

**NURTURING
BIG
AMBITIONS**



Drummond

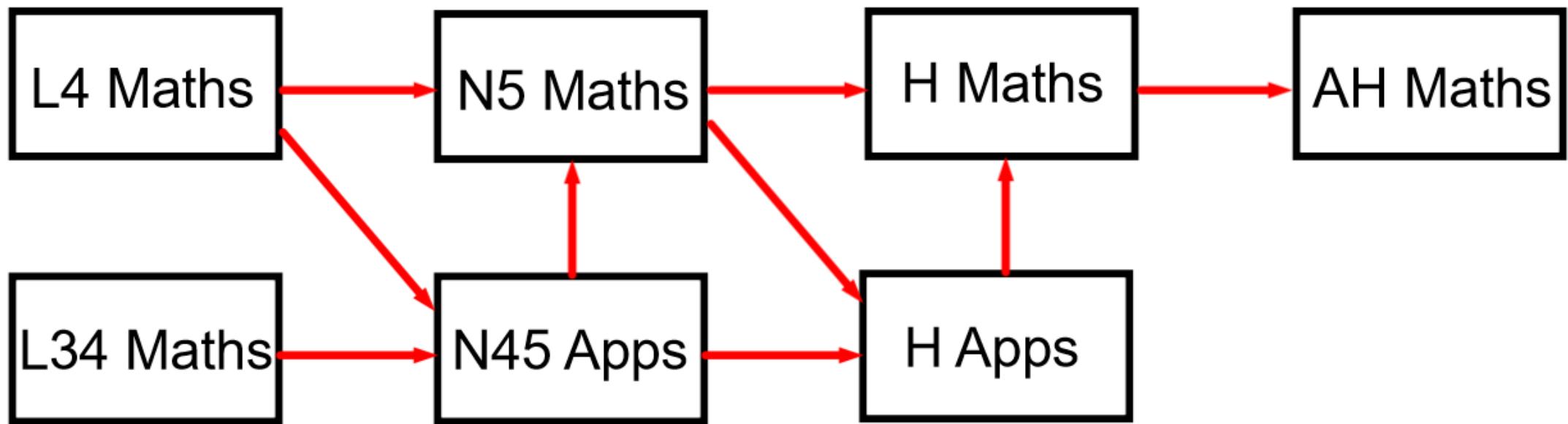
COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

Our core values:

Commitment, Opportunity, Respect, Equity.

Drummond Community High
School
Maths Faculty
Mr Steel

Curricular Pathways



S1-S3 will help us see the strengths of pupils

Assessment – particularly in algebra – will help determine the best course choice from S3 into S4

S4 – we try to maximise the chance of a 'Level 5' award in Maths

S5/6 – pupils can continue their pathway up to 'Level 6'

S1-2 Courses

S1 & S2

- August to October – numeracy skills
- October to December – algebra skills
- January to April – geometry skills
- May – finance skills
- Classes set in terms of skills and abilities
- Some classes will work faster through the experiences and outcomes of CfE Maths at 3rd & 4th level in S1 and S2, allowing for more depth and challenge in topics
- Some classes will need to consolidate skills and work through the experiences and outcomes of CfE Maths at 2nd & 3rd level in S1 and S2

S3 Courses

- Classes are all set at the beginning of S3 based on S1 and S2 performance
- The courses are kept the same until February of S3
- Pupils start the preparatory work for their chosen S4 pathway in Maths after February

S3

- June to October – numeracy skills
- October to December – algebra skills
- January – statistical skills

*****COURSE CHOICE*****

- February to April – geometry skills for N5 Maths or Apps of Maths
- May – trigonometry skills for N5 Maths or finance skills for Apps of Maths

What is the difference?

