynamic coastal environments and glaciated upland areas
- Biosphere: The importance of soils to human life.

Human Environments

- Population Geography: population change, management and patterns of migration
- Rural Geography: rural landscapes, change and management
- Urban Geography: urban change and management in the developed and developing world.

Global Issues

- Development and Health: Social and economic indicators of development, the physical and human factors involved in health and disease, an in-depth study of malaria and strategies for improving health
- River Basin Management: Social, environmental, economic and political implications of water scarcity and how to manage this through resourceful water management.

Assessment

Pupils must demonstrate they can meet the learning outcomes in each of the units through successful completion of an assessment in each.

The end-of-year examination comprises two question papers. Paper 1 is worth 100 marks and Paper 2 is worth 60 marks and is worth 73% of the final award. The remaining 27% is gained through the completion of an assignment produced as a result of field work and subsequent data collection.

This is worth 30 marks and will be written up under controlled conditions in a timeframe of 1h 30m.

Progression

Higher Geography may lead to Advanced Higher Geography and / or a wide range of courses in further and higher education. The nature of the subject and its wide range of transferable skills equip pupils with versatility with regard to employment.

History (*Head of Department: Mr G Fyall*)

Higher

The History course consists of three units:

Historical study: Britain 1850s - 1979

- An evaluation of the reasons why Britain became more democratic, 1851–1928
- An assessment of how democratic Britain became, 1867–1928
- An evaluation of the reasons why some women were given the vote in 1918
- An evaluation of the reasons why the Liberals introduced social welfare reforms, 1906–14
- An assessment of the effectiveness of the Liberal social welfare reforms
- An assessment of the effectiveness of the Labour reforms, 1945–51

Historical study: the growth of Nationalism in Germany

- An evaluation of the reasons for the growth of nationalism in Germany, 1815–50
- An assessment of the degree of growth of nationalism in Germany, up to 1850
- An evaluation of the obstacles to German unification, 1815–50
- An evaluation of the reasons why unification was achieved in Germany, by 1871
- An evaluation of the reasons why the Nazis achieved power in 1933
- An evaluation of the reasons why the Nazis were able to stay in power, 1933–39

Historical Special Topic: Migration and empire, 1830–1939

- The migration of Scots
- The experience of immigrants in Scotland
- The impact of Scots emigrants on the empire
- The effects of migration and empire on Scotland, to 1939

The final examination is based on two exam papers.

Paper 1: Two essays in 90 minutes

Paper 2: Four source-based questions in 90 minutes.

There will be an Assignment, to be prepared and written on any relevant title of the pupil's choice, before the main diet of examinations. This is worth 27% of the final assessment.

Latin (*Head of Department: Mrs L Smith*)

Higher

The course involves two units, which will be studied in parallel:

1 Translation

This involves developing further the knowledge of Latin grammar and syntax acquired in previous years of study. In the external assessment pupils will be required to translate into English, with the help of a word list, a piece of Latin prose which they have not seen before.

2 Literary Appreciation

Pupils will read a selection of ancient Latin authors and choose two on which they will answer questions during the exam. The texts include:

- a selection of the short poems of Catullus
- part of a law-court speech of Cicero
- mythology collected by the poet Ovid in his *Metamorphoses*
- part of Virgil's great epic, the *Aeneid*
- Pliny the Younger's letters, describing the destruction of Pompeii and the eruption of Mount Vesuvius.

Mathematics *(Head of Department: Mrs L Craig)*

Higher

Mathematics is an important discipline in its own right, its ever-increasing applications in such a wide variety of other fields mean that a qualification at Higher can open doors to many careers. We would also wish to give some insight into the structure and power of mathematical thinking and mathematical language and ensure that pupils with such a range of future needs acquire the necessary knowledge and skills for their next stage.

The Higher Mathematics course enables learners to select and apply mathematical techniques in a variety of mathematical situations. Learners interpret, communicate and manage information in mathematical form. The course extends some of the content covered in National 5 and introduces further skills in algebra, geometry and calculus.

The Higher Mathematics course consists of three units.

