

Pathways Information Evening

S4/5

(Thursday 8th January 2026)



Altra Academy is a place where every member of our community is valued, included and respected on our journey to excellence.

RESPECT • AMBITION • RESILIENCE



Welcome

Two aims:

- Pathways presentation to outline the process and rationale behind our curriculum
- Opportunity to gain Departmental/Subject Information



Altra Academy is a place where every member of our community is valued, included and respected on our journey to excellence.

RESPECT • AMBITION • RESILIENCE



Rationale

- Improved student attainment
- Clear, uninterrupted pathway through the Senior Phase
- Continue to meet student needs both in breadth and depth.
- Greater focus towards successful 2 - year Senior Phase outcomes
- Increased number of Level 6 presentations
- Improved preparation for transition on to positive destinations

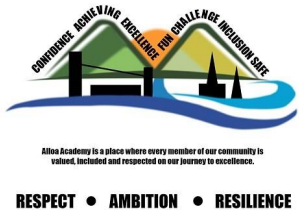


Altra Academy is a place where every member of our community is valued, included and respected on our journey to excellence.

RESPECT • AMBITION • RESILIENCE



Senior Phase - Experiences



Transition to the Senior Phase

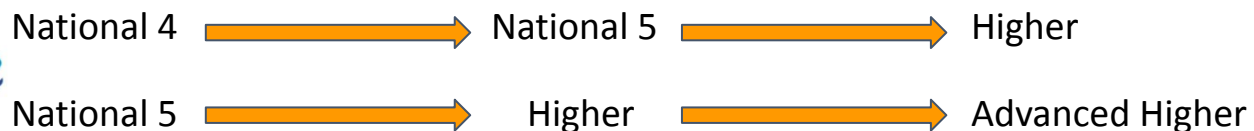
S4 to S6 Qualifications



Students study towards National and/or SCQF Qualifications as shown below

Qualification	
National	SCQF
National 4	Level 4
National 5	Level 5
Higher	Level 6
Advanced Higher	Level 7

Progression Routes:



S5/6 - What does it mean?



The start of a two year journey.

- Continuous Assessments and examinations
- Different timetable
 - Double periods
- Tracking & monitoring
 - Progress



RESPECT • AMBITION • RESILIENCE



Senior Phase - What does it mean?



National and SCQF Qualifications

SCQF 5 - Level 5	- Internally assessed units
SCQF 5 - National 5	- Coursework assessed plus an external exam
SCQF 6 - Level 6	- Internally assessed units
SCQF 6 - Higher	- Coursework assessed plus an external exam
SCQF 7 - Level 7	- Internally assessed units
SCQF 7 – Advanced Higher	- Coursework assessed plus an external exam



Curriculum in S5

- All S5 learners will study five subjects.
- All S5 learners also receive a period of PSE a week – this is an entitlement.

There may be an opportunity to experience Wider Learning through e.g. Level 6 Powering Futures or Duke of Edinburgh Award



Altra Academy is a place where every member of our community is valued, included and respected on our journey to excellence.

RESPECT • AMBITION • RESILIENCE



Curriculum in S6

- All S6 learners will study five subjects.
- Should a learner require flexibility in their timetable this will only be agreed to after discussion with Miss Stewart, as Year Head.
- As with S5, S6 will receive their entitlement of 1 period of PSE.

There may be an opportunity to experience Wider Learning through e.g. Level 6 Powering Futures or Duke of Edinburgh Award



Altra Academy is a place where every member of our community is valued, included and respected on our journey to excellence.

RESPECT • AMBITION • RESILIENCE



S5/6 Subject Choice Form

Alloa Academy – S5 Course Choice 2026-2027 – Stevie McGuckin - 4E1



This document will be completed during your options interview. For further information, please see notes overleaf.