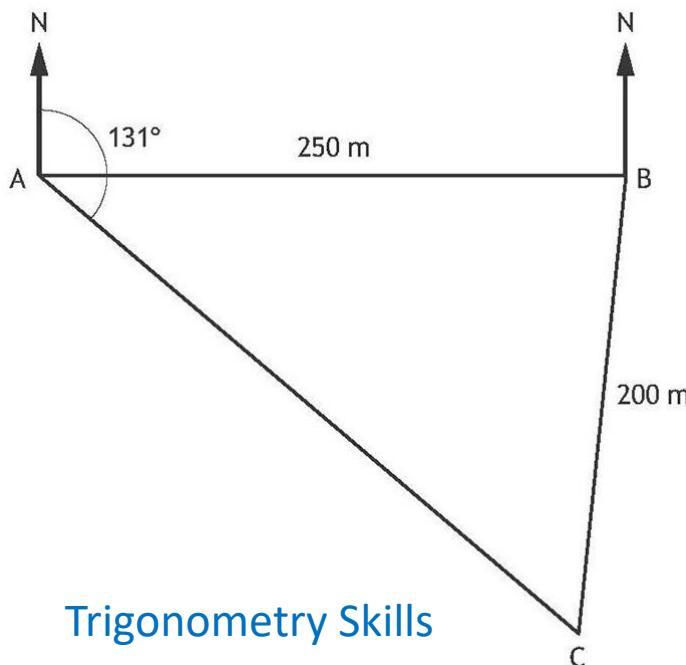
- **National 5 Mathematics**
- pure maths (algebra, geometry & trigonometry)
- essential for further Maths study (eg physics, chemistry, biology, computing, engineering etc)
- Knowledge-based questions (do this, show this etc)
- More than 80% of the questions contain algebraic skills
- **National 5 Applications of Mathematics**
- real-world maths (finance, statistics, numeracy), without the algebra
- useful for business, accountancy, data science etc
- Skills-based questions (using knowledge in real-life situations)
- Only about 10-20% of questions contain algebraic skills

What about the exams?

- **National 5 Mathematics**
 - Two papers – non-calculator and calculator
 - Final mark based entirely on this final exam
- **National 5 Applications of Mathematics**
 - Two papers – non-calculator and calculator
 - Final mark based entirely on this final exam
- **Higher Mathematics**
 - Two papers – non-calculator and calculator
 - Final mark based entirely on this final exam
- **Higher Application of Mathematics**
 - One exam paper and a project
 - Exam is approximately 70%, project approximately 30%

Sample N5 Maths Questions

In the diagram A, B and C represent the positions of three checkpoints in an



- B is 250 metres **east** of A.
- The bearing of C from A is 131° .
- C is 200 metres from B.

Calculate the bearing of C from B.

Do not use a scale drawing.

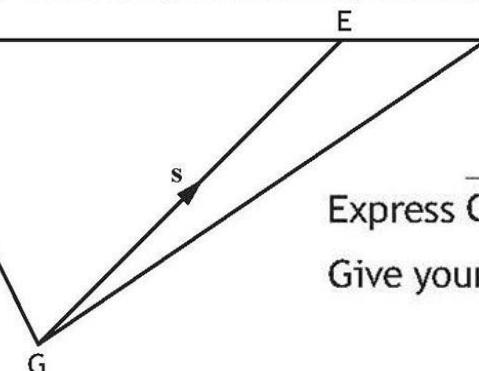
Algebra Skills

Expand and simplify $(x+3)(x+5)+4(x-2)$.

Solve the equation $\frac{5x+1}{2} = \frac{4x}{3} + 1$.

In the diagram, \vec{DG} and \vec{GE} are represented by the vectors \mathbf{r} and \mathbf{s} respectively, and $\vec{DE} = 3\vec{EF}$.

Geometry Skills



Express \vec{GF} in terms of \mathbf{r} and \mathbf{s} .

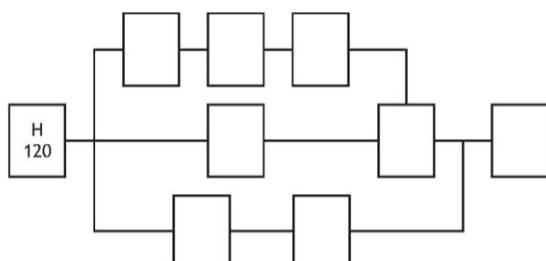
Give your answer in its simplest form.

Sample N5 Apps of Maths Questions

A company produced the following table to show all the tasks involved in manufacturing and packaging chocolate eggs.

