

# Castlehead High School

S2 Options Launch Event  
14<sup>th</sup> January 2026



Work Hard Be Kind



# Introduction

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- Overview of the options launch event
  - Introduction to the personalisation and choice/options process
  - Curricular pathways
  - Skills development
  - Post-school destinations
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# Positive destinations

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## Post-school transition



- School Leaver destinations are published annually
  - Leavers destinations – The most up to date information available for session 2024/2025 will be published by the Scottish Government in February, with a predicted figure for Castlehead being **97%** - this is an increase trend over the last 3 years.
  - **33%** Higher Education
  - **33%** Further Education
  - **18%** Employment
  - **13%** Training
  - Remaining to voluntary/personal skills development
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# Top influencers on learning and career choices

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- Friends
- Media
- Teachers
- Parents and carers
- Extended family
- SDS Careers Advisers

**PARTNERSHIP WORKING IS CRUCIAL TO ENSURE THE BEST  
OUTCOMES FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE**

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# Sources of information

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- [www.parentforumsotland.org.uk](http://www.parentforumsotland.org.uk) – general website for parents in Scotland
  - [www.myworldofwork.co.uk](http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk) - SDS website with career planning tools and information
  - <https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/parents/topics> - Direct access to parent section, it contains links to info specific for S1 parents/ S2 re options / S4-6 re destinations
  - [www.apprenticeship.scot](http://www.apprenticeship.scot) – more on apprenticeships which have changed significantly from those 15+ years ago
  - [www.westcollegescotland.ac.uk](http://www.westcollegescotland.ac.uk) – West College Scotland website (has courses starting Jan 2024)
  - [www.ucas.com/](http://www.ucas.com/) - University entry system
  - [www.ukcat.ac.uk/](http://www.ukcat.ac.uk/) - all about the mandatory test for medicine/dentistry
  - [www.inat.ac.uk/](http://www.inat.ac.uk/) - all about the mandatory test for entry for law
  - [www.unistats.com/](http://www.unistats.com/) - Statistics and information to compare Universities and courses
  - [www.hecsu.ac.uk/](http://www.hecsu.ac.uk/) - Information on what graduates go on to do with their degrees
  - [www.saas.gov.uk/](http://www.saas.gov.uk/) - SASS (uni and college) funding website
  - <https://erasmusplus.org.uk/> - info on studying abroad
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# Overview of Options Process

