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# **Course Choice – The Senior Phase**

**Mrs J Hutton, Depute Head  
Teacher (S3)**

**Ms R. Sinclair, Depute Head Teacher  
(S4)**

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## S3 and S4 – The difference?

- S1 - S3: Broad General Education (BGE) = Skills
- S4 : Senior Phase = Qualifications

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# Course Choice Process

## February

- S3 Assembly to explain the process – Mrs Hutton
- Issue of S3 Reports
- PSE focus with Guidance Teachers
- SDS lesson input and a careers appointment
- Guidance Interviews
- Course Choice Information on Website
- Personalisation and Choice (Glow form) return date Friday the **13th of March**

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# **Appropriate Course Choice for Every Pupil**

Our aim is to get the balance right for each child

- Consider prior learning
- Consider career pathway (if known)
- Aim high
- Achieve potential

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## S4 Courses

- All pupils must choose
- Reducing from current subjects to 7 subjects plus Core subjects (PSE, RMPS & PE)
- All pupils must choose
  - English/ESOL
  - Maths/Applications of Maths

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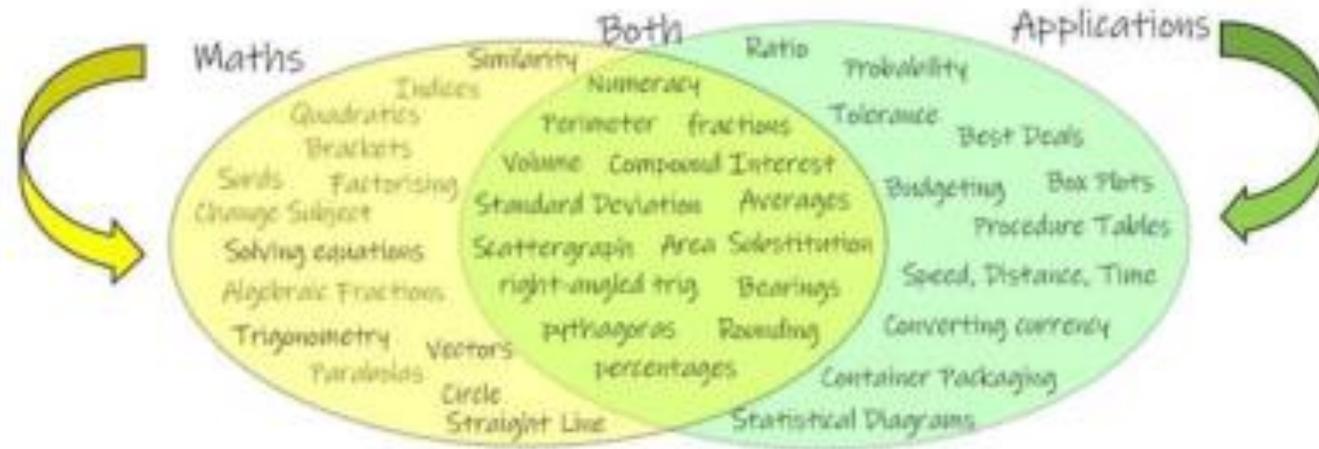
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## N5 Maths vs N5 Applications

National 5 Mathematics focuses on theoretical, algebraic, and trigonometric skills essential for STEM courses.

National 5 Applications of Mathematics centres on practical, real-world skills like finance, statistics, and modelling. There is **no algebra** in this course.



The Maths department have given Guidance recommendations about which course is most suitable for S3 pupils going into S4.

