

Welcome to Cults Academy Parents' Information Evening

Planning for transitions



Introduction

David Barnett

Pathway planning

Kay Arnott & Martha Davison (SCQF Ambassadors)
Jocelyn Donnelly (FA Children & Young People)
Connor Black (ROV technical apprentice with ROVOP)

Megan Stewart

NESCoI

Lynn Brown

Subject choice

David Strang

Pathway planning



Kay Arnott & Martha Davison (SCQF Ambassadors)

Learner Pathways



Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework

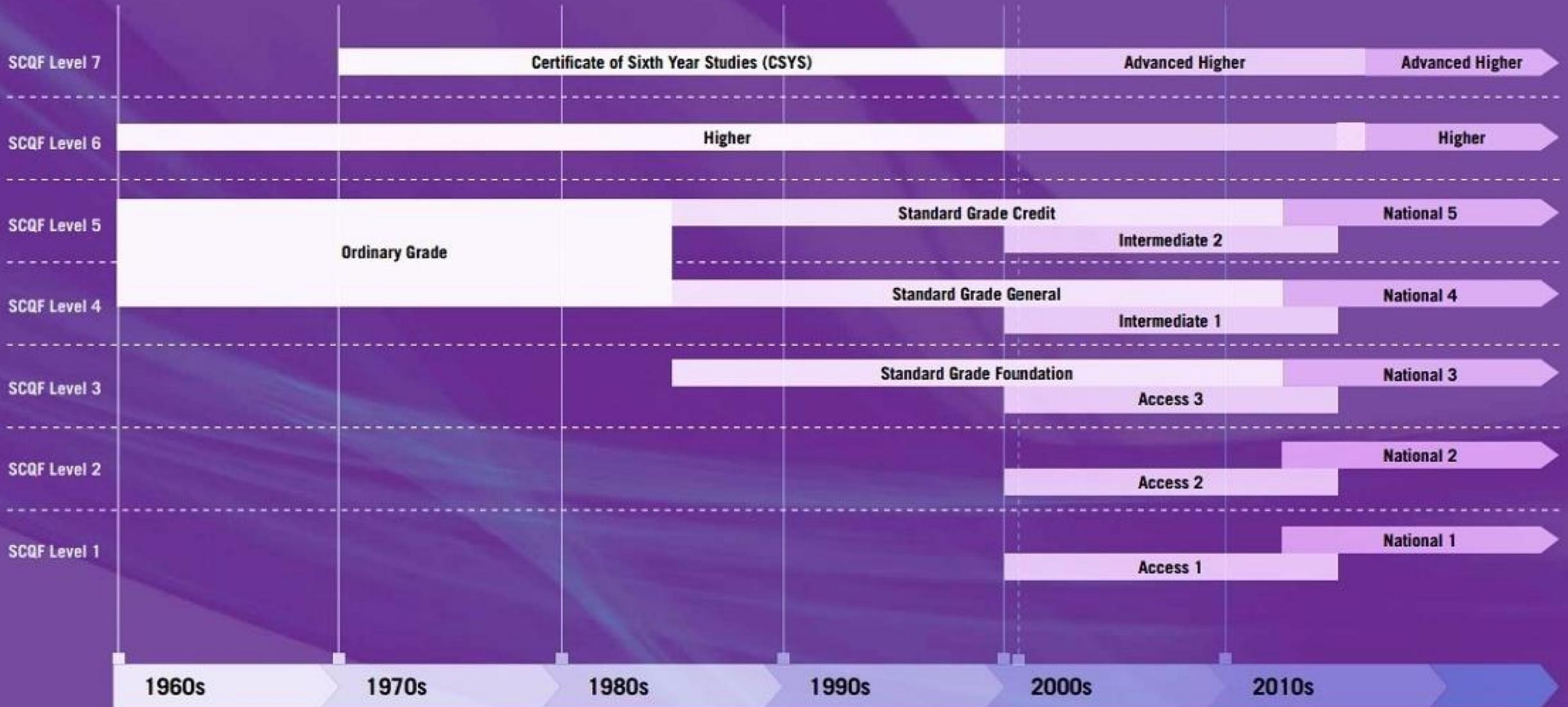
The framework outlines the varying degree of difficulties of each qualification

There are 12 levels – from National 1 to Doctoral Degree

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

SCOTTISH NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS - SCQF LEVELS AND TIMELINES

This table shows how current and old qualifications relate to one another in terms of their SCQF level. The SCQF level of a qualification provides a way of comparing how demanding or difficult the learning involved in achieving a qualification is. This table can be used by anybody with a need to understand National Qualifications (normally awarded at school), for example employers when recruiting. More information on the SCQF can be found on our website (www.scqf.org.uk). More information on current qualifications in the table can be found by visiting the SQA website (www.sqa.org.uk/cfe).