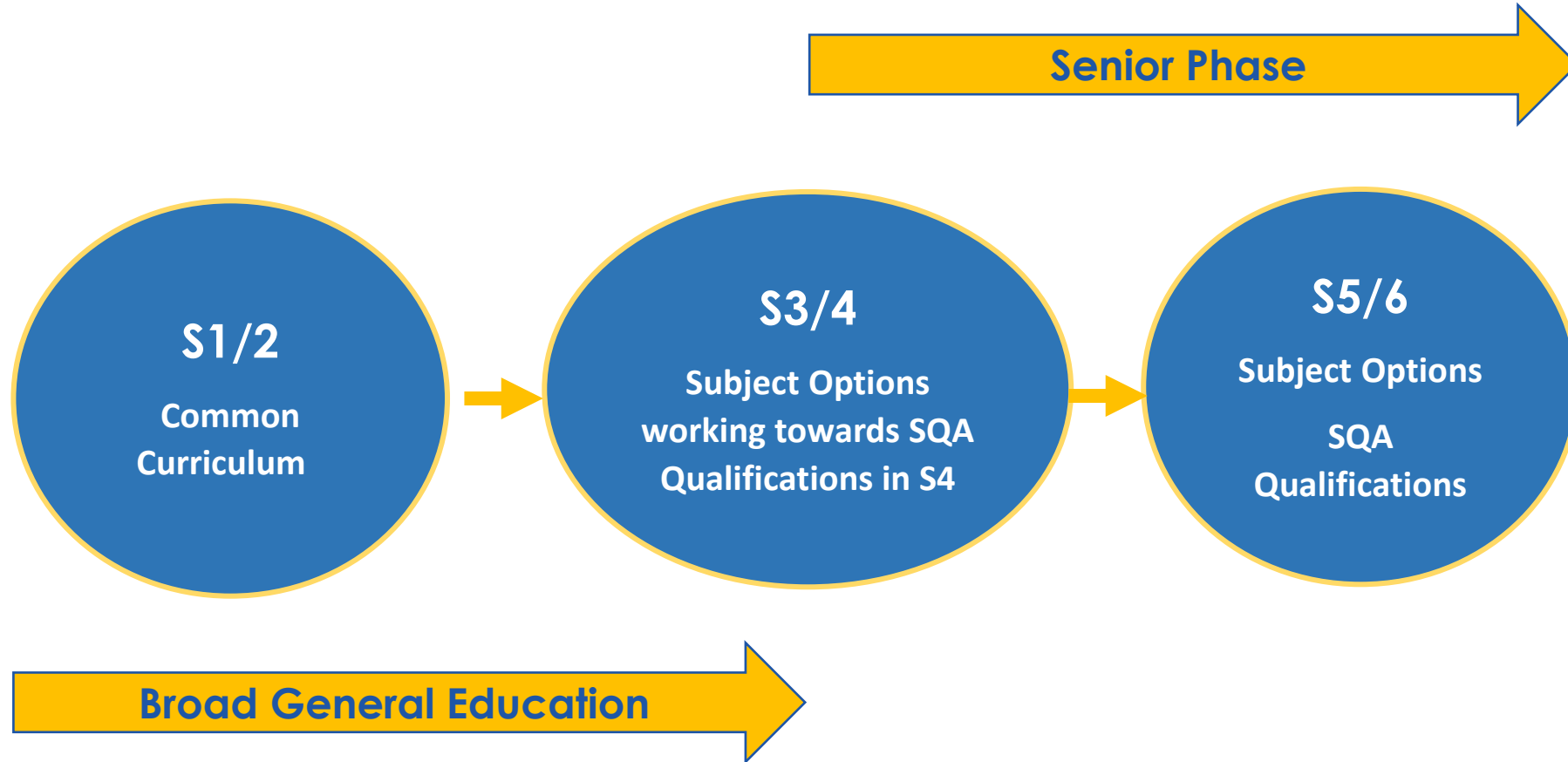
Mr Dunlop  
DHT





# Curricular transitions

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# Changes to Curricular Structure

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- In session 2023-2024 we changed the structure of our curriculum, which mainly affects S3 and S4 pupils
  - We increased the pathways, options and qualifications available in S3 and 4 pupils to better meet the needs of our pupils
  - We Increased wider achievement opportunities for all pupils, including accredited wider achievement
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# What does this mean ?

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- Instead of choosing 6 subjects (plus English Maths and core subjects) at the end of S2, pupils choose 5 subjects
  - Pupils do not have to drop one of their subjects at the end of S3, but instead continue to study the same subjects for 2 year (S3 and S4)
  - This allows for more depth of learning in the 5 chosen subjects and for wider achievement
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# Why were the changes made ?

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- To increase opportunities for attainment and achievement for all pupils
  - To provide more flexible pathways to meet the needs of all learners
  - To increase pace, challenge, enjoyment and depth of learning
  - To increase our focus on skill development and relevance of learning to future life and work
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# Senior Phase Progression

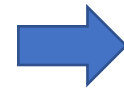
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## **S3 and S4**

Pupils choose 5 subjects across curricular areas plus English and Maths and core subjects.

Pupils will develop skills and knowledge across their subjects and work towards Qualifications and awards in these subjects. Pupils will also have opportunities for accredited wider achievement.

Flexible and vocational pathways will be available to meet the needs of all learners.



## **S5**

Pupils will build upon their skills and knowledge from S3 and 4 in undertaking further National qualifications and awards relevant to their post-school pathway.

Pupils will continue to have opportunities to develop their leadership skills and for accredited wider achievement



## **S6**

Pupils will work towards further National Qualifications and awards in at least 4 subjects. Pupils have further opportunities for accredited wider achievement and leadership development





## S3 Curriculum

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Personalisation and choice



Broad range of subjects across 8 curricular areas

- Languages
  - Mathematics
  - Health and Wellbeing
  - Religious and Moral Education
  - Sciences
  - Social Studies
  - Technologies
  - Expressive Arts
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## S4 Curriculum

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- Pupils continue to study 5 chosen subjects plus English and Maths, working towards SQA qualifications and awards
  - Core subjects; Religious and Moral Education, Physical Education and Personal, Social and Health Education
  - Additional SQA Awards in Personal Development and Employability
  - Wider Achievement Opportunities
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## S5/6 Curriculum