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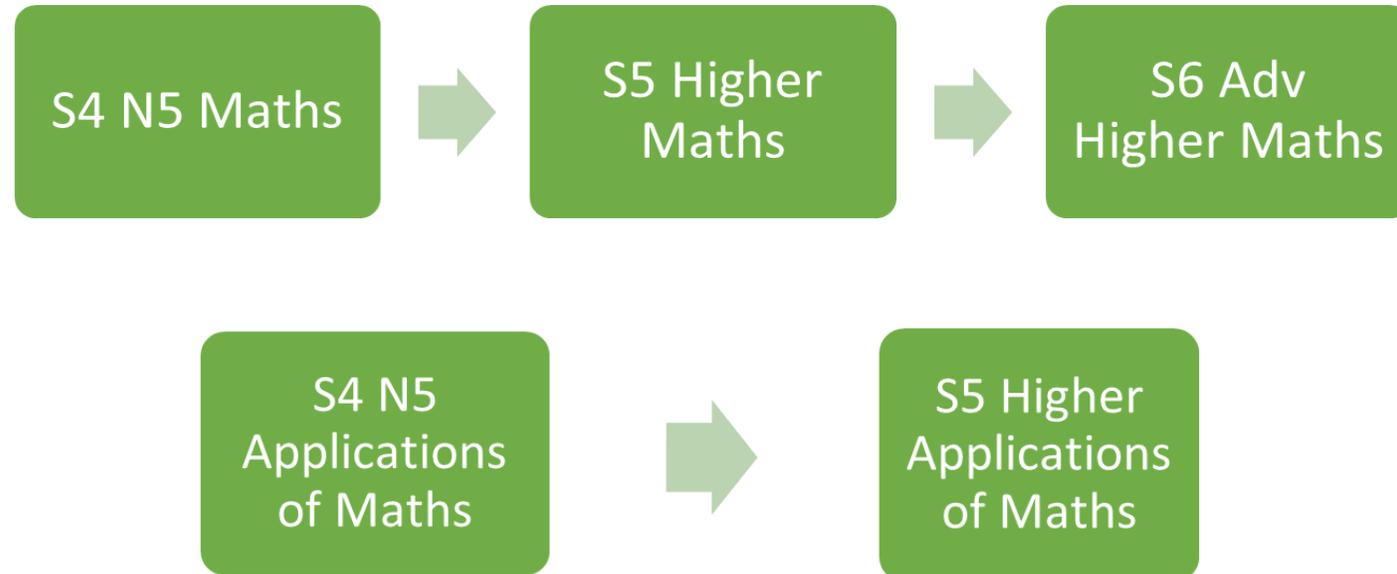
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## Progression Routes



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## S4 Courses

- Choice must carry forward seven of the subjects undertaken in S3 (no new subjects can be chosen)
- Exception to this is Early Learning and Childcare and Media.
- Each course has 4 periods allocated. This includes one double period.
- Core Subjects - 5 periods (includes 1 PSE, 3 PE, 1 RMPS)

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## **S5 and Beyond**

- Many will be expected to progress to Higher.
- Some may choose to study additional National 5's
- In S6, there is the option to add to qualifications by choosing to study further at Advanced Higher or selecting alternative Higher /National 5 courses.
- Pupils can crash Higher courses in S6.
- They may also access the EDC Senior Phase Vocational programme.

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## **Key Points**

- Consider advice indicated within Expected Progression
- Aim is for every pupil to achieve their potential
- There should be challenge to achieve potential
- Consider demands of each course
- Consider career pathway and research requirements
- Consider implications for applications to university colleges/apprenticeships/jobs
- Ensure choices are entered clearly on S3/4 Course Choice form
- Progress to be reviewed at key points.

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## **Learner Journey 1**

- Pupil A has chosen 7 National 5 Courses
- Pupil A wants to go to University to study Engineering
- Pupil A selects:

N5: Maths, English, Physics, Chemistry,  
Geography, Engineering Science, Music

In S5: This would progress to Higher: Maths, English,  
Geography, Chemistry, Engineering Science.

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## **Learner Journey 2**

- Pupil B has chosen 3 N4 courses and 4 N5 Courses
- Pupil B does not have firm idea about career path.
- Pupil B selects: N5: English, Administration, Modern Studies, Practical Woodwork  
N4: Applications of Maths, Biology, Spanish

In S5: Progress to Higher English,  
Continue to National 5 Applications of Maths and Spanish  
Choose Health Sector as a progression from N4 Biology  
Apply for EDC Senior Phase partnership.

