



**HIGH
SCHOOL**
OF DUNDEE

Real
World
Ready

Senior Years



Form 6 labs are helping to develop my independent lab skills, setting me up for a future career in science.

– F6 pupil



Real World Ready

The Senior Years journey begins in Form 1 (S1) where we introduce bespoke STEM Innovation and Enterprise Courses. These courses are designed to inspire pupils to embrace and adapt to the exciting challenges of tomorrow and run across Forms 1 & 2 (S1 & 2), delivering a future-proof curriculum that develops key problem-solving skills within cross-curricular project work.

The STEM Innovation Course incorporates learning across the sciences, engineering, computing and maths, embarking on scientific research, experimental work and design challenges. There's a Mission to Mars in Form 1 and Scotland's first Robotics Course as part of the curriculum in Form 2. The Enterprise Course develops competences in teamwork, communication and listening. Presenting and communications skills are developed along with marketing, as pupils pitch to local businesses with real-life projects such as creating new ice-cream flavours and mobile phone development.

In addition, our F1 & F2 pupils experience a full curriculum with 20 other subjects and access to around 80 co-curricular activities.

With a curriculum of 24 subjects, over 80 co-curricular opportunities and excellent pastoral support in Senior Years, each and every pupil is encouraged to find what makes them tick and achieve their own personal goals.

Read on to find out how we can help you to become Real World Ready.



Mrs Sam Watson,
 Deputy Rector Senior Years

Curriculum Booklets

Available on our website or via the QR links below:

Forms 3 & 4

National 5's and two-year courses



Form 5

Highers and additional qualifications for life beyond school



Form 6

Highers, Advanced Highers and additional qualifications for life beyond school



Art and Design builds the creativity and confidence young people need to thrive in the real world.

– Mr Kerr, Head of Art

Business Education

We focus on making learning real by using context to teach Enterprise, Business Management, and Economics. As a department, we treat pupils as individuals so we get the best out of them. Alongside this, we use active learning, for example games, to bring learning to life and we combine this with activities to develop teamwork, communication and leadership. Additionally, we encourage our pupils to reflect on their learning and to set their own goals. We believe that in taking this approach we get the best academic result for each pupil while giving them skills that make them highly employable in a complex and ever changing world.

Our F1 & F2 Enterprise course provides an opportunity for pupils to work on real-world projects and workshops with local businesses throughout the year, building core skills that they can apply to all subjects in school and in their chosen career paths.

We have an Enterprise Club that runs initiatives that see pupils form their own companies, and we host the Future Assets Competition and Wharton School Investment Competition every year.

- **F1 & F2 Enterprise Programme**
- **National 5 in Business Management and Economics**
- **Higher in Business Management and Economics**
- **Advanced Higher in Business Management and Economics**

Biology

The department is staffed by three experienced teachers with a passion for Biological Science coupled with the dynamism and communication skills to fascinate and inspire our pupils. With three Biology laboratories, each superbly resourced for the biology courses from F1 to Advanced Higher, our pupils use practical hands-on activities to develop scientific skills, critical thinking and strengthen their understanding of the course material. In addition, the separate Advanced Higher laboratory allows the F6 Biologists to work in small group sessions supported by both a technician and teacher on individual projects which they create, troubleshoot and use to generate results. This gives further confidence to use sophisticated equipment to delve deeper into independent research.

The department seeks to encourage a love of learning using biology as a context, enabling pupils to demonstrate excellent achievement in SQA qualifications, but also promoting the value of interconnected thinking and transferable skills. This opens the doorway to a wide choice of courses and careers beyond school, with many of our Advanced Higher pupils moving on to related courses at University.

- **National 5 in Biology**
- **Higher in Biology**
- **Advanced Higher in Biology – Dedicated F6 Lab**



Chemistry

Chemistry is taught independently of the other sciences from Form 1 to Form 6, giving pupils a real insight into the subject from day one. In Form 6, pupils have the option to study Advanced Higher Chemistry, which provides an excellent stepping-stone to undergraduate scientific study. It is taught through lectures and tutorials with practical sessions undertaken in smaller groups in our dedicated and exceptionally well-equipped Advanced Higher laboratory.

We are lucky enough, with the aid of grants from the Northwood Trust, to be able to give our Advanced Higher chemists the opportunity to use equipment that would normally be reserved for undergraduate laboratories. We are very proud of our senior pupils' performances in the recent SQA examinations and the department regularly outperforms the national averages for the independent school sector.