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- S5 pupils study 5 subjects, working towards SQA qualifications and awards
  - S6 pupils study at least 4 subjects, working towards SQA qualifications and awards
  - Leadership and volunteering opportunities to enhance skills, qualifications and experience
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# SCQF - Learner Pathways and Progression

Miss Feeney

Modern Languages Teacher

DYW Co-Ordinator/PL Skills & Pathways



scottish credit and  
qualifications framework

# What is the SCQF?

- It's Scotland's lifelong learning framework – designed to help people of all ages and circumstances to access appropriate education and training over their lifetime, so as to fulfil their personal, social and economic potential
- It helps people understand qualifications and how they relate/compare to one another
- It helps people plan their learning and provides a mechanism for making better informed choices
- It recognises people's learning and gives them credit for what they've achieved. This means that it can support credit transfer



scottish credit and  
qualifications framework

# THE SCOTTISH CREDIT AND QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

This Framework diagram has been produced to show the mainstream Scottish qualifications already credit rated by SQA and HEIs. However, there are a diverse number of learning programmes on the Framework, which, due to the limitations of this format, cannot be represented here. For more information, please visit the SCQF website at [www.scqf.org.uk](http://www.scqf.org.uk) to view the interactive version of the Framework or search the Database.



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



scottish credit and qualifications framework

# SCQF Database



**11800+** qualifications/learning programmes



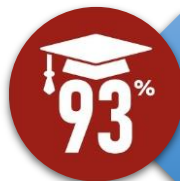
**54** organisations (known as Credit Rating Bodies) have the authority to place qualifications on the SCQF



**300** different organisations own these qualifications



**850** other qualifications in addition to SQA, university degree, Apprenticeships and SVQ qualifications are on the SCQF



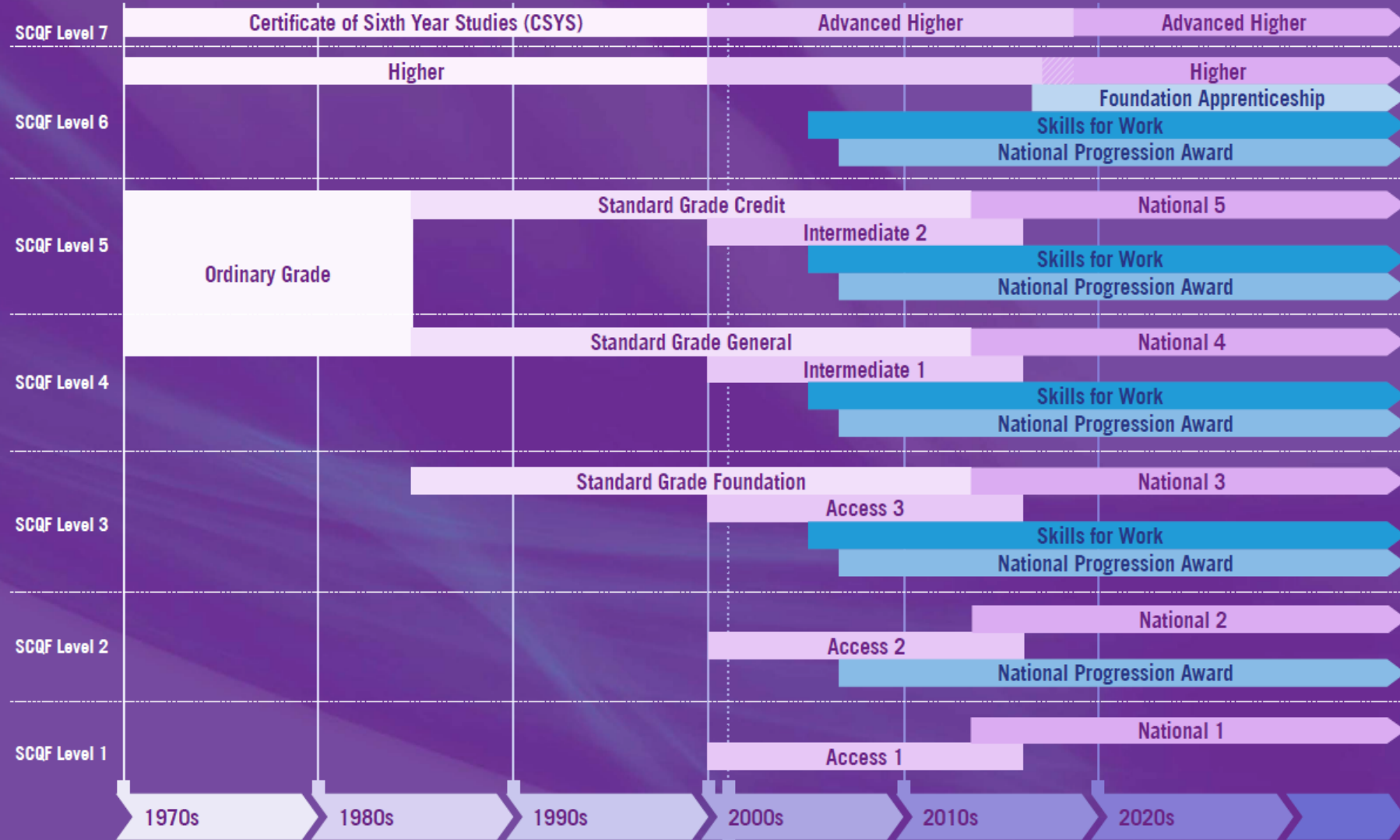
**93%** of programmes at SCQF Level 6 are not Highers