Activity	Description	Preceding activity	Time (seconds)
A	Melt chocolate and stir ingredients	H	600
B	Wrap the egg	C, I	30
C	Cool the chocolate	D	1800
D	Pour chocolate into egg mould	A	105
E	Construct the cardboard box	G	60
F	Place wrapped egg into box	B, E	45
G	Print cardboard	H	240
H	Collect materials and ingredients	none	120
I	Print foil	H	180

(a) Complete the diagram below to show the tasks and times.



(b) Calculate the minimum time taken to manufacture and package a chocolate egg.

Project Management & Planning Skills

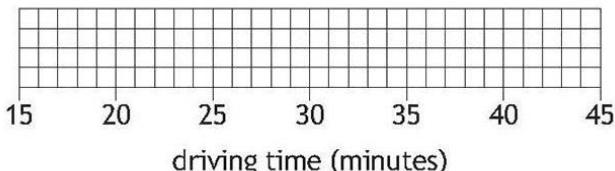
Harris recorded the time, in minutes, that it took him to drive to work over eight days.

22 21 37 25 32 28 36 24

(a) For this data, calculate:

- the median
- the lower quartile
- the upper quartile.

(b) Construct a box plot for this set of data.



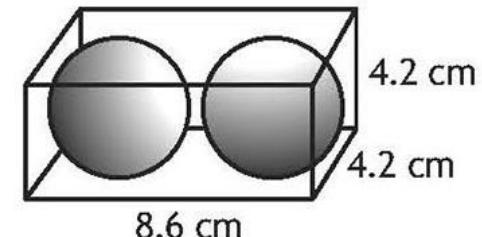
Statistics Skills

A sports company sells squash balls.

The balls are in the shape of a sphere with a diameter of 4 cm.

They are sold in cardboard boxes in the shape of a cuboid with dimensions as shown.

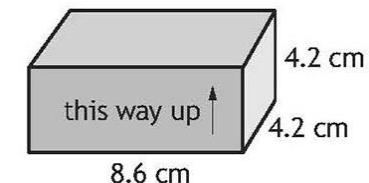
Each box contains 2 squash balls.



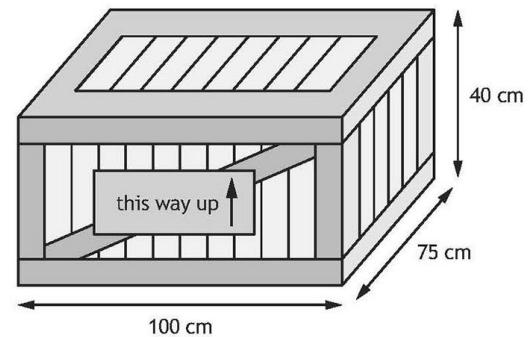
(a) Calculate the volume of empty space in the box.

The boxes are packed into crates for transportation.

The boxes must be aligned in the same direction.