Qualifications at Cults Academy



Pupils can move sideways, across a level, or alternatively up a level

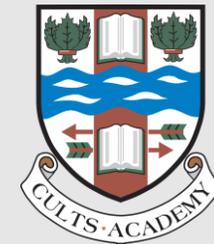
level 4: National 4, Skills for Work

level 5: National 5, Skills for Work

level 6: Higher, Foundation Apprenticeship

level 7: Advanced Higher

Qualifications at Cults Academy



National 4, National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses are taught in school.

Some Skills for Work courses are taught in school and some are taught at NESCol. These courses are equivalent to National 4/5 courses.

Foundation apprenticeships are taught at NESCol.

Foundation Apprenticeship to degree opportunity



University	Qualification	Accountancy	Business Skills	Civil Engineering	Creative & Digital Media	Engineering	Financial Services	Food & Drink Technologies	ICT Hardware	ICT Software	Scientific Technologies	Children & Young People	Healthcare
Abertay University	1 Higher A, ★ 2 Highers B	✓★	✓★	✓★	✓★	✓★	✓★	✓★	✓★	✓★	✓★	✓★	✓★
Edinburgh Napier University	1 Higher A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Glasgow Caledonian University	1 Higher A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Glasgow School of Art	1 Higher A	●	●	✓	✓	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Heriot Watt University	1 Higher A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	✓	✓	●	✓	✓
Open University	Open Recognition	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Queen Margaret University Edinburgh	1 Higher A	✓	✓	●	✓	●	✓	●	●	●	✓	✓	✓
Robert Gordon University	1 Higher B, ★ 2 Highers B	✓★	✓★	✓★	✓★	✓★	✓★	●	✓★	✓★	✓★	✓★	✓★
Royal Conservatoire of Scotland	1 Higher A	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Scotland's Rural College	1 Higher A	✓	✓	●	●	●	✓	●	●	●	✓	●	●
University of Aberdeen ³	1 Higher B	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	✓	✓	●	●	●
University of Dundee ¹	1 Higher A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
University of Edinburgh	1 Higher B	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
University of Glasgow ²	1 Higher A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	✓	✓	●	●	●
University of St Andrews ³	1 Higher A	✓	✓	●	✓	●	✓	●	✓	✓	✓	●	●
University of Stirling	1 Higher B	✓	✓	●	✓	●	✓	●	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
University of Strathclyde ⁴	1 Higher B	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
University of Highlands and Islands ⁵	1 Higher A, ★ 2 Highers	✓★	✓★	✓★	✓★	✓★	✓★	✓★	✓★	✓★	✓★	✓★	✓★
University of the West of Scotland	1 Higher A	✓	✓	✓	●	✓	✓	●	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



Learner pathways – positive destinations



Jocelyn Donnelly – FA Children & Young People

Connor Black – ROV technical apprentice with ROVOP



Learner pathways



Megan Stewart



S5 and S6 provide the opportunity to:



- Gain qualifications at a **range** of levels

The Senior Phase does not have to be linear. No longer the “norm” that S4 is for N5; S5 is for Highers and S6 is for Advanced Highers:

Some pupils will do N5 and/or Highers in S5

Some pupils will do N5 and/or Highers and/or Advanced Highers in S6

Some pupils will opt to take one or more vocational courses offered at the college or at other Academies

- Increase “basket” of Highers
- Show progression

Pathways



University

- An honours degree is a Level 10 on the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)

College

- NC (National Certificate) is level 5 and/or 6 (Highers are level 6)
- HNC (Higher National Certificate) is level 7
- HND (Higher National Diploma) is level 8

2+2

- An HNC or HND followed by entry to university at year 2 or year 3
- If done through a “degree link course” then usually at year 3 after HND
- If not a “degree link course”, HNCs and HNDs can still be used as entry routes to many other universities/degrees but usually at year 2.