We have strong links with local universities, who kindly help us to analyse Advanced Higher project work. Each autumn term we host visiting fourth year students from the University of St Andrews, who devise and deliver teaching projects as part of their Communication and Teaching in Science module.

We participate in the Royal Society of Chemistry Christmas Lectures, research trips to the McManus Museum and offer opportunity to enter the RSC Chemistry Olympiads.

- **National 5 in Chemistry**
- **Higher in Chemistry**
- **Advanced Higher in Chemistry**
– **Dedicated F6 Lab**



Physics & Engineering

Physics explores the universe, from subatomic particles to cosmic phenomena. Engineering applies this knowledge to create technologies that shape our future. Together, they spark curiosity, creativity, and discovery.

From Form 1 and 2, pupils engage in weekly hands-on activities—exploring, investigating, and discussing. This practical approach evolves into deeper theoretical understanding as they progress.

Physics covers electricity, mechanics, radioactivity, relativity, and astrophysics. Engineering Science includes electronics, pneumatics, mechanisms, and structures. Both subjects foster critical thinking and problem-solving.

Our facilities support advanced learning, with a dedicated Engineering classroom for simulations and pneumatics, and an Advanced Higher

Physics lab featuring specialist equipment like a wind tunnel, Millikan's oil drop, and Michelson interferometer. Small-group sessions build research skills and independence. Pupils benefit from passionate staff and often pursue further study or careers in related fields. Enrichment opportunities include the Physics Olympiad, ICE CityZen Award, and Arkwright Engineering Scholarships.

- **National 5 in Physics & Engineering**
- **Higher in Physics & Engineering**
- **Advanced Higher in Physics**
– **Dedicated F6 Lab**



Mathematics

Maths is for everyone at HSD! In Forms 1 to 5, maths classes are set by ability, which ensures that teaching can be tailored to the needs of the individual pupil. Those who require more support will receive it and our stronger mathematicians will be stretched and challenged. With this in mind, our lower sets are small, allowing our teachers time to focus their support. All classes progress at roughly the same pace and differentiation is achieved by varying the depth of study within a particular topic area. The majority of our pupils will sit N5 Maths in F4 but the course is also available in Forms 5 and 6.

Pupils are encouraged to take part in the various maths competitions on offer, which include UK Junior, Intermediate and Senior Mathematical Challenges, Scottish Mathematical Council Challenge, Mathematics Sans Frontier, plus the Enterprising Maths Team challenges.

Maths is a popular choice for pupils in Forms 5 and 6. In the final school year pupils have the choice of studying three different Advanced Higher courses in maths; these are Advanced Higher Mathematics, Mathematics of Mechanics, and Statistics. Many of our senior pupils use the knowledge and skills they gain in Form 5 and Form 6 to enable them to study university courses such as Maths, Engineering, Physics, Computer Science, Finance, Science and Medicine.

- **National 5 in Mathematics**
- **Higher in Mathematics**
- **Advanced Higher in Mathematics, Mechanics & Statistics**

Computing Science

The Department of Computing Science heavily endorses computational thinking to be used as a problem solving tool. This methodology helps pupils to be more resilient when difficulties are encountered. We are focused on challenging pupils to explore problems through the use of abstraction, decomposition, pattern matching and algorithms.

Computing Science at all National levels has a focus on Computer Systems, Programming (Software Development), Web Design and Development and Databases Design and Development. Pupils experience a broad range of technologies, many of which are relevant to their current and further studies along with being essential for a modern workplace.

In terms of the co-curriculum, we offer activities such as Minecraft to Forms 1 & 2, where there is a big push on teamwork and communication along with creativity. Pupils are also free to use the department at their leisure if they want to work on projects or other computer related activities.

- **National 5 in Computing Science**
- **Higher in Computing Science**
- **Advanced Higher in Computing Science**



Music

The Music Department welcomes all pupils to participate in being creative as individual people and share in the joy of making music with their fellow pupils as well as the staff. All pupils can apply for individual lessons on all orchestral instruments, piano, accordion, clarsach, classical guitar, electric guitar, bass guitar, bagpipes/chanter and pipe-band drumming – 400 of these lessons take place every week.

We firmly believe there's an instrument suited to everyone, and we are excited to be able to guide the pupils through the journey of learning to play. The Department has an extensive co-curricular programme with 29 separate ensembles, including our World Champion Pipe Band, a Symphony Orchestra, choirs, bands and chamber ensembles. There are around 90 separate performance events each session for our pupils to show off their skills.