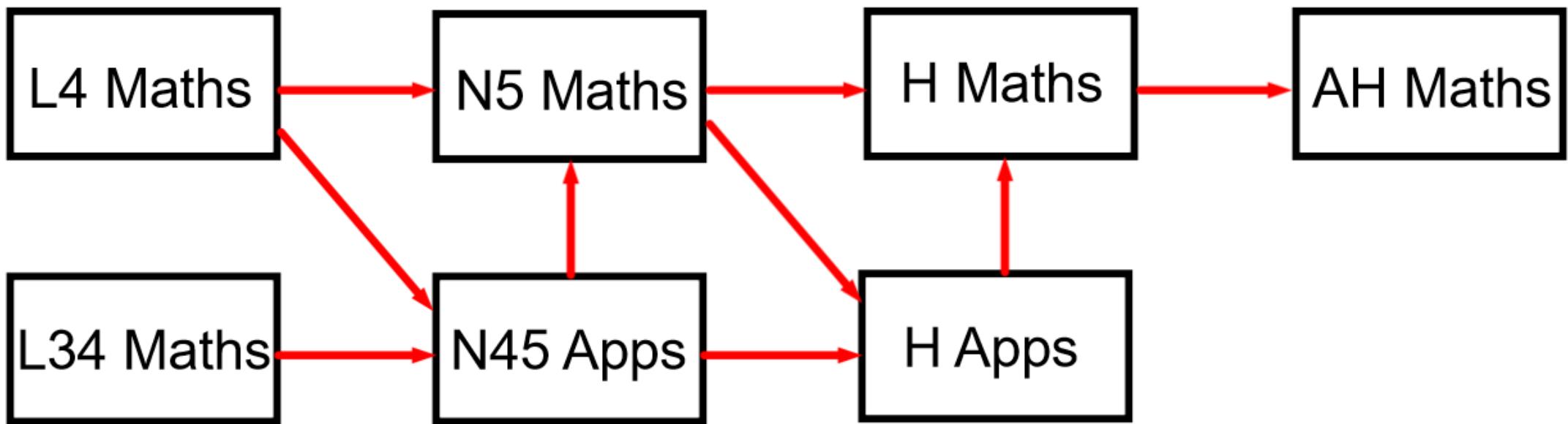


The internal dimensions of a crate are shown.



(b) Calculate the maximum number of boxes that can be packed into a crate.

Any Questions?





Drummond
COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL



Senior Phase Learner Pathways S3 into S4 January 2026

Mrs Sloan



Overview of Presentation

- Supports
- Curriculum structure
- Progression – S3-S6
- Qualifications
 - National Qualifications (S4-6)
 - Skills for work courses (S4-6)
 - National Progression Awards (S4-6)
 - College (S4-6)
- Coursing process
- Useful websites



Coursing



- Our commitment to all pupils at Drummond is to ensure that each young person leaves school with two things:
 1. The *skills* needed to lead them into a positive and sustained destination
 2. To ensure each young person attains the *highest possible level of qualifications to support their chosen Pathway*

Support – Careers Package@Drummond



Helen Irons – Careers/Pathway Advisor



Phil Dickson (DYW)

Curriculum Structure S3 to S6



S3

- **8 Options (Curriculum for Excellence – Levels 2/3/4 – Broad General Education)**
- Maths and English/ESOL compulsory (5 periods of each)/5 curricular areas & one free choice
- **Plus 1 period of RME, PSE & 2 periods of PE – Core Subjects**



S4

- **7 Options – Levels 3-5 but can also pick up College/Skills for Work courses**
- Maths and English/ESOL compulsory (4 periods of each)/5 curricular areas
- **Plus 1 period of PSE, RME and 2 periods of PE – Core Subjects**



S5

- **5/7 Options (depending on levels) – Levels 3-6 Can also pick up College/Foundation Apprenticeships**
- **Plus 1 period of PSE and 1 period of PE – Core Subjects**
- **S5 do not get study periods**



