

KIRKWALL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Senior Phase Options



Parent and Pupil Option Information
2022-23

SENIOR PHASE OPTIONS @ KGS 2022/23

SUPPORT FOR PARENTS

Dear Parent

The options process for S3 into S4, S4 into S5 and S5 into S6 will open on Tuesday 1 February. In this booklet is information on key dates, course restrictions and course combinations for different year groups. There is also information on the support available for pupils from Skills Development Scotland, Guidance staff and advice to our North Isles parents

Key Dates

- 1 February Senior Options open
- 2 February S3 parents evening
- 16 February online options information evening 6 -7pm
- 4 March deadline for completed forms

Pupils will be given a draft and then a final option forms to work on in PSE. Completed forms are then handed into Guidance staff.

Full course descriptors for both KGS and College courses including Foundation Apprenticeships, the option sheet, along with a presentation on completing the option form, are available by following the options link on the front page of the School website:

<http://www.kgsorkney.com/>

S4 Pupils

- All S4 pupils will sit 6 subjects. Only English and Maths are compulsory in S4.
- You should choose subjects in S4 from any of the subjects you have studied in S3 although there are some new subjects such as Fashion and Textiles available.
- All S4 pupils will also study Personal and Social Education, Physical Education and RMPS.
- SfW College Courses may have an entry requirement - see the College Brochure for details.
- All pupils choosing SfW College in S4 will also have the opportunity to do a work experience placement should Covid restrictions allow.

S5 and S6 pupils

By choosing to return to KGS S5 and S6 pupils are agreeing to the following:

- Wear dress code at all times
- Attend study classes where timetabled
- Be committed to returning to KGS
- Be prepared to see all of the courses you have chosen through to the final exams in May. Dropping subjects isn't an option

Options information

- All courses at National 4 and 5 level are counted as a subject including College and Essential Skills/Work Experience (Covid restrictions allowing)
- Extra study in S6 will support S6 Committee work and whole school responsibilities.
- Essential Skills/Work Experience is available in all columns in S5/6. Often study periods can be used in other Columns to create opportunities for longer work placement slots.
- Pupils in S5/6 doing Higher at College can also choose a Skills for Work course in column D.
- Coastal Navigation is only available if you have previously completed the Navigation course.

Foundation Apprenticeships

- Foundation Apprenticeships will run during Higher college time as a two year course for S5 pupils and pupils should choose this in Column F only
 - 2nd year Foundation Apprenticeship pupils in S6 should choose in FA's Column D only although other study times will be used for work placements
 - Fast-Track (S6 only) available in Business & Care and pupils must choose this in both Column F and D.
- Please check College brochure for more information such as entry requirements (available on the KGS website.)

COURSE COMBINATIONS

S5 Subject Expectations

Below are the different combinations of N3, N4, N5 and Higher courses S5 pupils are expected to take. These are the **minimum** number of courses a pupil is expected to follow in S5. Pupils dropping below these requirements will be expected to leave school.

5 Highers + Study

4 Highers + 1 subject + Study

3 Highers + 3 subjects

2 Highers + 4 subjects

1 Higher + 5 subjects

0 Highers + 6 subjects

(Any N4/5 course is counted as a subject choice)

S6 Pupils

Below are the different combinations of N5, Higher and Advanced S5/6 pupils are expected to take. These are the **minimum** number of courses a pupil is expected to follow in S5/6 and pupils dropping below these requirements will be expected to leave school.

While the vast majority of courses studied in S6 will be Higher or Advanced Higher level, pupils can choose to take one National 5 Course in S6.

We expect most pupils to progress from S5 by moving from National 5 to Higher in the majority of their subjects.

- 3 Advanced Highers
- 2 Advanced Highers + 2 Highers or 1 Higher and 1 subject
- 1 Advanced Higher + 3 Highers or 2 Highers and 1 subject
- 4 Highers + 2 Study
- 3 Highers + 2 subjects + Study

There will be no Core RMPS or PE in S5/6. However there is opportunity to study both of these subjects as SQA qualifications and as an option in S5/6 Wider Achievement time.

CHOICE RESTRICTIONS

We will try to offer you the courses that you have opted for. **However, it may not always be possible to offer every combination of subjects.** Sometimes too many or too few students choose a particular course and sometimes timetabling is not possible due to staffing and accommodation restrictions. If this is the case then you will be asked to choose another subject but remember you can pick this subject again in S5 or S6.