scottish credit and  
qualifications framework

# 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](http://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](http://www.sqa.org.uk/cfe)).



2001: Creation of Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework. All levels are approximate for qualifications delivered prior to this date.

[www.scqf.org.uk](http://www.scqf.org.uk)



scottish credit and qualifications framework

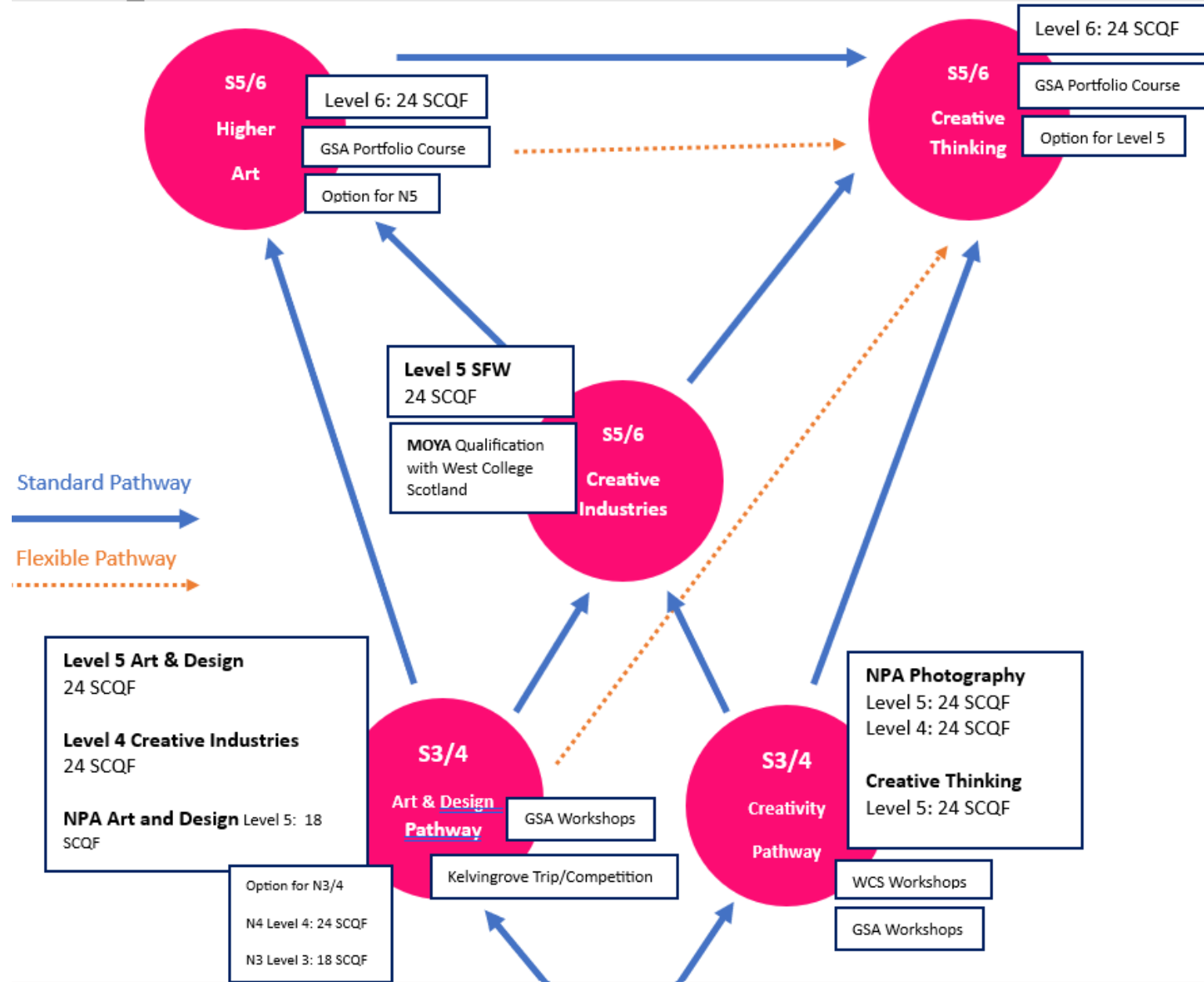
# National 5 or Level 5?