S6

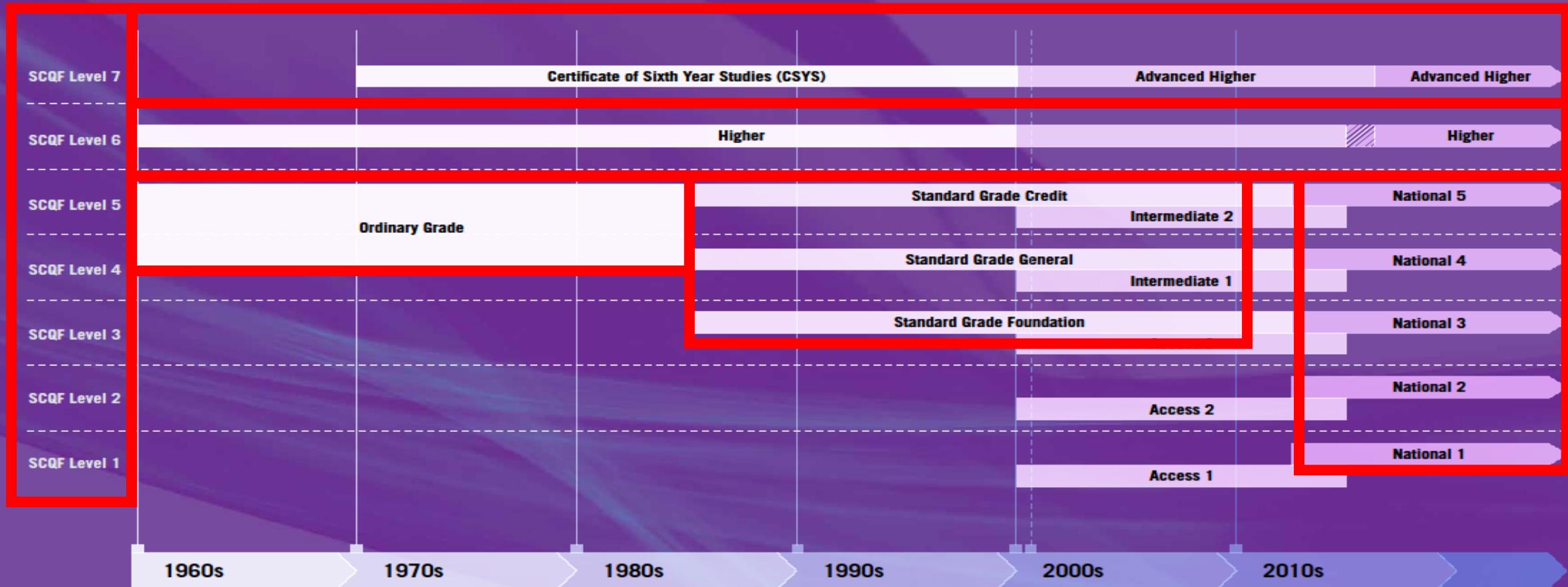
- **5 Options – (depending on level) – Levels 4-7 Can also pick up College/continue with FAs**
- **1 period of PSE & 1 period of PE**
- **Study periods are available for those pupils who are studying 4 Highers or 3 Adv Highers**

Progress from S3 through to S6



SCOTTISH NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS - SCQF LEVELS AND TIMELINES

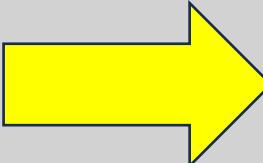
This table shows how current and old qualifications relate to one another in terms of their SCQF level. The SCQF level of a qualification provides a way of comparing how demanding or difficult the learning involved in achieving a qualification is. This table can be used by anybody with a need to understand 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).



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

Qualifications

- Nationals Qualifications (NQs) - are offered at National 2-5, Higher and Advanced Higher. **Pupils do not sit exams in May for National 2-4.**
- Skills for Work Courses - These courses offer learners opportunities to learn employability skills through a variety of practical experiences that are linked to vocational areas.
 - Travel & Tourism (Level 4 & 5)
 - Lab Science (Level 5 only)
 - Sport & Recreation (Level 4 & 5)
 - Film & Screen Education (Level 5 & 6)
 - Early Education & Childcare (Level 4 & 5)



Pupils are assessed unit by unit – there is no final exam

Schools College Partnership (SCP)

- College course take the place of ***1 course***
- Most courses run on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons for S4-S6 pupils. For 2026/27 some run on a Monday or Wednesday afternoon.
- Pupils leave during the period before lunch twice a week
- Provides a different learning environment to school
- A range of courses and levels are available

Drummond Community High School S3 Option Sheet – Session 2026/27



Name:		TG:		Date:	
Career Choice (if known)					
Modern Languages	Science	Social Subjects	Expressive Arts	Technologies	Free Choice
Languages (French & Spanish)	Biology	Geography	Art and Design	Design & Technology	Biology, Chemistry and Physics
	Chemistry	History	Drama	Food & Consumer Technology	Geography, History, Modern Studies, RME
	Physics	Modern Studies	Music	Craft & Technology	Art, Drama, Music, Screen Education
	Combined Science	RMPS	Screen Education	Business/Computing	Physical Education
	Pathways				Media Design & Tech, FCT, Craft & Tech, Comp Science/Business

Please indicate your 1st and 2nd choice in each curricular area 1st to 3rd in the Free Choice column

	Modern Languages	Science	Social Subjects	Expressive Arts	Technologies	Free Choice
1 st Choice						
2 nd Choice						
3 rd Choice						
Signed (parent/carer)	=		Signed (PSL Leader)	= Date		

Current Subjects being studied in S3 and Recommended Levels for S4

ESOL	4	Biology	5	History	5	RME	5
Maths	4	French	5	Drama	5		
RMPS Elective	5	Home Eco	4	PE	4		

Available courses to study in S4. Please mark your 7 choices in order of preference 1 to 7. Then mark two reserve choices as R and S.