The Department offers an imaginative and varied Academic Music course from the beginning of Nursery up to F6, taught throughout by specialist Music Teachers. The department has a fantastic track record of success, being one of only two ABRSM partner schools in Scotland. With over 65% of pupils achieving merits or distinction in ABRSM exams, over 90% of our SQA exam candidates achieve the top grade.

- **National 5 in Music**
- **Higher in Music**
- **Advanced Higher in Music**
- **Associated Board, Trinity, Rockschoo and Lamda Exams**



Drama

Lifelong friendships and memories are formed by participation in productions through the curriculum and co-curriculum. In Drama pupils are taught to collaborate with others, to be creative in using their imagination and to use their drama skills to bring to life the stories they want to tell through practical playmaking. Our pupils quickly learn that anything is possible if you put your mind to it! Through Drama specialist teaching in L6 to F2 our courses are designed to offer pupils a taster of specific production areas in Lighting, Sound, Costume, Make - Up, Props, Set and Acting.

Certification allows a further depth of study in directing, design, acting, performance analysis, historical and contemporary plays and theatre practitioners. Theatre trips and performing art trips are offered to enhance and consolidate learning.

The department has celebrated a 100% pass rate across all levels for the past two years, with pupils sitting Higher and N5 Drama achieving a 100% pass rate for the last seven years!

Ongoing collaboration with the Music Department allows a breadth of study for senior pupils in Musical Theatre. A bi-annual senior school musical offers real world learning with the chance to work alongside theatre professionals on stage for pupils in performance and technical theatre.

- **National 5 in Drama**
- **Higher in Drama**
- **Advanced Higher In Drama**
- **National Progression Award in Musical Theatre F5/6**



English

In essence, English aims to elevate pupils' confidence in the use of words, be they spoken or written, to articulate thoughts, emotions and to make meaning.

Ultimately it is the power to express ourselves which makes us human and connects us to others, enabling us to develop social bonds and relationships. Studying English develops the knowledge of self, others and the world. Universities and employers alike value those with strong English skills as such people are likely to have higher level thinking, communication and problem solving skills.

In English, we create enthusiastic readers who use their skills to become engaging writers. Analytical skills are taught at every level and we are committed to ensuring that pupils encounter great writers such as Shakespeare, Hopkins, Euripides and Dickens.

We arrange theatre trips, have a very successful Kids' Lit Quiz Team and are responsible for Debating across the school. Pupils enter numerous writing competitions and we run "The Columns," a weekly newspaper by pupils, for pupils. We often have Burgess prize winners and we have, in the last three years, produced a runner up and a winner for the "Young Scottish Writer of the Year."

- **National 5 in English**
- **Higher in English**
- **Advanced Higher In English**



Art & Design

The capacity to be creative is one of the most sought after skills in employment today. In all aspects of life, individuals are now required to be cognitive thinkers. The ability to adapt and maintain a forward thinking approach is essential in so many every day scenarios. As a department, we try to introduce the Visual Arts in a manner that not only gives pupils experience of a range of exciting new techniques, but also fosters a mind-set that allows them to adapt and look at each new challenge with a sense of adventure.

The Art & Design department puts a large emphasis on allowing pupils to experience a wide range of materials. By creatively working in different specialisms, not only do our young learners experience a large degree of autonomy but it also provides them better understanding of how core skills can be utilised in different areas.

Our young learners' problem-solving skills are further developed through Design projects that have up to date briefs and often real world outcomes. In addition they are often asked to consolidate learning through projects that require skill sets to overlap. This may see them do things like adopt traditional drawing methods when working with sophisticated drawing packages on the iPad, or utilise needle felting techniques when developing character design.

- **National 5 in Art & Design**
- **Higher in Art & Design**
- **Advanced Higher in Art & Design (incl folio)**



History & Modern Studies

The History and Modern Studies Department encourages pupils to think independently and critically about the key political, economic, and social events that have shaped the modern world. Our courses are 'issue based' to encourage our pupils to develop their own opinions and express them both verbally and through extended writing. Classical Studies provides an opportunity to study the culture, history, and ideas of the civilisations of the Romans and Greeks that formed modern Europe. Pupils also study some of the Classical texts.

The department offers a varied and engaging programme beyond the classroom which aims to place pupil learning in the context of the events and issues studied. We take every opportunity to investigate the varied sites in Dundee city centre

and offer an annual visit to the Scottish Parliament. We have also provided the opportunity to visit the WW1 Battlefields in Belgium and France, experience the extraordinary history of Berlin and understand the Holocaust in both department visits to Krakow and through participation in the 'Lessons from Auschwitz' programme.