Pathways



Apprenticeships

- Foundation Apprenticeship – done as part of normal timetable at school while in S5/S6. College for part of it; placement for part of it. Seen as equivalent to a Higher by many HE establishments.
- Modern Apprenticeship – for school leavers. Can be in technical/admin/legal/retail..... Apprentices earn while they learn and gain vocational qualifications
- Graduate Apprenticeships – apprentices get a job that supports a graduate apprentice then apply to an affiliated university to study towards a degree while working. Fairly new and range is growing. Graduate then has a university degree.

School Leavers Programmes

- similar to a graduate apprenticeship but the education and examination part is done at work by an approved scheme implemented by the employer. Graduates have a recognised equivalent to a university degree. Very competitive with high entry requirements. Increasingly popular in England since introduction of university fees.



What is a “basket” of Highers?

The currency for Scottish universities and colleges (for HNC and above) is Highers

They value breadth and depth of learning

Vast majority of courses at Scottish institutions ask for number of Highers at a particular grade:

- Any Humanities or Bachelor of Sciences course at Aberdeen University asks for AABB
- Engineering at Herriot Watt asks for AABB or BBBBC, to include a Science at A and Maths at B
- Journalism at Napier University asks for BBBB including English
- Applied Sciences at University of the Highlands and Islands asks for BCC or above, including 2 science subjects and Higher Maths is desirable

We therefore talk about gaining a good “basket” of Highers!



What is a “basket” of Highers?



Many universities stipulate that certain requirements are met at “first sitting” but will make an offer of slightly more passes or higher grades at second sitting :

- Aberdeen’s BSc or MA courses might ask for AAABB at end of S6 if AABB not gained by end of S5
- Psychology at Edinburgh University asks for AB BB by end of S5 or AB BB B/AABB from S4-S6, with a minimum of BB B achieved in one year of S4-S6. Two Highers from Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics or Physics required. National 5: English at Grade C. Mathematics at Grade A or Mathematics and Physics both at Grade B or Higher Mathematics at Grade C.

Some higher tariff universities don’t count a ‘C’ as a pass at Higher, so a pupil applying for English Literature at Aberdeen with AABCC at the end of S5 **has only 3 Highers** as far as the university is concerned.

To gain entry, that pupil has to increase their “basket” of Highers.

Because they’d be hoping for a conditional offer, and their offer would be based on a “second sitting” achievement, this pupil should be taking **at least two** further Highers to gain the five the university would require.

Repeating Subjects:



Many pupils ask to repeat courses, especially in S6, often to gain a better result in a course they have actually passed

Repeating a subject in S6 **MIGHT** be a good idea for some pupils

BUT.....

- S4 have timetabling priority for National 5s and S5 have priority for Highers
- Statistics show repeaters don't often do better second time
- Adds nothing to the "basket"
- Often better to choose something else entirely to increase the basket
- Should always be aiming to ***show progression***

What does progressing mean?



- The pupil is gaining a broader range of qualifications to increase their “basket”
- At least some of these qualifications should be at a higher level than the previous year (unless still filling Highers basket)
- If a pupil ends up doing all or mostly N5 for the third year running, for example, they might be better off trying a different approach to learning, for example going to college to do an NC course.



Who should do Advanced Highers?



- Medicine – yes
- English universities – yes
- Already attained what is needed for university –yes
 - Shows PROGRESSION! Universities for very competitive courses will partly base their offers on the evidence that S6 choices provide to prove that pupils are invested in their learning and in particular subjects
- Really love the subject and did well in it at Higher – yes, but must consider ‘the big picture’

OR.....

Who should do Advanced Highers?



To upgrade a Higher..... but proceed here with caution.....

SOME universities will regard a B at AH as equivalent to A at Higher, or a C at AH as a B at Higher

BUT! They don't regard it as adding anything to the "basket"

So, a pupil who got B in Higher French might take AH French and hope for a B, which would equate to an A at Higher. However, their Higher is already a "good" one! If they haven't already got at least four "good" Highers, they should increase their Higher basket instead.



