



**Progressing from  
S4-S5  
S5-S6**

**@ Kbt Academy**

*The Options Process*

The following slides will take you through the process of constructing the Senior School Option sheet at Kirkcudbright Academy. We will see the many the Options we can make available to our students, but also the constraints a smaller school like ours face.

First of all lets look at the options our students have with which routes they want to take.

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### ***Your Options (S4)***

At the end of fourth year, you are faced with a number of possible choices:

- You may leave at the end of May 2026 if you reach the age of sixteen on or before 30th September 2026.
- You may leave at Christmas if you reach the age of sixteen between 1st October 2026 and 28th February 2027.
- Apply to Further Education (you should be applying for this now)
- Return for S5

### ***Your Options (S5)***

At the end of fifth year, you are faced with a number of possible choices:

- Stay on for a sixth year
  - Apply to Higher Education (this would be through Clearing if you have not submitted an application)
  - Apply to Further Education (you should be applying for this now)
  - Take up full-time employment/training
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Firstly S4 moving into S5, the Majority of them are returning voluntarily, they don't have to be here.

For students moving from S5 into S6, everyone is returning because they want to.

Because they are returning voluntarily there will be higher expectation placed on the students, with regards to attendance, behaviour and dress code

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## ***Leaving School?***

If you are considering leaving school, it is crucial that you have an interview with the Careers Officer.

You should also be discussing your plans with your Pupil Support teacher and using the internet to research career areas.

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## ***Student Options***

All students entering fifth year should choose **5 full courses**, those students entering S6 must choose at **least 4 full courses**. Mr Henry may give S6 students permission to withdraw from one of these subjects at a later date(August) if a particularly demanding course choice is selected e.g. 3 Advanced Highers

**Students must have 21Hrs of Teaching on their timetables.  
(28 - 45min Periods)**

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Returning students must also ensure they are returning to Full Time study, that means 21 hours of directed teaching on their timetables.

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## ***Applying to University***

You are required to show breadth of study in achievement in your qualifications. This is to demonstrate that you will have the ability to cope with the variety and volume of study that will be expected of you in your first and subsequent years.

For many degrees we will expect you to have studied specific subjects, and achieved specific grades, at Higher. We may also require other subjects to have been achieved at specific grades to at least National 5 level.

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**S4 Option Sheet 25/26**

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5	Column 6	Column 7
Maths	English	N4/5 Art & Design	N5 Biology	N4/5 Computing	N5 Chemistry	N5 Chemistry
		N4/5 Business Man	N4/5 Graphic Com	N4/5 Design & Man	N4/5 Drama	N4/5 Drama
		N5 Physics	N5 Modern Lang	N4/5 History	N4/5 Modern Std	N4/5 Geography
		N4/5 <u>Pract</u> Cookery	N4/5 Modern Std	N4 Science	N4/5 Music Tech	N4/5 Physical Ed
				N4/5 Music	N4/5 <u>Pract</u> Wood	
		NPA Mod Agriculture	Automotive Level 4	N4/5 RMPS	N4 Rural Skills	

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The main overarching principle when constructing a timetable for our Senior School pupils is Progression. Progression from National 5 courses into Higher. The Higher courses are still the ‘Gold Standard’ for our students, especially those that are looking to progress to Higher or Further Education. Especially the achievement of Highers in S5.

The process of constructing the Option sheet begins with the S4 Option sheet from last year.

Students studied 7 full courses in S4, this has to be reduced to 5 in S5.

Regardless of how this is done students will have to make some difficult decisions, it is impossible to meet the requests of ALL students, the possible combinations of subject's students want to study is too vast.