- **National 5 in History & Modern Studies & Classical Studies**
- **Higher in History & Modern Studies & Classical Studies**
- **Advanced Higher in History & Modern Studies**

Languages

French, Spanish, Latin, German, Mandarin

Five languages are offered within the department with classes running each year based on pupil interest.

Employment prospects and earning potential are enhanced by fluency in languages other than English. Global communication is becoming easier and international contacts are increasingly important, making the acquisition of a foreign language more vital than ever.

In Forms 1 and 2 all pupils will study a choice of two languages from French, German, Mandarin, Spanish, or Latin (with the exception of some pupils who may require Learning Skills support). At the end of Form 2 when selecting subjects to study to National 5 level, it is recommended that at least one language other than English is included,

however this is not compulsory. Beyond National 5, our pupils can study Higher and Advanced Higher courses in Modern Languages, equipping them well for study at tertiary level and granting them important life skills.

Co-curricular activities include trips to view European films at the cinema, foreign-language plays and trips abroad.

- **National 5 in French, Spanish, Latin, German or Mandarin**
- **Higher in French, Spanish, Latin, German or Mandarin**
- **Advanced Higher in French, Spanish, Latin, German or Mandarin**

“The application of Geography has given me the power to change the way I see the world.”

– F6 Advanced Higher Geography pupil

Geography & Environmental Science

Geographers develop the skills to see the big picture and harness this information to make decisions about how we can best live in harmony with our planet. We will be looking at examples of some of the critical decisions geographers have to make to address the balance between the needs of the global population and the unique resource that is earth.

Geography provokes and answers questions about the natural and human worlds, using different scales of enquiry to view them from different perspectives. As a discreet subject it develops knowledge of people, places and environments that helps learners to understand how nations rely on each other and the level of interconnectivity between the natural and man-made world. It is also an important link between the natural and social sciences.

Geography can inspire learners to think about their own place in the world, their values and attitudes, and their rights and responsibilities beyond their own experiences.

- **National 5 in Geography**
- **Higher in Geography & Environmental Science**
- **Advanced Higher in Geography**