1 Applications

The general aim of this unit is to develop knowledge and skills that involve geometric applications, applications of sequences and applications of calculus. The outcomes cover aspects of algebra, geometry, calculus, and also skills in mathematical reasoning and modelling.

2 Relationships and Calculus

The general aim of this unit is to develop knowledge and skills that involve solving equations and to introduce both differential calculus and integral calculus. The outcomes cover aspects of algebra, trigonometry, calculus and also skills in mathematical reasoning and modelling.

3 Expressions and Functions

The general aim of this unit is to develop knowledge and skills that involve the manipulation of expressions, the use of vectors and the study of mathematical functions. The outcomes cover aspects of algebra, geometry and trigonometry and also skills in mathematical reasoning and modelling.

Assessment

There is a variety of methods of assessment, much of it completed informally, but formal diagnostic assessment will be an integral part of the learning and teaching process. Extended tests, including the prelim, will be undertaken at the appropriate times during the course. The main function of these extended tests will be to prepare pupils for the final SQA Higher exam at the end of the course which assesses skills developed across all three units and consists of a non-calculator and calculator question paper.

National 5

Pupils will also have the option of sitting or re-sitting National 5 Mathematics if required.

The National 5 Mathematics course develops numerical, geometric, algebraic and problem-solving skills and consists of a variety of topics, each containing core and extension material. The emphasis will be on work that is relevant and interesting and there will be opportunities for collaborative working, creativity and showing initiative.

The National 5 Mathematics Course will develop learners' ability to:

- understand and use mathematical concepts and relationships
- select and apply operational skills in algebra, geometry, trigonometry and statistics within mathematical contexts
- select and apply skills in numeracy
- use mathematical models
- use mathematical reasoning skills to interpret information, to select a strategy to solve a problem, and to communicate solutions

The units are as follows:

1 Applications

The general aim of this unit is to develop skills linked to applications of mathematics. These include using trigonometry, geometry, number processes and statistics within real life contexts. The outcomes cover aspects of these skills and also skills in reasoning.

2 Expressions and Formulae

The general aim of this unit is to develop skills linked to mathematical expressions and formulae. These include the manipulation of abstract terms, the simplification of expressions and the evaluation of formulae. The outcomes cover aspects of number, algebra, geometry and reasoning.

3 Relationships

The general aim of this unit is to develop skills linked to mathematical relationships. These include solving and manipulating equations, working with graphs and carrying out calculations on the lengths and angles of shapes. The outcomes cover aspects of algebra, geometry, trigonometry and reasoning.

Assessment

There are a variety of methods of assessment, much of it completed informally, but formal diagnostic assessment will be an integral part of the learning and teaching process. Extended tests, including the prelim, will be undertaken at the appropriate times during the course. The main function of these extended tests will be to prepare pupils for the final external SQA National 5 exam at the end of the course which assesses skills developed across all three units and consists of a non-calculator and calculator question paper.

Modern Languages *(Head of Department: Mrs L Smith)*

Higher French / German / Mandarin / Spanish

It is increasingly apparent in today's world that qualifications in Modern Languages are vital in order that our young people can compete with their foreign counterparts in the worlds of business and industry. In the current uncertain political climate, it is more important than ever to equip our pupils with the linguistic skills they will require in order to take their place in today's world, interacting both here and abroad with speakers of other languages. Even in the sphere of travel, leisure and tourism, the acquisition of language skills is viewed as a definite bonus.

In addition to studying the language, literature and culture of the appropriate country at university, it is possible to combine the study of Modern Languages with many other subjects, notably Law, Economics and, increasingly, scientific and medical subjects, further boosting opportunities for employment in these fields.

It is strongly recommended that prospective entrants to the Higher course have attained a good pass at National 5.