**S4 Option Sheet 25/26**

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5	Column 6	Column 7
Maths	English	N4/5 Art & Design	N5 Biology	N4/5 Computing	N5 Chemistry	N5 Chemistry
		N4/5 Business Man	N4/5 Graphic Com	N4/5 Design & Man	N4/5 Drama	N4/5 Drama
		N5 Physics	N5 Modern Lang	N4/5 History	N4/5 Modern Std	N4/5 Geography
		N4/5 Pract Cookery	N4/5 Modern Std	N4 Science	N4/5 Music Tech	N4/5 Physical Ed
				N4/5 Music	N4/5 Pract Wood	
		NPA Mod Agriculture	Automotive Level 4	N4/5 RMPS	N4 Rural Skills	

First of all we take the 5 columns highlighted in yellow, these will form the 5 subject columns on our S5/6 Option sheet.

We remove the subjects that do not progress to Higher, students were warned about these subjects when choosing courses at the end of S2 and again when moving from S3 into S4.

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**S4 Option Sheet 25/26**

Column 3	Column 4	Column 5	Column 6	Column 7
N4/5 Art & Design	N5 Biology	N4/5 Computing	N5 Chemistry	N5 Chemistry
N4/5 Business Man	N4/5 Graphic Com		N4/5 Drama	N4/5 Drama
N5 Physics		N4/5 History	N4/5 Modern Std	N4/5 Geography
	N4/5 Modern Std		N4/5 Music Tech	N4/5 Physical Ed
		N4/5 Music		

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We now need to clear a column for Maths and English.

Maths and English are put into the same column as there is almost no University course that requires both Higher Maths and Higher English for entry onto their courses.

There are a number of subjects that appear twice, we can only run one class of each higher subject, these three subjects also appear together in 1 column, these are highlighted and will be removed from that column. The remaining subject in that column has only a small number of students and will be placed in another column.

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**S5/6 Option Sheet 25/26**

<b>Level 6</b>	Art & Design	Computing	Biology	English	Chemistry
<b>Higher Grade</b>	<u>Business Man</u>	English	Graphic Com	Mathematics	Drama
	Physics	History	Modern Studies		Geography
	Health & Food	Music	Music Tech		Physical Ed

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The arrangement of subjects we can run at higher is now shown.  
Notice an extra English class has been included to create further choice.  
This is the best arrangement we can come up with which will allow the majority of our S4 students to pick up 5 subjects at Higher level.

Level	Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E
Level 4 National 4	Music Science Graphic Com	Spanish English <u>Pract Wood</u>	Geography Engineering Sci Sport & Rec <u>FutureME</u>	Music Tech Physical Ed Maths Apps	<u>Business Man</u> Computing
Limited Access	Rural Skills History	Modern Studies	Drama	Practical Cook	Automotive Art & Design
Level 5 National 5	Music Graphic Com Health & Food	Physics Spanish English <u>Pract Wood</u>	Geography Engineering Sci Sport & Rec	Music Tech Physical Ed Classical Studies Maths Apps	Biology <u>Business Man</u> Computing
Limited Access	History	Modern Studies	Drama Chemistry	Practical Cook	Art & Design

S5 students MUST select 1 subject from each column (S6 students may leave 1 column blank). If a student chooses one of the limited access courses he/she must select an additional option from the same column as priority will be given to S4 students in these subjects.

Not all of our students want to, or are capable of, studying 5 Highers in one year, what do we provide for them?

We align the S4 Subjects into the same 5 columns running at Higher level allowing students in S5 & S6 to pick up courses at National 4 and/or National 5 level. These National 4 & 5 courses are taught Bi-level, in the same class, along with our S4 students.

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<b>Level 6</b> <b>Higher Grade</b>	Art & Design <u>Business Man</u> Physics Health & Food	Computing English History Music	Biology Graphic Com Modern Studies Music Tech	English Mathematics	Chemistry Drama Geography Physical Ed
<b>Level 7</b> <b>Adv Higher</b>	Art & Design <u>Business Man</u> Physics	Computing Music	Biology Graphic Com Modern Studies Music Tech	Mathematics	Chemistry Drama

S5 students **MUST** select 1 subject from each column (S6 students may leave 1 column blank).

If a student chooses one of the limited access courses he/she must select an additional option from the same column as priority will be given to S4 students in these subjects.

