

# S2 Progression Pathways Coursing Presentation – January 2026



**Drummond**  
COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL



## How do we get it right?

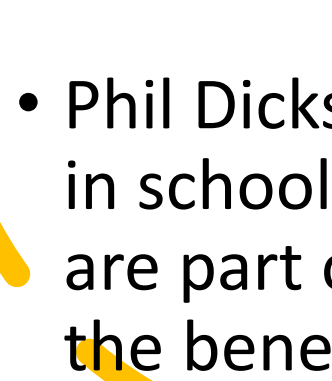
- We work very closely with our partners from Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) and Skills Development Scotland (SDS). They can provide us with labour market information about where the jobs in the future (in our area) will be.
- Small group interviews with Helen Irons prior to Christmas (SDS Careers Advisor)
- We also speak to the young people and ask them what they want to do from S2 to make sure we have courses that are fit for purpose.
- We offer free choice in S2 (within Curricular Areas)

Don't follow the  
crowd – follow your  
skills/interests

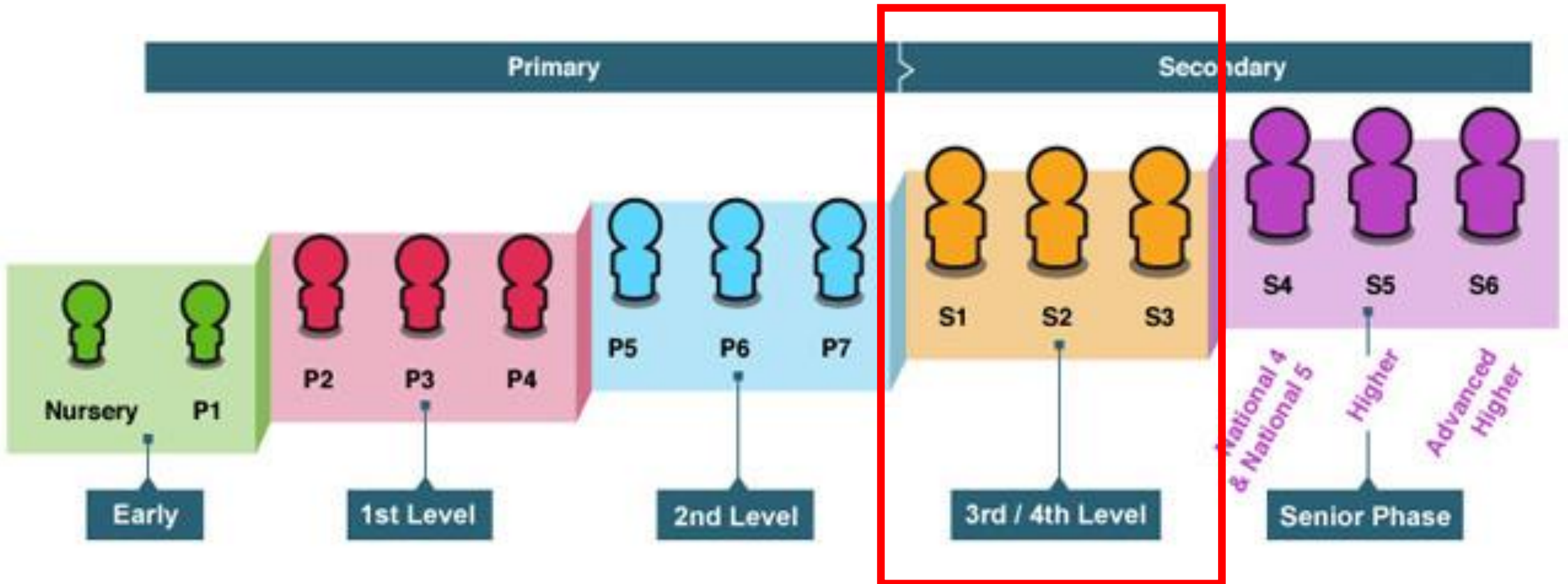




# Broad General Education (BGE)

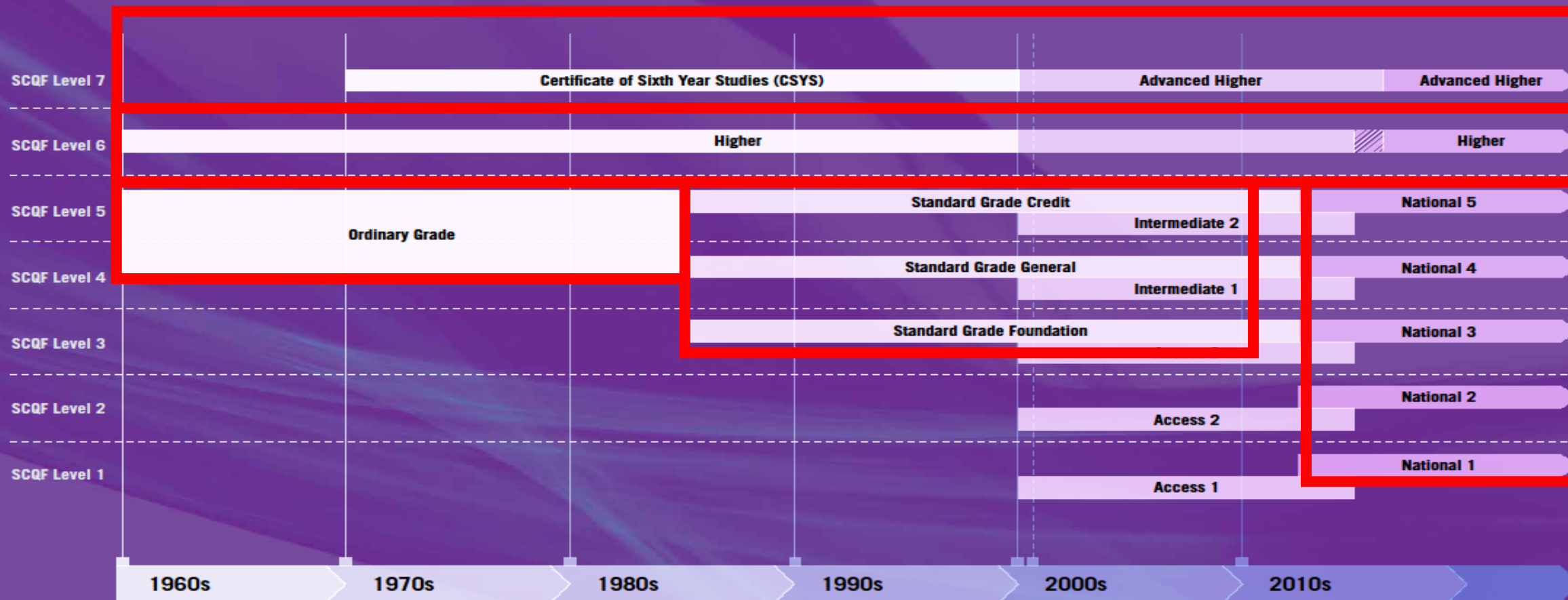
- The BGE runs from Early Years (pre-school and primary education) up to the end of S3. At the end of S3 students then move into the Senior Phase (S4-S6).
  - **“Review of Learning.” Reducing from 14 roughly down to 8**
  - Phil Dickson – works for Developing the Young Workforce but is based in school to raise awareness of carer opportunities. Phil and Helen are part of our Careers Package in school, working in partnership for the benefit of Drummond pupils.
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# So where are they now?



# 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.

# What Subjects Must Pupils Take?

The curricular areas below are set out by Education Scotland.

- Maths/English (Some students study English as speakers of other languages - ESOL)
- Language (French & Spanish)
- Expressive Arts
- Technologies
- Sciences
- Social Subjects
- Free Choice (Most subjects, PE and Media)
- Core subjects (PE, RME and PSE)





# 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> choice in each curricular area 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Free Choice column

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



## New Courses

- Media – Faculty of Literacy and Languages
- Business/Computing

# Curriculum Structure S3 to S6

S3

- **8 Options (working at Curriculum for Excellence level 3/4)**
- 7 Core curricular areas and one free choice
- plus RE, PSE & PE

S4

- **7 Options (Mainly National 3, 4 and 5. But can also do College and NPAs)**
- Maths and English (ESOL) compulsory
- plus RE, PSE & PE

S5