Advanced Highers in S6



- Advanced Highers are MUCH harder than Highers.
- Highers are the standard you are measured by in Scotland
- The “basket” MUST be the priority
- Take subjects you are good at and enjoy

Dropping Subjects in S6



- Rarely allowed before assessment week in February
- Important to have full timetable and not to coast: future employers often use S6 as an indication of employability and ease of getting first job post graduation can be affected by S6 commitment
- Important to learn to prioritise too: making good use of study periods; not taking on too much part time work – preparation for post-school independence
- Only when progression from school is in jeopardy or wellbeing is seriously affected, and only once all support or other measures have been exhausted, will a pupil be allowed to drop a subject
- Pupils will still be expected to attend dropped subjects and do private study at the back of the room

General Advice on Options



- Fine in S5 to do a mix of National 5s, Highers and Vocational courses. Research future plans to make informed and manageable choices as to how to attain what is required over one OR two years.
- Crash Highers must be very carefully considered and teachers' advice heeded. Some subjects, for example Psychology, are always crashes, but others can be very hard to crash.
- 3 Advanced Highers is a heavy workload. Anything on top of that is too much. Consider very carefully whether all or any are required.
- Repeats are not always advisable.

Bob



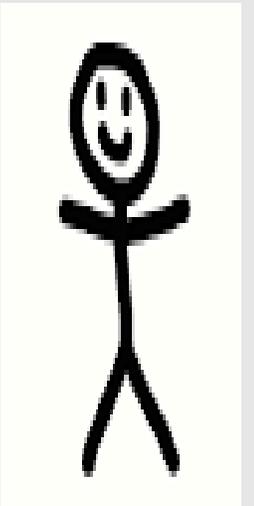
Bob wants to study *Geography* at Aberdeen University.

Bob got three Highers at BBB in S5.

Bob knew he should get more Highers for his basket.
He knew his Bs were good enough.

Bob listened to the advice he was given. He didn't do *Advanced Highers*.
He didn't repeat the Highers he has.
He is set to have 7 Highers by the end of S6.

Bob has it sussed - Be like Bob.



Bella



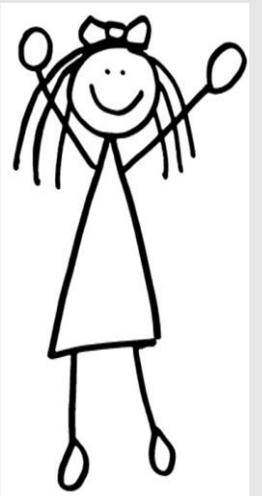
Bella got AABBB at Higher.

Bella has a full basket. She can get into Biology at Glasgow University.

Bella can take *Advanced Highers*. She can become very well prepared for Undergraduate study and prove her commitment to the subject.

Bella knows she has to work hard to prove she's committed to personal development despite having university entry already.

Bella has it sussed - Be like Bella.



Bertie

Bertie wants to work in the building industry

Bertie got five National 5s in S4 and one Higher in S5

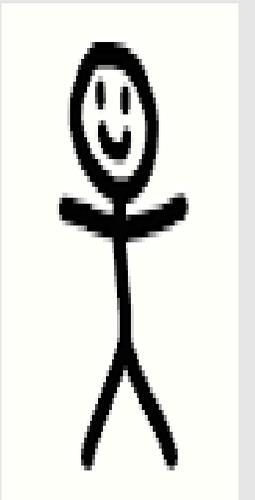
Bertie finds Highers really hard but is a hardworker, keen to learn

Bertie applied for the NC in Built Environment at Nescol. He can get work in industry with his NC or he can continue in College to gain his HNC Built Environment.

Bertie can then go into industry or can apply to RGU's link degrees in Architectural Technology, Construction Management or Surveying, entering at Year 2.

Bertie has choices

Bertie has it sussed - be like Bertie



Things pupils need to start doing NOW.....



- Look at post-18 options
Read the college prospectus
Look out for adverts for apprenticeships
If interested in a school-leavers programme, do some research
Get on the UCAS website and see what's out there/what's required www.ucas.com
- Get work experience organised
- Do some super-curricular work/wider reading – VITAL!!!