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For our S6 students we also offer a wide range of Advance Higher courses. These courses are not generally required for progression into Higher or Further Education; however they do provide good preparation for further study. These Advanced Higher courses will be timetabled at the same time as the Higher in that subject and the class may be taught Bi-level. Additional periods may be allocated from August onward, dependant on numbers.

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## **Scottish Baccalaureate – S6 Only**

*What are Scottish Baccalaureates?*

*Scottish Baccalaureates consist of a coherent group of Higher and Advanced Higher qualifications at SCQF level 7.*

*Unique to Scottish Baccalaureates is the Interdisciplinary Project that helps you to develop and show evidence of initiative, responsibility, and independent working - skills of real value in the world of higher education and work.*

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### **Scottish Baccalaureate**

For a number of years we have had small groups of pupils undertake the Scottish Baccalaureate, one of only a couple of schools in D&G to offer this.

It is a qualification that students, who are already taking, or have taken, specific subjects can be awarded on the completion of an Interdisciplinary Project.

It provides excellent preparation for students progressing to University.

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	<b>Advanced Higher 1</b>	<b>Advanced Higher 2</b>	<b>Higher</b>	
<b>Expressive Arts</b>	Art & Design Drama Mathematics Music Music Tech	Art & Design Drama Graphic Com Mathematics Music Music Tech	Art & Design Drama English Graphic Com Mathematics Music Music Tech Physical Ed	Students must be studying 2 Adv Higher courses, plus 1 Higher course either completed this year or studying next year.  <b>Mathematics or English must            be included in 1 of the            columns</b>  <b>Students are required to            complete an Interdisciplinary            Project.</b>

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Science	Biology Chemistry Mathematics Physics	Biology Chemistry Computing Sci Geography Graphic Com Mathematics Physics	Biology Chemistry Computing Sci Geography Graphic Com Mathematics Physics	Students must be studying 2 Adv Higher courses, plus 1 Higher course either completed this year or studying next year.  <b>Mathematics must be included in 1 of the columns</b>  <b>Students are required to complete an Interdisciplinary Project.</b>
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### ***What the Universities Say***

‘We state entrance requirements in Highers and we encourage students to maintain breadth of study across at least four subjects at Higher in the senior phase (S4–S6). However, like Advanced Highers, we welcome the opportunity the Scottish Baccalaureate provides for progression and specialisation in S6 as an excellent preparation for studying at University.

If you have already achieved the requirements for entry to first year and are completing the Science Baccalaureate, we will consider your application for some related degrees in science and engineering for second year entry.’

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## Foundation Apprenticeships

Level	Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E
Level 6	Children & Young People		Creative and Digital Media	Healthcare	

The teaching element of the FA will be delivered on-line with the students attending a work placement element 1 afternoon per week.

### Entry requirements for applicants with Foundation Apprenticeships.

We accept selected Foundation Apprenticeships, in combination with SQA Highers, for entry to our degrees. Your Foundation Apprenticeship will take the place of one SQA Higher qualification and will be treated as equivalent to a grade A at Higher  
*Edinburgh University*

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### Foundation Apprenticeships

The Foundation Apprenticeship is a qualification which combines study of specific Units which form a NPA at level 6 along with a work experience element.

It is delivered by the Local Authority, online, along with external agencies.

The Foundation Apprenticeship is recognised by Universities as equivalent to a Higher Pass at band A. There is no final exam for this course.



## **College Academy Senior Phase Offer 2026/27**

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College Academy.

Dumfries and Galloway College provide a range of courses in conjunction with Secondary Schools, these are generally delivered on a Tuesday or Thursday afternoon starting at 1.30 until 4.30, however a couple are available online. Unfortunately students have to make their own arrangement to get to and from Dumfries College. The time taken to get to Dumfries, which would include 3 busses on public transport, means this may impact on studies in other subjects.

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## College Academy – Column E

These courses will be delivered at Dumfries and Galloway College on a Tuesday or Thursday afternoon. You will be responsible for organising your own transport to and from college.

