

Introduction

The Senior Phase Option Booklet provides information on the opportunities available to young people moving through years 4 to 6 at Dalkeith High School.

Options are listed in alphabetical order.

In addition to full coverage of the more traditional academic subjects, an exciting range of vocational courses is on offer. The vocational courses, some delivered in collaboration with local partners, promote and develop employability skills and are available across the levels.

There are also opportunities to learn outwith the school context, for example at college; through work experience or internships; through volunteering or even by studying modules delivered through The Open University.

Pupils should see the selection of courses as an opportunity to choose subjects which they enjoy, which they are good at and that will benefit them in later life. It is very important that pupils discuss their option choices with parents and teachers before making final decisions. Attention should be paid to school reports; to departmental recommendations and to advice given in the coursing video guides.

The school's Careers Adviser is Barbara Moir. Mrs Moir is able to provide valuable advice about making subject choices that fit with future career plans. Mrs Moir can be contacted by young people and parents at barbara.moir@sds.co.uk or 07887 831027.

Also worth a look is the Skills Development Scotland website, My World of Work. On this website a subject choices tool allows young people to see how choices relate to future careers. For parents, the website offers clear, relevant advice on supporting young people in their lives at big decision times. The website can be found at: www.myworldofwork.co.uk .

Coursing Process

Important dates for each year group are outlined in the school calendar.

Points to note:

- For S4, S3 pupils may select subjects not studied in S3; however, departments will be consulted about the suitability of the course for the young person in question.
- All pupils in S4 will follow an appropriate English and maths course. Beyond that, pupils are expected to study maths and English to the level that fulfils individual potential.

- Pupils in S5 or S6 may select a subject not previously studied at National Qualifications level. In such cases, pupils should discuss the plan with the principal teacher of the subject concerned. Choices will be reviewed by pupil support leaders and principal teachers.
- Despite many efforts in recent years, we have been unable to recruit a computing science teacher. The shortage of computing science teachers is a national issue. Further attempts will be made this session. There is also the possibility that pupils be taught computing science at another Midlothian secondary school but timetables have to work together for this to go ahead. Again, we are looking into such an arrangement. Pupils with an interest in computing science should select the subject but must be aware that there is no certainty we will be able to offer a class. An alternative could be a college course in Cyber Security or Computer Gaming, or the FA in Software Development.
- S6 pupils may only choose Supported Study in one column.
- S6 pupils opting to study Advanced Higher Art and Design must also choose Art and Design Portfolio.
- University entrance offers usually focus on Higher results so in S6 students are often best advised to secure further Higher qualifications. If a student already holds a number of A or B Higher passes and wishes to progress to university study in a particular subject, or wishes to study medicine, it can be appropriate to follow an S6 Advanced Higher course. Dalkeith High School has always been very proud of the success of students at Advanced Higher level and current Higher students will be fully briefed by class teachers on the Advanced Higher courses on offer this session.
- As a result of the Covid pandemic, SQA have adjusted the structure and assessment of most courses; therefore, the course descriptions in this booklet might not always describe courses as they currently exist.

All pupils will have the opportunity in August to amend choices in the light of SQA results. However, beyond August there is an expectation that students will commit to the chosen options for the entire session. Only in exceptional circumstances will pupils be allowed to make changes.

Qualifications Structure and Progression

National Qualifications are available at five levels:

- National 3 and National 4
 - unit assessments assessed by teachers
 - no external examination
- National 5 and Higher
 - external examination

- Advanced Higher
- external examination

Also provided through Dalkeith High School and partners are Skills for Work courses, National Progression Awards and Foundation Apprenticeships, as well as opportunities leading to the recognition of achievement.

The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Network (SCQF) – is available to help young people make sense of all these different types of qualifications and to plan moves in the learning journey. The SCQF promotes equality of qualifications. For instance, Early Learning and Childcare sits at level 5 on the SCQF, which is the same level as a National 5. The courses involve very different types of learning but the same level of skills is required to achieve the qualifications.

Please see the next pages for the SCQF guide for secondary school pupils.

Finally

The availability of any course is dependent on pupil uptake and the constraints of the timetable. This said, Dalkeith High School is confident that a rich and exciting senior phase will be on offer to all our young people.