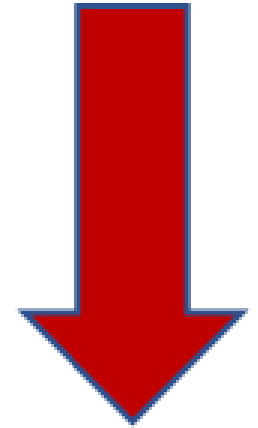
- **5/7 Options (Choices will be Higher, National 5, 4 or 3 or NPAs, Skills for Work Courses)**
- College courses and Foundation Apprenticeships available

S6

- **5/7 Options (Choices will be Higher, National 5, 4 or 3 or NPAs, Skills for Work Courses)**
- College courses and Foundation Apprenticeships available

# Progression

<b>S3</b>	<b>Level 3</b>	<b>Level 4</b>
<b>S4</b>	National 4/Level 4	National 5/Level 5
<b>S5</b>	National 5/Level 5	Higher/Level 6
<b>S6</b>	Higher/Level 6	Adv Higher/Level 7



# So what happens next?

- Parents/carers received a copy of the finalised course choice booklet via email on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January. If you did not receive this, please email [admin@drummond.edin.sch.uk](mailto:admin@drummond.edin.sch.uk) to request a copy
- Course choice forms were issued at the end of term – any student absent should see their Guidance teacher to collect
- One-to-one Interviews will take place week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026
- Please can we ask that in preparation for these meetings parents/carers sit down with pupils and complete the course choice form
- Please revisit the S2 report issued before the Christmas holidays to support where choices are made
- Pupils will be informed post February break if any of their courses have insufficient uptake to run or there are any issues.

# Websites of interest

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

# Summary

- **All pupils will select 8 subjects in S3** (last year of the BGE)
- all curricular areas must be studied - this is to ensure a breadth of learning across all curricular areas
- At the end of S3 pupils will drop from 8 to 7 subjects
- We have provided courses in S3 that ensure progression of skills into Senior Phase courses. This is to ensure pupils do not need to pick up new courses at the end of S3 and have a core set of skills and depth of learning which supports their S4 course choices.
- 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.



# Useful Contacts

- Annandale – Mr Paley – [Michael.paley@drummond.edin.sch.uk](mailto:Michael.paley@drummond.edin.sch.uk)
- Bellevue – Mr White – [mark.white@drummond.edin.sch.uk](mailto:mark.white@drummond.edin.sch.uk)
- Claremont – Ms Rankin – [Leah.rankin@drummond.edin.sch.uk](mailto:Leah.rankin@drummond.edin.sch.uk)
- School Careers Advisor – Helen Irons [Helen.Irons@sds.co.uk](mailto:Helen.Irons@sds.co.uk)



Questions