All four language skills are developed in the following contexts:

Society	Family and friends	Becoming an adult / new family structure / marriage / partnership / gang culture / bullying / social influences and pressures
	Lifestyle	Teenage problems e.g. smoking, drugs, alcohol
	Media	Impact of the digital age
	Global languages	Minority languages and their importance / association with culture
Learning	Learning in context	Understanding self as a learner, e.g. learning styles / importance of language learning
	Education	Advantages / disadvantages of higher education, choosing a university / college, lifelong learning
Employability	Jobs	Getting a summer job, planning for future jobs, gap year, career path, equality in the workplace
	Work and CVs	Preparing for a job interview / importance of language in global contexts, job opportunities
Culture	Planning a trip	Taking a gap year, working abroad (mobility), travel
	Other countries	Multicultural society / stereotypes / prejudice and racism
	Celebrating a special event	Social influences on / importance of traditions, customs and beliefs in another country
	Literature	Literature of another country – analysis and evaluation
	Film / television	Studying the media of another country

The Higher coursework component is an assignment in Writing, while all four language skills are assessed in the final exam.

Modern Studies (*Head of Department: Mr G Fyall*)

Overview

Modern Studies is a subject which looks at what is happening in the world today, both at home and abroad. Themes covered include political processes, voting behaviour, poverty / health issues and a study of topical issues in South Africa.

The course therefore provides a synthesis of political, sociological and economic issues.

Pupils learn through developing their knowledge and understanding of the contemporary world and through developing enquiry skills in relation to investigating, evaluating and interpreting contemporary local, national and international issues.

Higher

The themes covered in Higher Modern Studies include government, politics, human rights, minorities, gender, race, poverty, health and wealth.

The Higher course has 3 study themes:

1 Democracy in the UK:

- The UK constitutional arrangement, including the role of the Scottish Parliament, the impact of UK membership of the European Union and the ongoing debates about the nature of the political system in the UK.
- The study of representative democracy in the UK.
- The impact of voting systems and a range of factors which affect voting behaviour in the UK.
- The ways in which citizens are informed about, participate in, and influence the political process in the UK.

2 Social Issues in the UK: The study of social inequality in the UK with focus on:

- The nature of social inequality in the United Kingdom
- Theories and causes of inequality
- The impact of inequality on specific groups in society
- Attempts to tackle inequalities and their effectiveness

3 International Issues: focuses on current political and social issues in South Africa.

- The political system and processes within South Africa
- Recent socio-economic issues in South Africa
- An evaluation of the effectiveness of the government in tackling socio-economic issues in South Africa
- The role of South Africa in international relations

Assessment

The final examination is based on two exam papers:

Paper 1: Three essays in 1 hour and 45 minutes

Paper 2: Three source-based questions in 1 hour and 15 minutes.

There will be an Assignment, to be prepared and written on any relevant Modern Studies issue of the pupil's choice, before the main diet of examinations. This is worth 27% of the final assessment.

Music (*Director of Music: Dr L Steuart Fotheringham*)

Higher / National 5 Music

The Higher and National 5 courses are designed to serve the needs of pupils who wish to study Music as part of a general education, to pursue an interest in Music, or intend to follow a career in Music. Throughout the courses, the study of music will provide increasingly sophisticated development of musical skills through a wide range of challenging experiences. The courses will give pupils a sense of historical perspective on the music they listen to and help place it in context. Pupils' participation in ensembles and concerts in the Music department will be enhanced by their having a better understanding of the music they are performing.

The course consists of three examined units:

1 Performing Skills

Pupils will be required to prepare a recital of music in a range of styles on two instruments (or one instrument and voice) equivalent in standard to Associated Board Grade 3 for National 5, and Grade 4 for Higher. **N.B.** Due to the high weighting of performing, **candidates are strongly encouraged to receive instrumental / vocal instruction in school** from a member of the Music Department staff who is fully conversant with the requirements and standards of the course. There is likely to be a reduced tuition fee for those instruments which are being examined.

2 Composing Skills

Pupils will have to demonstrate the creative use of compositional techniques in a piece of music, and provide a score, audio recording and self-evaluation for each composition. They will gain an understanding of how composers create music in different ways, what influences and inspires the work of musicians and composers and how to use music as a means of communication and expression.