Level 3	Sig	Pref	Level 4	Sig	Pref	Level 5	Sig	Pref	Awards
Apps of Maths			Application of Maths			Application of Maths			College (see college link – overleaf) Please write the name of the course you have applied for in the space below.
Art & Design			Art & Design			Art & Design			
Biology			Biology			Biology			4
Computing			Computing Science			Business & I			
Chemistry			Chemistry			Computing Science			
Drama			Drama			Chemistry			
English			English			Creative Thinking Award			
			ESOL			Drama			5
ESOL			French			English			
			Geography			ESOL			
Geography			Graphic Communication			French			6
Health and Food Technology			Health and Food Technology			Geography			
			Hospitality - Practical Cookery			Graphic Communication			
Hospitality - Practical Cookery			History			Health and Food Technology			Design Engineer
			Maths			Hospitality - Practical Cookery			Construct (DEC)
History			Media			History			
Maths			Modern Studies			Laboratory Science			
Moder Studies			Music			Maths			
Music			Physical Education			Media			
People & Society			People & Society			Modern Studies			
Physics			Physics			Music			

1

R

2

S

3

7

So what happens next?

- learners' use the choice booklet issued this week to all S3-S5 parents/carers
- If you do not receive this please email admin@drummond.edin.sch.uk
- S3 reports with recommendations issued – W/B 19th January
- Course choice forms will be issued W/B 19th January
- Course choice assembly to all S3 – Friday 23rd January 2026
- Parents evening – Wednesday 28th January 2026 (4.00 – 6.00 pm)
- One-to-one Interviews will take place with learners W/B 2/2/26
- *Please can we ask that in preparation for these meetings parents/carers complete the course choice form with pupils prior to meetings*

Next Steps

- Look at the different *Pathways* in the course choice booklet, think about which ones might suit you
- Do some research on types of jobs available
- Ask your teachers to tell you about the courses you are interested in
- Use your latest tracking and recommendations to pick courses (look at your latest report)
- Complete the Coursing Form before attending your 1-to-1 meeting
- Get Curriculum Leaders to sign Learner Pathway Form before attending meetings

How to Apply College/Supports?

- View the **on-line prospectus** -
<https://www.edinburghcollege.ac.uk/courses/for-school-pupils>
- <https://www.edinburghcollege.ac.uk/information-and-advice/career-planning/career-coach>
- designed to help you find a good career by providing the most current local data on wages, employment, job postings, and associated education and training.

Useful Links

- ‘My World of Work’ website:

<http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk> for careers advice

- Make an appointment to see Helen Irons on Wednesday 28th January between 4.00 - 6.00 pm - helen.irons@sds.co.uk

Useful Websites

- <https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/search-job-profiles/>
- [Get careers advice in school | My World of Work](https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/careers-advice-in-school/)
- [Industries | My World of Work](https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/industries/)
- **Search out university courses** [UCAS | At the heart of connecting people to higher education](https://www.ucas.com/)
- <https://www.leapsonline.org/>

Progression Pathway/Course Choice handbook

Every year we produce a course choice handbook which lists every subject that is available. This has been sent to you via the school office and is also on our school website.

<https://drummondhigh.org/information/school-coursing/>

Useful Contacts

- Annandale – Mr Paley – Michael.paley@drummond.edin.sch.uk
- Bellevue – Mr White – mark.white@drummond.edin.sch.uk
- Claremont – Ms Rankin – Leah.rankin@drummond.edin.sch.uk
- School Careers Advisor – Helen Irons helen.irons@sds.co.uk

What not to do.....

- Students should not pick courses because their friends are or they have a favourite teacher - it's about where their strongest skills are and what they enjoy
- Don't pick a course thinking it will be OK and easy to change your mind – it isn't.
- Questions?

