

SENIOR PHASE

– ALSO KNOWN AS S4, S5, S6

The Curriculum is adapting to the changing world of work. Technological changes are coming at us thick and fast. All young people are entitled to a curriculum that helps them to develop the skills they will need for both work and life. Young people are supported to develop these skills through work in their classes, extracurricular and wider achievement options, and support to recognise and reflect on the learning from these.

What does this mean for your child?

- The jobs available now will not be the jobs available in 10, 20, 30 or 40 years.
- A move away from a “job for life” to a “life of jobs” where Career Management Skills are essential for young people to navigate career pathways.

What is the Senior Phase?

At the end of S3 (Junior Phase S1 - S3), young people, parents and teachers discuss their subject choices for moving into the Senior Phase of their learning. They look at how the young person prefers to learn, their interests and experiences, and what they are thinking about doing after they leave school.

At this stage, you can support your child by helping them to think ahead about skills and qualifications that they will need for the future world of work. You can do this by:

- Keeping an open mind - the world of education and work is constantly changing and looks very different from when you were at school
- Finding out about the variety of options that are open to young people now
- Encouraging your child to talk to you and others about their hopes and plans.



What will the young people learn?

During the three years of the Senior Phase young people will:

- Study for qualifications and awards according to their abilities and interests
- Improve their skills for learning, life and work
- Be supported and prepared for moving on and taking the next steps after school

Where can young people learn?

Young people have lots of options about what and where they learn between S4 and S6. They can learn in different ways and in different places such as:



The Senior Phase is about giving each young person as much flexibility as possible. Staying in school or college after 16 will give them the best opportunity to secure rewarding work.

Schools are keen to work with colleges, employers, parents and communities to make sure that what young people do is:

- Based on each young person's needs and wants
- Connected and relevant
- Giving them a clear way forward
- Relevant to the world of work and adult life

Some young people do one-day a week, or equivalent, at college and the rest in school.

How will young people progress through the Senior Phase?

Young people progress in their learning in different ways. Progression in learning moves from the Broad General Education (BGE)/Junior Phase into the Senior Phase where pupils gain qualifications and awards in school or college. A variety of qualifications and options are offered in the Senior phase at appropriate levels for our young people. To help you understand the changes, please see: <https://scqf.org.uk/media/1104/old-v-new.pdf>

What qualifications will young people get?

There is no set rule about how many awards and qualifications young people can do. It varies depending on each young person and their school. The main thing is that young people get the chance to do awards and qualifications at the stage that is right for them. It takes into account that young people learn in different ways. Qualifications and learning experiences (such as volunteering and work placements) are all important for preparing young people for the future.

When nothing stays still, what skills will we need to thrive?

Self management	Social intelligence	Innovation
Focussing	Communicating	Curiosity
Integrity	Feeling	Creativity
Adapting	Collaborating	Sense making
Initiative	Leading	Critical thinking

These higher order skills are timeless and allow learners to be creative and adaptable when it comes to their journey through life. These skills are developed through everything that they do in school and are essential and transferable when it comes to managing career paths in an unpredictable future job market.

“Security lies not in employment but in employability” (Prof Tony Watts)



“Two out of three children starting primary school will have jobs that don't exist today.**”**



Transition from Oil & Gas to a wider Energy and low carbon economy will create new opportunities. Between 2019-2029 there will be approx. 9,700 job openings in Scotland.



Digital and Entrepreneurship is a key industry in the long-term transformation of the North East economy, as Aberdeen moves towards becoming Scotland's first gigabit city.



Roles in Early Years and Childcare will become more available. There are lots of learning opportunities in this area through college link courses, foundation and modern apprenticeships.



More than 22,000 people are directly employed in food, drink and agriculture in the North East, supported by the development of a £21 million Food Hub for Food and Drink manufacturing.



Life sciences is a key priority sector in Aberdeen, employing more than 2,500 people, and leading to the development of the first Bio Hub. By 2029 the number of jobs is expected to rise by 12%.



The Health and Social Work sector is predicted to be one of the top employing areas in Aberdeen City by 2029 with approx. 28,600 jobs.

*These are the forecast growth sectors for Aberdeen
Source: www.opportunitynortheast.com

Contacts for more information

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) is the national skills body and we deliver Scotland's careers service in schools, in centres and online – www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk

www.mykidscareer.com – for parents/carers

www.myworldofwork.co.uk – careers information and advice for all ages

www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk – skills and labour market information

North East of Scotland – College www.nescol.ac.uk

National Parent Forum of Scotland – www.npfs.org.uk

Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework – www.scqf.org.uk

DYW North East – www.dyw.org.uk