- National, Higher and AH qualifications account for less than 10% of SQA catalogue
- **48** National 4s / **55** National 5s / **54** Highers
- **350+** at Level 4 / **700+** at level 5 / **750+** at level 6



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# Example pathway



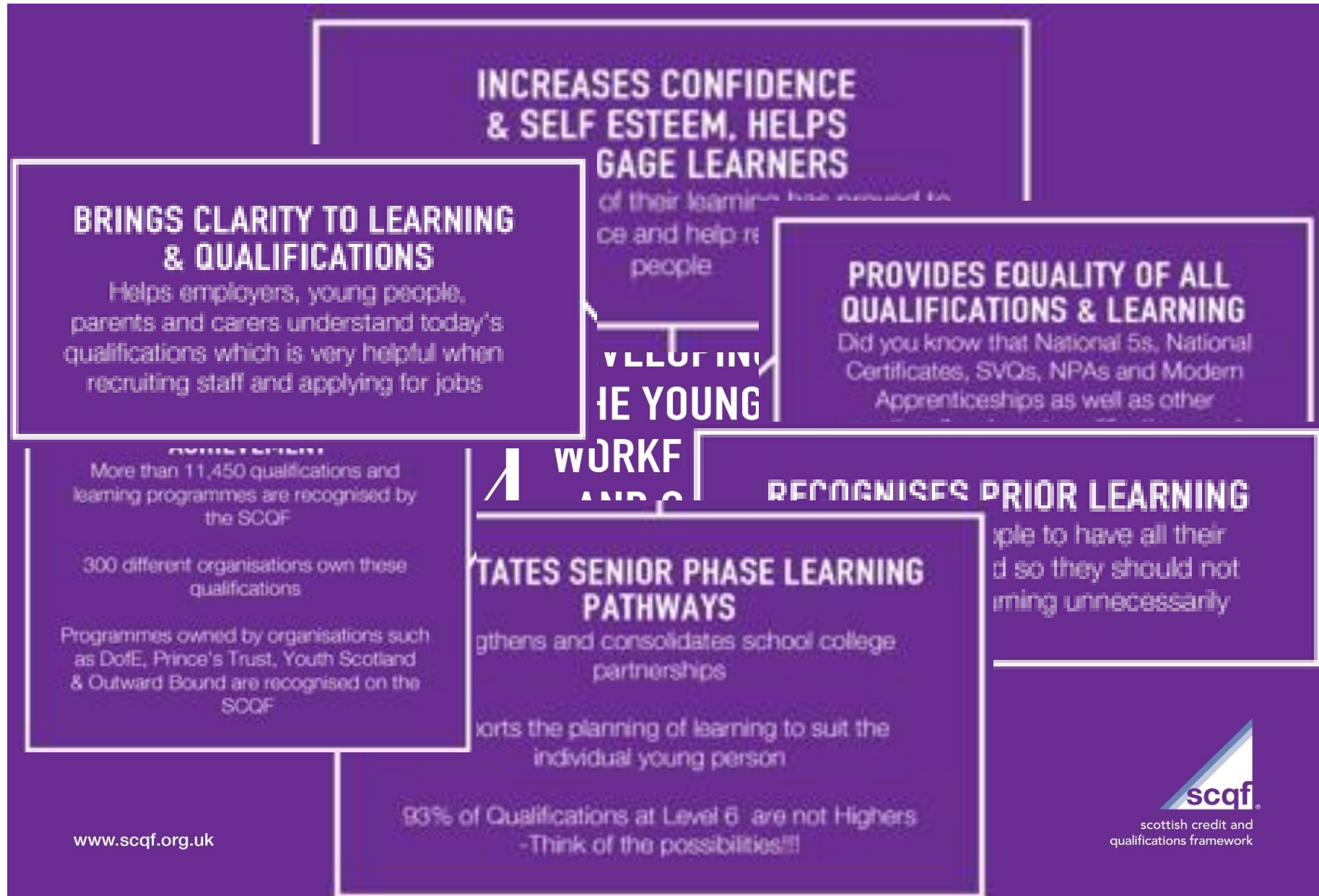
# What else do we offer?