S4 PUPILS ACCESSING HIGHER COURSES

When S4, S5 and S6 are treated as a single cohort then this opens up the possibility of pupils accessing courses at all levels. So in the simplest of terms S4 pupils would be able to study a subject at any level from N3, N4, N5, Higher and Advanced Higher.

As is the case just now all pupils will still be supported fully in their subject choices in order that they construct a set of courses that are appropriate in order for the pupil to progress successfully. This will continue to involve input from Subject Teachers and Principal Teachers advising on the most appropriate level a pupil should study within that subject. Guidance Teachers will continue to have a key role in looking at the course choice of a pupil across the curriculum to make sure that the overall workload will be manageable for pupils as well as advising on subjects that may be needed for career aspirations.

We would expect that in S4 the vast majority of pupils will continue to follow courses at N4 and N5 level. However, where a pupil is particularly gifted in a subject and all relevant stakeholders, (Pupils, Parents, Guidance Teachers, Subject Teacher and Year Head), agree that it is the best thing then a pupil may opt to study that subject at a Higher level.

You will not normally be able to take a course at Higher in S5 that you have not studied in S4. You will, however, be able to choose subjects at National 5 level in S5 and progress to Higher in S6. Your Guidance teacher will help you make the best possible choices for you.

MORE DETAILS

To ensure that you choose a course best suited to your ability and interests, and one which will provide you with the qualifications for careers you may have in mind, we take a great deal of care to provide advice and information for pupils, as follows:

Careers information and advice

In KGS, you are given careers advice by Guidance staff and school based SDS staff. You are shown where you can find information on careers and links to my world of work website is below.

www.myworldofwork.co.uk

www.planitplus.net

Other useful links can be found in the "Careers" and "Further and Higher " in the Pupils menu of:

<http://www.kqsorkney.com/>

Guidance Support

Guidance staff will be discussing pupil options throughout the options process. Draft and final option forms will also be handed out during PSE lessons

If your son/daughter is unsure about any aspect of their course choice, please contact your son/daughter's Guidance teacher to make a telephone appointment to discuss any uncertainties.

Your Guidance staff are also very experienced in supporting our pupils make decisions around their Course Choice and will be happy to take time to discuss next steps.

It will be important that pupils have read all of the course outlines as provided by Subject Departments in the course descriptions booklet, so that they are well informed about the content of each course that they are considering; this will ensure that informed conversations can take place between the pupils and Guidance staff and this should then result in the pupils making the best possible individual decisions.

To make arrangements to speak with your Guidance Teacher, please e-mail them on the following addresses:

Mrs Woods (Copinsay Pupils): raksharuby.woods@orkneyschools.org.uk

Mr Berry (Fara Pupils) mark.berry@glow.orkneyschools.org.uk

Ms Taylor (Eynhallow Pupils) bridget.taylor@glow.orkneyschools.org.uk

Reserve Choices

Please remember to indicate a preferred reserve choices on your option sheet. If your choices don't completely match up with the timetable your Guidance Teacher will discuss with you some alternative choice(s). Parents will be informed if any changes are made. Guidance teachers will also be available to see parents if necessary.

Pupils from the North Isles

If you attend one of the Isles Junior High Schools, you will have followed a course very similar to S4 pupils at KGS. To support the senior course choice process, Guidance staff from KGS will either visit the island schools in person (Covid restrictions allowing), to meet pupils, parents/carers, and teachers, and help with the choice of courses for the senior school or will arrange the support online. In addition, Isles pupils will have an opportunity to join KGS for a day in early March as part of their transition.

As always Isles parents/carers are welcome to contact Guidance staff in KGS with any concerns or questions you may have. KGS Guidance staff are also in contact with Junior High staff. The KGS links for each school are:

Sanday - Mrs Woods: raksha.ruby@glow.orkneyschools.org.uk

Westray - Mr Berry: mark.berry@glow.orkneyschools.org.uk

Stronsay - bridget.taylor@glow.orkneyschools.org.uk

We are committed to being as flexible as possible to ensure you get the options you request in S5.

Skills Development Scotland Support

- Careers Advisers are available in school during options time to support pupils through their subject choices.
- It is planned that careers advisers will offer subject choice drop-in sessions in the breakout areas next to PSE classrooms during PSE lessons. These will be advertised in the pupil bulletin.
- Alan Stanley, our librarian, keeps a waiting list for students, or your Guidance Teacher can also request appointments for you.
- Parents can contact us in school or email: kirkwall@sds.co.uk to request a phone appointment. SDS offer webinars to parents advertised through social media and accessible at: <https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/parents-carers>