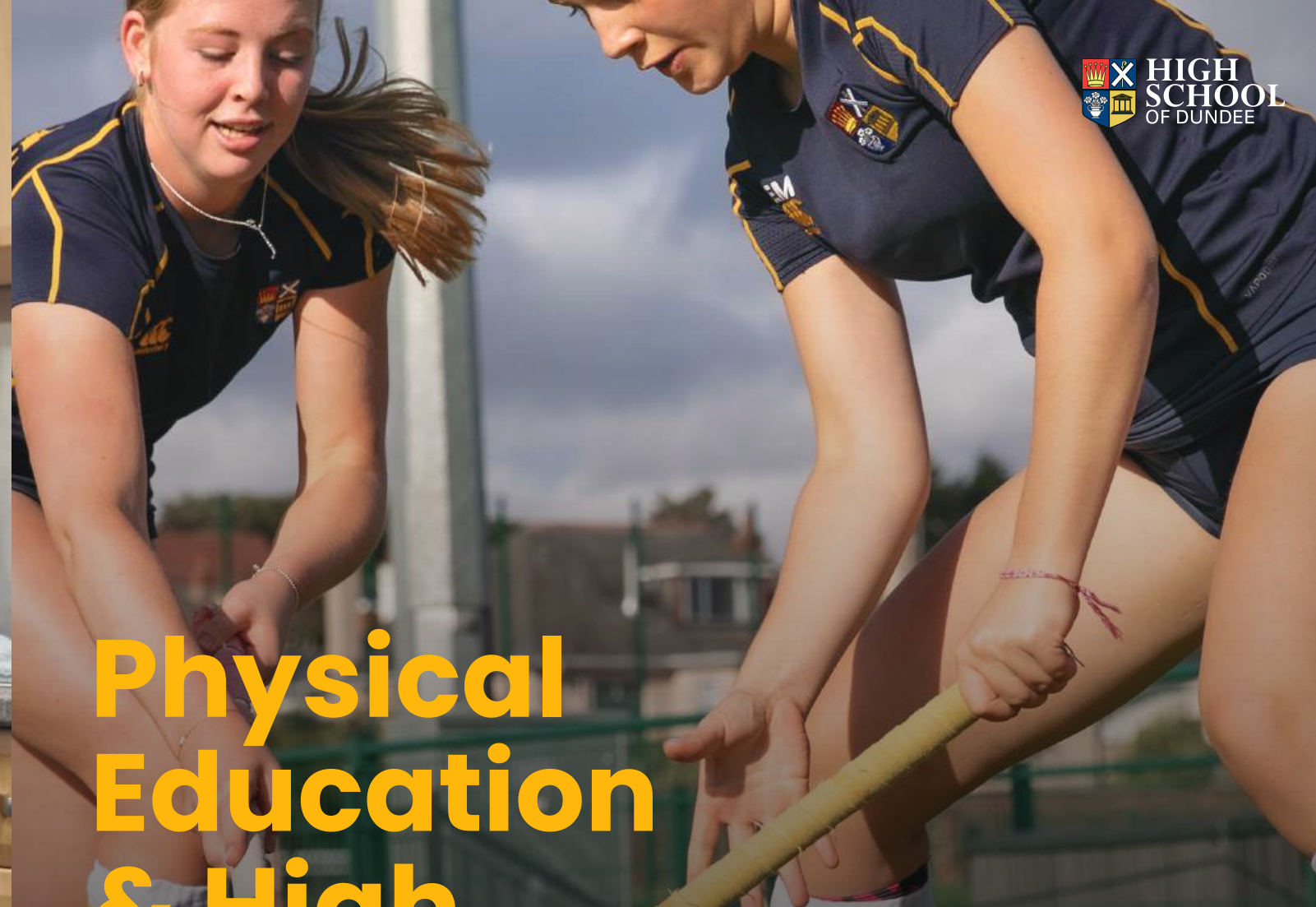


Health & Food Technology

With a strong emphasis on practical cookery, pupils enjoy the subject from L6 to F4. Practical cookery is also carried out with L1 to L5 through interdisciplinary projects. National 5 Practical Cookery offers an exciting and engaging course for pupils in F3-F4 with the opportunity to hone their practical skills demonstrating a range of food preparation techniques and the ability to follow cookery processes in the context of producing dishes as well as obtaining the REHIS Elementary Food Hygiene certificate. The importance of sustainability, responsible sourcing of ingredients and current dietary advice are also addressed.

Pupils are encouraged to participate in local and national cookery competitions and a number of pupils have achieved great success e.g. Scottish finalist for Future Chef and Rotary Young Chef. In previous years we have been crowned for three consecutive years as winner of 'Dundee Baker of the Year'.

- **National 5 in Practical Cookery**



Physical Education & High Performance Sport

Our PE Department is led by highly experienced teachers and coaches, including former international athletes, who bring both expertise and passion to every lesson. From Nursery through to Form 6, pupils enjoy a rich and varied Physical Education curriculum designed to build confidence, develop ability, and inspire a lifelong love of physical activity.

As pupils progress through the senior school, they benefit from greater choice, personalised learning, and opportunities to take on leadership roles within lessons. Our teaching continually evolves to embrace innovation – such as utilising AI powered follow-cam technology to provide personalised movement analysis – ensuring pupils receive the very best support for their development.

The department is proud of its outstanding record of success in SQA examinations, with pupils consistently excelling at National 5, Higher, and Advanced Higher levels. We have also introduced a range of courses that allow pupils to gain industry recognised qualifications such as the Sports Leadership SCQF Level 5 and Gym Instructor Level 2.

For those competing at the highest sporting level, we offer a unique High Performance Sports Programme, providing specialist support to help athletes succeed on the National and International stage.

- **National 5 in Physical Education (PE)**
- **Higher in Physical Education**
- **Advanced Higher in Physical Education High Performance Sports Programme**



HSD has given me many opportunities to explore careers in and out of school throughout senior years.

– F4 pupil



- Gimme 5
- Draw around your hand
 - On each finger put a different fact you have learned about a specific subject area
 - TODAY we will be doing it on INDICES
 - TOP TIP! This is a good strategy to use to summarise your learning. Stick it in another subject revision!

Support for Learning

Our Support for Learning Team is committed to the provision of appropriate and effective support for all pupils who have an additional support need, to enable them to enjoy and achieve in their education.

For some pupils, this may be short-term support to overcome a specific barrier to their learning, whilst others may require ongoing support throughout their school career. In school you will hear our pupils and staff refer to our department as the 'Learning Skills' Department.

Please use this QR code to access our leaflet about support in the Senior Years.