- L5 Photography – can then lead to L6 Photography at college
- L5 Psychology – can lead to L6 Psychology at college
- L5 Wellbeing
- L6 Leadership
- L6 Communications & Literature
- L6 Scottish Studies
- L6 Languages for Life & Work
- L7 Refereeing
- L7 Languages for Life & Work
- (S6) L7 Open University Modules – range of subject areas including Law, Languages, Health and Social Care and Sport and Exercise



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# Developing the Young Workforce



## INCREASES CONFIDENCE & SELF ESTEEM, HELPS RE-ENGAGE LEARNERS

Knowing the level of their learning has proved to increase confidence and help re-engage young people

## BRINGS CLARITY TO LEARNING & QUALIFICATIONS

Helps employers, young people, parents and carers understand today's qualifications which is very helpful when recruiting staff and applying for jobs

## PROVIDES EQUALITY OF ALL QUALIFICATIONS & LEARNING

Did you know that National 5s, National Certificates, SVQs, NPAs and Modern Apprenticeships as well as other vocationally relevant qualifications such as the Silver Youth Achievement Awards all sit at level 5 on the SCQF?

# DEVELOPING THE YOUNG WORKFORCE AND SCQF

## RECOGNISES WIDER ACHIEVEMENT

More than 11,450 qualifications and learning programmes are recognised by the SCQF

300 different organisations own these qualifications

Programmes owned by organisations such as DofE, Prince's Trust, Youth Scotland & Outward Bound are recognised on the SCQF

## RECOGNISES PRIOR LEARNING

Allows young people to have all their learning recognised so they should not have to repeat learning unnecessarily

## FACILITATES SENIOR PHASE LEARNING PATHWAYS

Strengthens and consolidates school college partnerships

Supports the planning of learning to suit the individual young person

93% of Qualifications at Level 6 are not Highers  
-Think of the possibilities!!!