3 Understanding Music

Pupils will learn the history of music from c.1600 to the present day. The course will encompass all styles of music from classical, jazz and Scottish to popular, and pupils will develop an informed sense of historical background. Learning takes place primarily by listening to music and familiarising pupils with how each style sounds different. Pupils will learn music terms and be able to apply them to recordings of unfamiliar music, and will learn about the social and cultural influences on the distinctive sounds and structure of specific music styles. Fluency in reading and understanding musical notation is essential. A pass at Grade 5 Theory is highly desirable as a preparation for this.

Although the course descriptions are the same for N5, the requirements for Higher are of a more demanding standard, and a much wider vocabulary of musical terms and features needs to be understood.

Physical Education *(Director of Sport: Mr E Jack)*

Higher

The course enables candidates to:

- develop a broad and comprehensive range of complex movement and performance skills, and demonstrate them safely and effectively across a range of challenging contexts
- select and apply skills and make informed decisions to effectively perform in physical activities
- analyse mental, emotional, social and physical factors that impact on performance
- understand how skills, techniques and strategies combine to produce an effective performance
- analyse and evaluate performance.

The course consists of two areas of study:

Performance

Candidates develop their ability to demonstrate a broad and comprehensive range of complex movement and performance skills through a range of physical activities. They select, demonstrate, apply and adapt these skills, and use them to make informed decisions. They also develop their knowledge and understanding of how these skills combine to produce effective outcomes. Candidates develop consistency, precision, control and fluency of movement. They also learn how to respond to, and meet, the demands of performance in a safe and effective way.

Factors Impacting on Performance

Candidates develop knowledge and understanding of mental, emotional, social and physical factors that impact on personal performance in physical activities. Through collecting information, candidates consider how these factors can influence effectiveness in performance. They develop knowledge and understanding of a range of approaches for enhancing performance. Candidates select and apply these approaches to factors that impact on their personal performance.

Assessment

Performance (60 Marks – equates to 50% of total mark)

The performance assesses candidates' ability to perform in two different physical activities. *The activities chosen must be on the SQA acceptable activity list and be challenging/competitive. Your teachers/markers must have relevant experience that will enable them to mark your performance. If outwith school, it must be easily accessible for your teacher to attend – in particular the location and timing. This will be at the discretion of the department.*

Question Paper (50 Marks – equates to 50% of total mark)

The question paper assesses the candidates' ability to integrate and apply knowledge and understanding from across the course.

Physics (*Head of Department: Dr D Brown*)

Physics is the branch of science concerned with the properties of matter and energy and the relationships between them. Many apparently complicated things in nature can be understood in terms of relatively simple mathematical relationships.

Physicists try to uncover these relationships through observing, creating models, and testing them by doing experiments. The mathematical equations used in Physics often look far more complicated than they really are. Nevertheless, if you are going to study Physics, you will need to get to grips with a certain amount of Maths.

The Higher course embraces traditional topics such as mechanics and electricity along with modern Physics, based on quantum theory.

Higher

The course reinforces and extends the knowledge and understanding of the concepts of Physics and related problem-solving skills and practical abilities acquired at National 5, by providing a deeper insight into the structure of the subject.

Recommended entry

Pupils would normally be expected to have attained National 5 Physics at A or B.

Course details

The course comprises three mandatory units:

1. Our Dynamic Universe

Motion; forces, energy and power; projectiles and satellites; special relativity; the expanding universe; and Big Bang theory

2. Particles and Waves

The Standard Model; electric and magnetic fields and particle motion in fields; nuclear reactions; wave properties; refraction of light; and spectra

3. Electricity

Electrons and energy; resistors in circuits; capacitors in circuits; conductors and semiconductors; band theory; and p-n junctions

Assessment

Course content and skills will be assessed by an external exam of 2 papers (45 minutes followed by 2 hours 15 minutes) at the end of the course (worth 80% of the marks). Pupils' skills in *Researching Physics* are assessed separately by an assignment carried out under exam conditions in class, near the end of the course, and marked externally (worth 20% of the marks).

Progression

A qualification in Higher Physics can lead to Advanced Higher Physics, a degree, an HND or HNC in Physics, Science, Mathematics, Computing or Engineering fields and to employment in related areas.