Pastoral Care

Pastoral care at the High School of Dundee is central to the wellbeing and development of every pupil. Our purpose is to support young people to be Real World Ready and this is rooted in the belief that young people thrive when they feel safe, supported, and understood. The pastoral system works collaboratively with all staff, pupils, and parents to create a nurturing environment that promotes emotional resilience, personal growth, and academic success.

The aim is to ensure that every pupil feels valued and has access to the support they need – whether that’s during times of difficulty or in their everyday school life.

In addition to class teachers and morning group tutor (registration) time, you will have a dedicated Pastoral Care and Support (PCS) Teacher to ensure your transition into Senior Years is smooth and provide guidance throughout your school journey. There are weekly timetabled PSHE classes with your PCS teacher and opportunities to meet PCS staff at their base or pop into the PCS Hub where we provide a supportive, quiet space. Peer support is also provided with a thriving team of Wellbeing Prefects who are available to chat to you on a 1:1 basis and lead assemblies relating to key pastoral issues.

Real World Ready

From the very first days in Senior Years, we are helping develop key-problem solving skills and building confidence in our young people to embrace and adapt to the exciting challenges of tomorrow, so they feel Real World Ready.

Year on year we achieve outstanding exam results, but they never tell the individual stories of success, nor articulate the hard work, support and perseverance that lies behind each individual result – pupils excelling, achieving their personal best.

Apprenticeship and work experience opportunities as well as an extensive enrichment programme are built into the upper Senior Years. We hold careers fairs and tailored talks with professionals in industries that our young people express an interest in. All of this helps prepare our young people for their lives ahead, in their careers, programmes, and placements to come. Beyond school, some pupils move on to apprenticeship and internship programmes.

If tertiary education is their pathway, pupils will be assigned a mentor to provide guidance with UCAS, College, Apprenticeships, and overseas applications, arrange mock interviews and ensure they are prepared for the application process. We work with pupils to explore potential pathways that will work best for them.

Each pupil becomes part of a ‘House’ (Airlie, Aystree, Lindores, Wallace) forming friendships that will last well beyond their school years. By the time pupils reach Forms 5 and 6, they will have an opportunity to take on key leadership roles across all year groups and many go on to be part of the Senior Prefect Team.

It is our goal to produce real-world ready young people, who are rounded, grounded and ready to make their mark on the world.



Co-Curricular Activities

Some examples of our 80+ clubs below:

MUSIC:

- **Orchestras and String ensembles**
- **Pipe Band**
- **Wind & Brass ensembles**
- **Choirs and Vocal ensembles**
- **Ensembles for Percussion and for Guitars**
- **Jazz and Rock bands**

LGBTQ+

- MODEL UN**
- CHESS CLUB**
- CRAFT CLUB**
- CLASSICS CLUB**
- EUROASIA CLUB**
- DEBATING CLUB**
- WARHAMMER CLUB**
- BOARD GAMES CLUB**
- CREATIVE WRITING CLUB**
- 'FUTURECHEF' COMPETITION**
- COLUMNS PUPIL-LED MAGAZINE**
- COMMUNITY OUTREACH & CHARITIES**

PHYSICS OLYMPIAD

- HISTORY FILM CLUB**
- SCHOOL MUSICAL**
- MINECRAFT CLUB**
- ENTERPRISE CLUB**
- ECO SCHOOLS**
- TABLE TENNIS**
- DRAMA CLUB**
- PUZZLE CLUB**
- GODTALK**

SPORTS:

- **Training and competitive fixtures – Hockey (outdoor and indoor), Rugby (including 7s), Netball, Athletics, Cricket, Tennis, Football**
- **Strength and Conditioning sessions**
- **Access to Fitness Suite**
- **Fencing practice**
- **Triathlon / Run club**
- **Futsal**
- **Regional and national competitions in a huge range of sports**

OUTDOOR EDUCATION:

- **Duke of Edinburgh**
- **Winter Skills**
- **Climbing Club**
- **John Muir Hillwalking Club**

WHOLE SCHOOL EVENTS:

- **Sports Day**
- **Swimming Gala**
- **Cross Country**
- **House Matches**

COMBINED CADET FORCE

- **Form 2 and above**

Most co-curricular activities take place at lunchtimes. Sports training and some musical ensembles meet after school.



Contact the Admissions team

Get in touch today

admissions@highschoolofdundee.org.uk

The Admissions Team



Mrs Alex McGrory,
Head of Admissions



Mr Gregor McIntosh,
Admissions Coordinator

[highschoolofdundee.org.uk](https://www.highschoolofdundee.org.uk)

Real World **Ready**