Pathways



Lynn Brown: NESCol



Subject Choice process



David Strang

Subject Choice timeline



S4 into S5 and S5 into S6

Date	Action
08/10/19	National parents' evening
07/11/19	Higher/AH parents' evening
13/01/20	S5/S6 course information booklet out to pupils
13/01/20	S4-S5/S5-S6 curricular evening
10/02/20	Option sheets returned to school

Options



S5: Pupils will take 5 subjects + (PSE + core PE + supervised study)

S6: Pupils will take 4 subjects unless they are doing all Advanced Highers where they will take 3.

Cults Academy Option Sheet (S5 & S6)



	A	B	C	D	E	F
Advanced Higher SCQF 7	Maths History	Biology Spanish English Maths of Mechanics	Art Music	Physics Chemistry Modern Studies Geography	Art Chemistry Physics French	YASS
Higher SCQF 6	Maths Geography History Modern Studies Drama Philosophy Health & Food Technology	English Biology Chemistry Physics Spanish PE French Music Technology	English Art Music Business Management Computing Sports leadership (S6 only)	Maths History Geography Design & Manufacture Physics Chemistry Accounting	Art Biology Chemistry Physics French Business Management Modern Studies Engineering Science	S5 Enhancement
National SCQF 3, 4, 5	Biology Chemistry Physics Art Drama Music Accounting French	Geography History Business Management Computing Design & Manufacture Work Experience French Practical Cookery Girls in Energy Practical Woodwork	Biology Chemistry Physics History Spanish Geography Engineering Science Sport & Recreation	Biology Chemistry Art PE Physics Modern Studies Health & Food Technology Music Technology	English Maths	Maths English

City Campus/Consortium Options



City Campus/Consortium Options		
	Tues/Thurs pm – Column B	Mon/Wed pm – Column D
Advanced Higher SCQF 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English (AGS) History (AGS) Maths of Mechanics (Har) Physics (AGS) French (Haz) Chemistry (St Machar) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biology (AGS) Geography (AGS) History (AGS) Modern Studies(AGS) Drama (AGS) Physics (Har)
Higher SCQF 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Computing Science (NESCol) Sociology (Tues) (NESCol) Digital Media (SCQF 6) (NESCol) Psychology (Thurs) (NESCol) ESOL (Har) Creative Textile & Garment Manufacture (units) (NESCol) FA Children & Young People (2 years) (NESCol) FA Engineering – Electrical (2 years) (NESCol) FA Creative & Digital Media (2 years) (NESCol) FA IT Software (2 years) (NESCol) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Computing (AGS) Dance (City Moves) Criminology (NESCol) Sociology (Mon) (NESCol) Psychology (Mon or Wed) (NESCol) French (Haz) German (Haz) Exercise & Fitness Leadership (SCQF 6) (NESCol) FA Accountancy (2 years) (NESCol) FA Business Skills (2 years)(NESCol) FA Creative & Digital Media (2 years) (NESCol) FA IT Hardware/Systems Support (2 year) (NESCol) FA Social Care & Healthcare (2 year) (NESCol) FA Engineering –Mechanical (2 year) (NESCol)
Nationals SCQF 4/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ESOL (Har) Beauty Therapy (NesCol) Hairdressing (SCQF 4) (NESCol) Engineering (SCQF 5) (NESCol) Construction Crafts (SCQF 4)(NESCol) Early Education & Childcare (SCQF 4) (NESCol) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> German (Haz) Gaelic (Haz) Photography (SCQF 5) (NESCol) Vehicle Technology (SCQF 4) (NESCol) Travel & Tourism (SCQF 5) (NESCol) Health Sector (SCQF 5) (NESCol) Laboratory Science (SCQF 5) (NESCol) Early Education & Childcare (SCQF 5) (NESCol) Cyber security (NESCol)

Subject sign-off sheet



Name:							
Column	Subject	Level	✓		✓	Teacher comment	initials
A		AH		Recommended			
		Higher		Not recommended			
		National		Recommended, but...			
		Other					



Subject choice items on school website:

- Course information booklets – Qualifications for the Senior Phase 2020/21
 - Aberdeen City Campus Course Choice 2020/21
 - Senior Phase Options
 - Choice Forms
-
- <https://cults-academy.aberdeen.sch.uk/category/course-choices/>



Finally

Option sheets have to be returned to school by **Monday 10 February** at the latest.

