

## James Gillespie's High School – S4 into S5 Subject Choice 2026



The following are core subjects during S5:

- PSE (1 period)
- Core PE (1 period)
- S5 activity/leadership (1 period - this replaces core RME)

These will automatically be added to your timetable.



You will need to choose **5 subjects** from the table below.

This should be at the appropriate level e.g:  
Higher/ Level 6 English if you are on course to pass Nat. 5/ level 5/ English at A – C grades, Nat. 5/ level 5 Biology if you are presented for Nat. 4/ level 4 Biology in S4 etc.



### SCHOOL COURSE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To choose a subject at Higher/level 6 in S5, **pupils must meet the entry requirements**. Pupils who are not on track to achieve this will be advised to choose an alternative subject by their Pupil Support Leader at their individual coursing discussion conducted during January/February 2026. PSLs will use attainment tracking, reports and evidence of progress when discussing appropriate courses. Entry requirements for a Higher/level 6 course of study are:

- Grade A or B at National 5/Level 5 in the same or closely related subject (e.g. For H Engineering Science, A or B at N5 Physics would be considered)
- Grade C will be considered on an individual basis after consultation with your PSL and the Curricular Leader.

Grade D or lower will not be permitted entry to a Higher/level 6 course of study due to the increased challenge at this level. More information on SQA exam progression statistics from Nat. 5 to Higher can be found on the Progression Tables: [found here](#)

### Additional information:

- Please thoroughly research the content and detail for each course in Section 4 of 'S4 and S5 Course Choice and Pathways 2026' booklet.
- You must ensure you have met the entry requirements before choosing your courses.
- You must let your PSL know if you are considering leaving school at the end of this academic session. (May 2026)
- Course choices will be made using the online system TOOLS – your PSL will enter your subject choices into this after a coursing discussion with you.
- Deadline for course choice is **Friday 13th February 2026**. If you do not submit choices by then, you may be allocated subjects not of your own choosing.

**Please note that the school may need to amend or remove any of the courses listed below due to pupil uptake or staffing capacity. If this occurs, reserve subjects will be used.**



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Qualification Level	School Based Subjects			
SCQF Level 4 National 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>English</li><li>Mathematics</li></ul>			
SCQF Level 5  National 5  National Progression Award (NPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Art and Design</li><li>Application of Maths</li><li>Biology</li><li>Chemistry</li><li>Communication and Literature (English)</li><li>Computing Science</li><li>Computer Games Development</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Creative Thinking Cyber Security</li><li>Dance</li><li>English</li><li>French</li><li>German</li><li>Graphic Communication</li><li>Laboratory Science</li><li>Leadership in Languages</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mandarin</li><li>Mathematics</li><li>Mental Health and Wellbeing</li><li>Media Studies</li><li>Music</li><li>Music Technology</li><li>Numeracy/Personal Finance</li><li>Physical Education</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Physics</li><li>Practical Cake Craft</li><li>Scottish Studies</li><li>Sociology</li><li>Spanish</li><li>Sports Coaching</li><li>Travel and Tourism</li></ul>
SCQF Level 6  Higher  National Progression Award (NPA)  Foundation Apprenticeship (FA) - 1 year course  * Level 7 course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>H Art and Design or A - Level Art over 2 years*</li><li>Application of Maths</li><li>Biology</li><li>Business</li><li>Chemistry</li><li>Classical Studies</li><li>Communication and Literature (English)</li><li>Computing Science</li><li>Creative Thinking</li><li>Creative and Digital Media F.A. (at Screen Education Edinburgh)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Dance</li><li>Drama</li><li>Engineering Science</li><li>English</li><li>Environmental Science</li><li>ESOL</li><li>French</li><li>Gàidhlig</li><li>Geography</li><li>German</li><li>Graphic Communication</li><li>History</li><li>Human Biology</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Journalism</li><li>Powering Futures/Leadership &amp; Achievement award</li><li>Mandarin</li><li>Mathematics</li><li>Media Studies</li><li>Modern Studies</li><li>Music</li><li>Music Technology</li><li>Philosophy</li><li>Physical Education</li><li>Physics</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Product Design &amp; Manufacture</li><li>Psychology</li><li>RMPS</li><li>Scientific Technologies</li><li>Social Services, Children and Young People F.A.</li><li>Spanish</li><li>Sports Coaching</li><li>Sustainability diploma (at other school)</li></ul>
EDINBURGH COLLEGE COURSES:  Schools College Partnership (S.C.P.) and 2-year Foundation Apprenticeship	<p>You may also apply for other Foundation Apprenticeships (studied over 2 years during S5 and S6) at college or a Schools College Partnership course as one of your options.</p> <p>Edinburgh College offer many other courses and pathways from level 5 upwards - please use the link below for the courses on offer for 2026. This is currently being updated but all 2026 courses will be finalised by the end of January and information shared with pupils and parents/carers.</p> <p><b>S.C.P. and college F.A. courses will be timetabled for Tuesday &amp; Thursday afternoons - pupils will need to travel to the relevant campus.</b></p> <p>Applications MUST be made separately (online by you) at <a href="https://www.edinburghcollege.ac.uk/courses/for-school-pupils">https://www.edinburghcollege.ac.uk/courses/for-school-pupils</a></p> <p>Please let your Pupil Support Leader know if you are interested in applying for a college F.A. or S.C.P. course when submitting your choices with them.</p> <p>Please refer to the course information on the college website and, if interested, select ‘College’ on the course choice form on TOOLS.</p>			