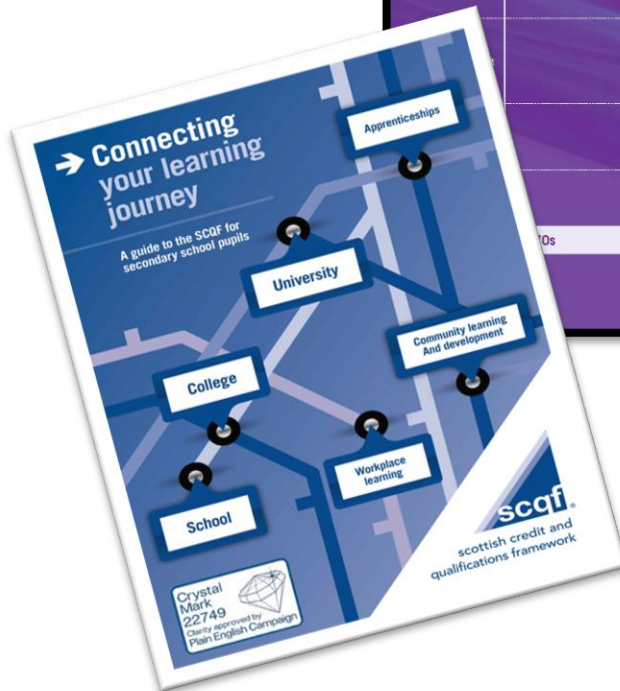
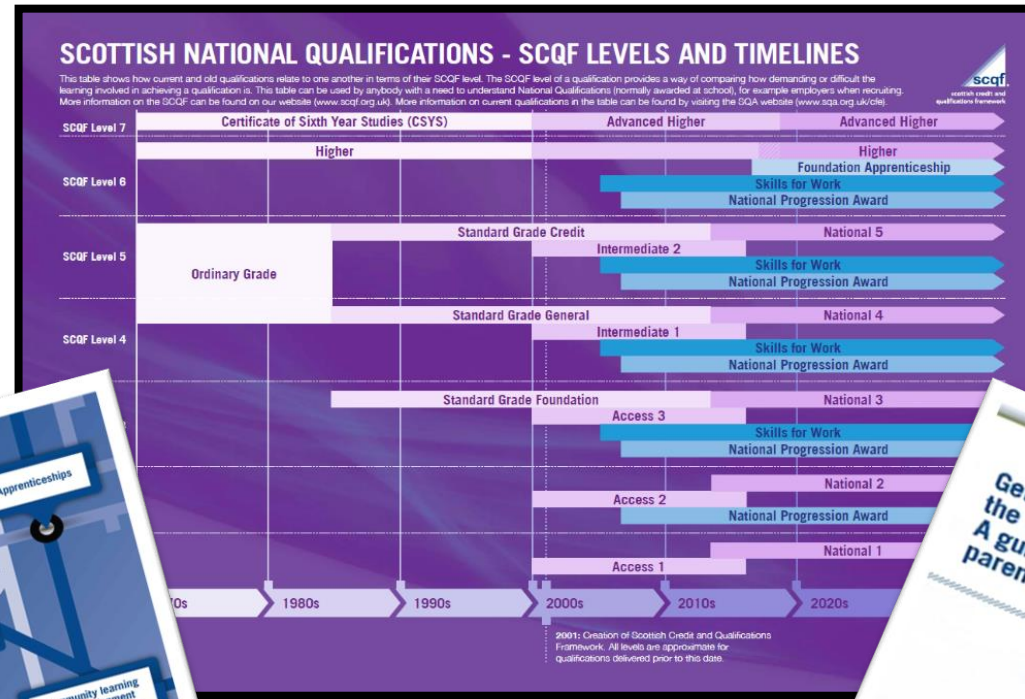
# Work Experience

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- All young people will have the opportunity to participate in work experience in S4
  - Current and previous S4's feedback on this has been overwhelmingly positive
  - Regardless of what they were doing, they developed valuable metaskills and can see how these will benefit them in their future career
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# Chat to our SCQF Ambassadors!

We have a team of ambassadors on hand ready to answer any questions you may have about the framework