**Applications for the courses below must be done on-line – See Mr Henry for more details.**

Title	Modes	Day
Make-Up, Hair and Beauty Skills @ SCQF Level 5	In Person	Tuesday (Must be 16)
Legal Studies NPA @ SCQF Level 6	Online	Tuesday
Cyber Security NPA @ SCQF Level 5	In Person	Tuesday
Introduction to E-Sports NPA @ SCQF Level 5	In Person	Tuesday
Construction Crafts (Tuesday Morning) @ SCQF Level 4	In Person	Tuesday
Art and Design NPA @ SCQF Level 5	In Person	Tuesday
Digital Media Animation NPA @ SCQF Level 5	In Person	Tuesday
Photography NPA @ SCQF Level 5	In Person	Tuesday

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SRUC – On-line					
National Certificate Level 5 unit	Environmental Awareness				
NPA Level 5	Investigation of Modern Agriculture				
College Certificate	Principles of Animal Care				
College Certificate	Veterinary Terminology				

### Scottish Rural Colleges

The Scottish Rural Colleges offer a number of online course that are available to School pupils.

Students will be allocated a tutor who will correspond via email, setting work and assignments to complete.

## On-line Options

Level	Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E
Level 7 (S6)	YASS	YASS	YASS	YASS	YASS
(SWEC) Level 7 (S6) (Adv H)			Modern Studies History (Germany)		<a href="#">Business Man</a> English Graphic Com History (USA) Maths
DG Connect Higher				Accounting	
DG Connect Adv Higher	Computing Sci	Maths	Maths		

### YASS- Open University:

- Business Management
- Engineering & Computer Technology
- Languages
- Law
- Mathematics
- Science

### Online provision

At Kirkcudbright Academy we look to provide further study opportunities for our students by utilising online provision.

YASS are courses provided by the Open University where students are allocated a Tutor who will set work and assignments while students work through the course content.

SWEC Are courses, generally at Advanced Higher level which are delivered through Microsoft Teams by a Teacher of that subject from another school.

DG Connect is similar to the SWEC, but delivered by teachers from Dumfries and Galloway. Courses vary in level, however these tend to be at Higher and Advanced Higher level.

Students at Kirkcudbright Academy will be timetabled 6 periods per week for each of the above courses.

### Core Provision – Short Courses

<u>P.S.H.E</u>	Where possible ALL pupils will be timetabled 1 period of P.S.H.E. per week.			
Numeracy Level 5	Any pupil who has not achieved a Numeracy Level 5 qualification will be required to undertake the Numeracy Level 5 course, 1 period per week.			
Literacy Level 5	Any pupil who has not achieved a Literacy Level 5 qualification will be required to undertake the Literacy Level 5 course, 1 period per week.			
Core P.E.	Where possible pupils can be allocated up to 2 periods of Core P.E. per week.	Do you wish to take up your option of Core P.E.?	Yes	No
Core RMPS (SS Only)	Where possible pupils can be allocated 1 Period of Core R.M.P.S. per week.	Do you wish to take up your option of Core RMPS?	Yes	No
All pupils will be expected to select one of the Short Courses which will be available from August Onward.				

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## ***Progressing from N5 into HG (HG into Adv H)***

***Pupils would be expected to achieve at least a 'B' pass at the lower level to progress.***

**Table 8: National 5 to Higher grade breakdown**

<b>National 5 subject</b>	<b>Higher subject</b>	<b>Nat 5 grade</b>	<b>HG A</b>	<b>HG B</b>	<b>HG C</b>	<b>HG D</b>	<b>No Award</b>
Biology	Biology	A	62%	24%	11%	2%	1%
Biology	Biology	B	9%	26%	33%	23%	9%
Biology	Biology	C	2%	7%	22%	35%	34%
Biology	Biology	D	[low]	1%	5%	34%	60%
Biology	Biology	No Award	0%	0%	5%	5%	89%

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Senior School Options Evening.  
Parental Feedback