Dundee & Angus College Senior Phase programme

Foundation Apprenticeships are a work-based learning opportunity for secondary school pupils. Pupils typically begin their 2-year Foundation Apprenticeship in Form 5. Young people spend time out of school at Dundee & Angus College or with a local employer and complete the Foundation Apprenticeship alongside their other subjects.

Pupils are assessed on a unit-by-unit basis and will achieve the qualification by passing each unit. The placement also counts towards the qualification and the employer will work with the young person to develop a plan for the assessments. If a pupil has a Higher in an articulating subject, the course might take only one year, in Form 6.

There are also a number of other courses at levels 4 through 7 (equivalent to Nat 4 through to Advanced Higher) including National Progression Awards and Skills For Work options.

These courses take place on Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 2pm to 4pm at the Gardyne or Kingsway campuses.

This subject option typically includes some time in school in the week that is set aside for private study.

The availability of courses varies year on year and can be reviewed in the booklet of options shared alongside this curriculum booklet.

Physical Education *(Director of Sport: Mr E Jack)*

Sport and Exercise Industry Training Academy

For session 2025/26 it is proposed to offer a new course (numbers dependent) that will be delivered in conjunction with Dundee and Angus College. The course will be delivered over 7 periods per week and may require time to be utilised from lunch or morning break to allow for travel. Sections of the course will be delivered at the Euclid Crescent, Mayfield and the Dundee & Angus College, Gardyne Road Campus.

Course Content

The course will provide senior pupils with the opportunity to achieve the following industry-recognised qualifications:

- Level 2 Gym Instructor Qualification. This is an Active IQ Award.
- SCQF Level 6 Qualification in Sports Leadership
- Emergency First Aid Qualification
- A sport specific coaching or umpiring qualification relevant to the particular interests of the candidate (this will be agreed upon following conversations between candidates and staff).

Entry Requirements

This course is open to senior pupils. Physical exertion and individual participation essential; therefore, a high degree of physical fitness is necessary.

Progressions/Benefits

- These qualifications mean you can begin employment immediately as a gym instructor (in the UK or abroad!).
- An excellent starting point for further study in sport and exercise related courses or a career in the industry.
- Learn vital life skills including CPR and First Aid.

There is an additional cost to study this course, this is expected to be in the region of £750.

Core PE and Games *(Director of Sport: Mr E Jack)*

The Core PE and Games programme runs across the six years of secondary education. All pupils in Form 5 are timetabled for two periods of PE/Games per week, with opportunities for increased contact time available through enrichment periods and co-curricular activities.

The overriding aim is to facilitate the pupils reaching their physical potential while concurrently developing a positive attitude to physical activity that will last a lifetime.

In Form 5 the onus is on pupil choice. A range of activities is established following pupil/teacher consultation and where possible all suggestions are explored.

This year the activities offered have included:

- Rugby
- Hockey
- Netball
- Tennis
- Athletics
- Cricket
- Dance
- Rounders
- Trampolining
- Football
- Volleyball
- Fitness Suite
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Scottish Country Dance
- Team Games

Personal, Social, and Health Education *(Mr A Durward)*

The Personal, Social, and Health Education programme covers the six years of secondary education in line with the Pastoral Care & Support structure. This includes Careers Education for part of the course, as this is essential for sound personal and social development.

All pupils in Forms 1 - 6 are allocated one period per week for the formal teaching of the subject. Classes are usually taken by members of the Pastoral Care & Support team, although occasionally staff with an interest in pastoral support are involved. Outside speakers also deliver part of the programme.

The aim is to encourage positive personal and social development by increasing the pupils' self-awareness through the development of self-assessment and target setting.

The teaching in Form 5 will concentrate on the skills needed for the future, such as working with others, decision-making, leadership and so on. The topics covered will reinforce those already covered in Forms 1 to 4 (e.g. emotional wellbeing, substance use and abuse, personal and online safety, and relationships) while introducing those more relevant to older pupils, such as driving, finance, interview techniques, and applications/life beyond school.

The overall aim of the course will be to ensure that pupils are prepared to face the challenges which they will meet as individuals in modern society.