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## S4 Course Personalisation and Choice Form 2026/2027

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guid Group: \_\_\_\_\_

- You must choose one option from all 7 columns (A-G). Circle your choice.
- In each column (A-F) pupils choose either a subject in row 1 (SCQF Level 5/National 5) **OR** row 2 (SCQF Level 4/National 4). Choices can include different levels but you can only have one choice in each column. (For example: 4 National 5s from Col A-D and 3 N4's from Col E -G.)
- If there is a problem noted in the problem box, indicate a 2<sup>nd</sup> choice in the column in case the problem cannot be resolved. Mark it (2<sup>nd</sup>) and explain below.
- When indicating a choice, please note classes will only run where staffing and numbers are viable.



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
<b>1.</b>  <b>SCQF Level 5/National 5</b>	English ESOL	Maths Applications of Maths	Art & Design Biology French Geography History Music Physical Education Kings Trust XL	Biology Business Management Early Learning and Childcare History Graphic Communication Practical Cookery RMPS Spanish	Art & Design Business Management Chemistry Engineering Science Health and Food Technology Modern Studies Music Technology Practical Woodwork	Accounts Administration Computing Modern Studies Physical Education Physics Practical Woodwork Spanish	Chemistry Dance French Geography Media Physics Practical Cookery Kings Trust XL
<b>2.</b>  <b>SCQF Level 4/National 4</b>	English ESOL	Applications of Maths	History Music Physical Education Kings Trust XL	Biology Business Management Graphic Communication Practical Cookery RMPS	Art & Design Engineering Science Health and Food Technology Music Technology Practical Woodwork	Administration Computing Modern Studies Spanish	Chemistry French Geography Physics Kings Trust XL
<b>Unable to choose a subject you want to take?</b> Please write subject in the next box and detail the clash preventing choice.							
PT Guidance Signature: - _____				Parent Signature: _____  Date: _____		Pupil Signature: _____  Date: _____	
Comment:							

Return date: Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026

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## How to complete the Glow form

### 6. Column C - subject \*

- National 5 Art and Design
- National 5 Biology
- National 5 French
- National 5 Geography
- National 5 History
- National 5 Music
- National 5 PE
- Kings Trust XL
- National 4 History
- National 4 Music
- National 4 PE

### 11. Please detail any problems with subject choice

Enter your answer

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## **What should pupils expect?**

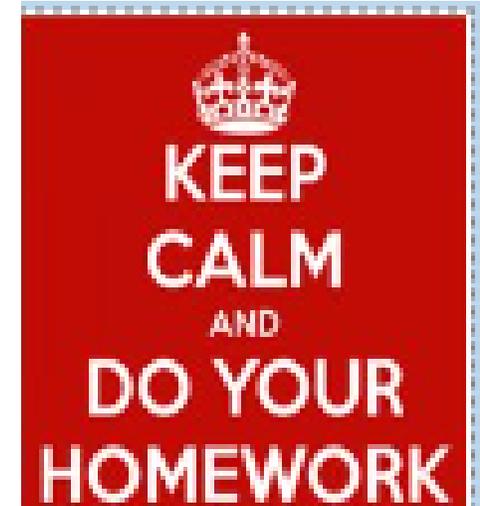
- Appropriate pace and challenge
- Double periods
- Increased workload
- Homework
- Deadlines
- Assessment
- Exam diet - May 2027



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## **How are pupils supported?**

- Subject outlines/assessment dates
- 'The S.4 Guide to Homework'
- Regular class assessments
- Information on Teams
- Monitoring and Tracking  
(Subject teachers, Guidance, Reports)
- Supported Study
- SQA Parent Information Evening (Nov)

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## How can you help?

- Discuss homework/deadlines/prelims/assignments....
- Support attendance/time-keeping
- Encourage extra-curricular involvement
- Liaise with the school



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