scottish credit and qualifications framework



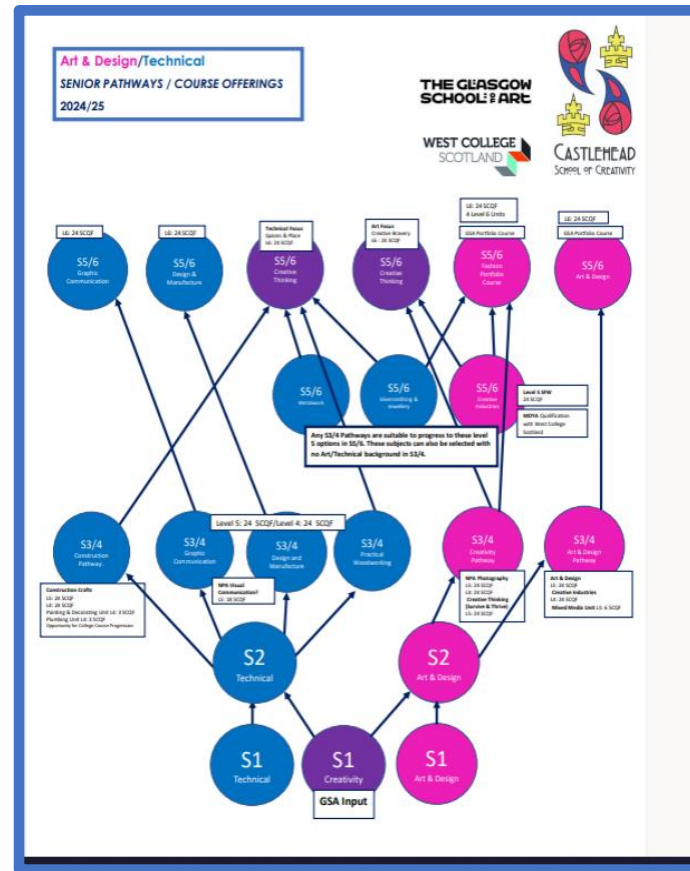
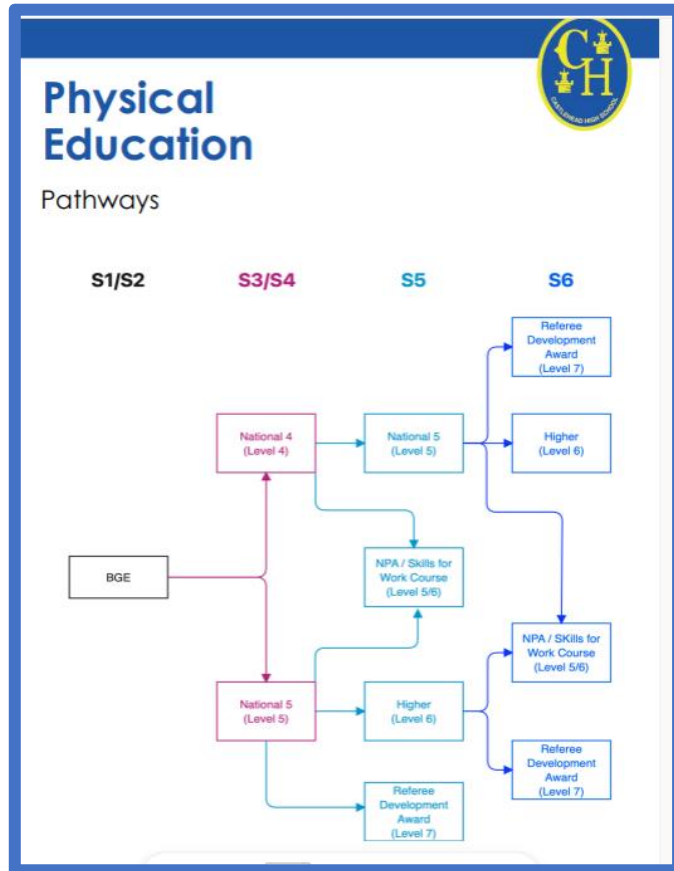
# Making informed choices

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- Aptitudes and skills
  - Enjoyment and interests
  - Progression pathways
  - Intended post-school pathway
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# Curricular Pathways



Each of our departments and faculties have mapped out the progression pathways that are available for pupils.

In choosing subject options it is important for pupils to consider the progression pathway that they wish to follow.

i.e.- if desired progression is to complete a Higher in S5, pupils should choose subjects in S3 that allow them to progress onto Higher.



# Support Available

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- Pupil Support Teacher
  - Skills Development Scotland
  - My World of Work
  - Reporting data and parent's evening
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# Senior Phase Support and Opportunities

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- West College Scotland school's courses and Foundation Apprenticeships
  - Focus West
  - Glasgow School of Art- School of Creativity partnership
  - University of the West of Scotland Foundation Academy
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# S2 Personalisation Timeline

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- **January 2026**- Options launch event
  - **Early February 2026**- S2 Options booklet issued, Scoping options completed
  - **Mid-February 2026**- S2 Options form issued
  - **Late February 2026**- Individual interviews with SDS and Pupil Support teacher
  - **March 2026**- S2 options process completed
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# Communication

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- W/B 02.02.26 : **Options Information booklet (v1) and scoping letter issued**
  - 10.02.26 : **S2 Parents Evening**
  - W/B 16.02.26 : **Options form, information and SDS appointment letters issued**
  - W/B 23.02.26 : **Pupil Support interview appointment letters issued**
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# Options Launch Event

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## Oakshaw House Area/Coffee Bar

- Languages and Literacy
  - Maths
  - Science and ICT
  - Humanities
  - Design
  - Home Economics and Music
  - PE Department
  - Pupil Support
  - Support for Learning
  - Skills Development Scotland
  - SCQF Ambassadors
  - Duke of Edinburgh
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# Options Information

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