The following subjects are offered in S5 at Alloa Academy:

Administration & IT	**Applications of Maths	Art & Design	Business Management
Chemistry	Computing	Creative Thinking	Design, Engineering and Construct
Drama	**English	Enterprise & Employability	Exercise & Fitness
Film and Media	Geography	Graphic Communication	History
Human Biology	Journalism	Journalism & English (2-year course)	Leadership: Hospitality or Sport
**Maths	Modern Studies	Music	Personal Development
Physical Education	Physics	Politics	Practical Metalwork
Practical Woodwork	Professional Theatre Preparation	Scientific Technologies	Scottish Studies
Sustainability			

Courses studied in S4 during 2025-2026 school session

Subject
Biology N5
Mod Studies
Geography N5
Practical Woodworking
English N5
Application of Mathematics

Notes for Subject Choice for S5 2026-2027

All pupils in S5 will study five subjects. Pupils will be offered a free choice of subjects at this stage but please bear in mind that it may not be possible to meet all combinations of subjects. In order to allow us to meet the greatest possible number of requests, you are asked to choose five subjects. Subjects should be listed in order of priority on the form overleaf. Every effort will be made to accommodate your first five choices, but, where this is not possible, your Alternative choices will be taken into account. If this is the case, you will be involved in a discussion with your Head of Year.

Please note: The majority of pupils stay on at school for S5 and S6, so your course choice decisions should reflect this.

- This form should be studied in conjunction with the S5/S6 Options Booklet which will be web-based with paper copies available on request. Advice will be given by subject teachers and Guidance staff on the choice of suitable courses, in terms of appropriate levels of study and entrance requirements for further education. All students should aim at choosing a balanced course of study, bearing in mind the entry requirements of possible further education courses or future careers.
- The vast majority of S5 pupils return to school for S6. It is important that they consider the progression of courses which they may wish to take from S5 through to S6. It may be that a subject which cannot be taken in S5 because of the restricted choice of five subjects, can be taken up again in S6.
- All courses are subject to the availability of staff and accommodation. In the case of courses being oversubscribed, certain criteria will be used to select which students would most benefit from the study of the subject at the level indicated. These criteria will be explained if limitation of numbers is required. Please note that the teaching sets that begin before the summer holidays may be changed in August due to examination results. The priority is to accommodate as many students as possible in their chosen courses.

Choices for courses to be studied in S5 during 2026-2027 school session

The level at which the subject will be studied depends on a pupil gaining the necessary grades to allow entry into the course.

Priority	Subject	Level
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
Alternative 1		
Alternative 2		

Subjects Levels

- Pupils, along with Pupil Support staff indicate the subject that they would like to take.
- Performance data will be used to identify the levels to be studied
- Recommendations will be based on the pupil's grade profile and the performance at S4/S5.
- The school policy is to encourage pupils to aim high but expectations must be backed up by evidence of attainment.



Altra Academy is a place where every member of our community is valued, included and respected on our journey to excellence.

RESPECT • AMBITION • RESILIENCE



Making Choices

- Outlines of all courses will be contained in the Senior Phase Pathways Booklet which will be on the school website on the 19th January 2026
- Paper copies will be available if required.

Advice from

- Subject Teacher / Principal Teacher
- House Group Leader
- Principal Teacher of Pupil Support
- Year Head - Depute
- Skills Development Scotland – Careers Advisor
- Parents and Families



Making Choices

- Majority of pupils return for S6
- Many pupils should therefore consider the option choice on a **two year** basis

DO NOT CHOOSE A SUBJECT JUST BECAUSE YOU LIKE THE TEACHER.

DO NOT CHOOSE A SUBJECT TO BE IN THE SAME CLASS AS A FRIEND.



Altra Academy is a place where every member of our community is valued, included and respected on our journey to excellence.

RESPECT • AMBITION • RESILIENCE



Useful sources of information

University websites as well as www.ucas.com

My WoW – information on career management skills

Forth Valley College and other College websites

<https://apprenticeships.scot/>

Publications- University / College prospectus

Skills Development Scotland – info on other routes to qualifications and on job vacancies and trends

A wide range of people in and out of school

Alloa Academy Website – Pupils – Course Choice



Curriculum Pathways

Curriculum Pathways

Technologies



S3

S4

S5

S6

Positive Destinations

S3 Creative Thinking

Creative Thinking
SCQF 5

Creative Thinking
SCQF 6

S3 Graphic Communication

N4 Graphic Communication
SCQF 4

N5 Graphic Communication
SCQF 5

Higher Graphic Communication
SCQF 6

Advanced Higher Graphic Communication
SCQF 7

S3 Practical Woodwork

N4 Practical Woodwork
SCQF 4

N5 Practical Woodwork
SCQF 5

S3 Practical Metalwork

N4 Practical Metalwork
SCQF 4

N5 Practical Metalwork
SCQF 5

S3 Engineering Skills for Work

N5 Engineering Skills for Work
SCQF 5

S3 Built Environment

NPA Built Environment
SCQF 5

DEC level 2
SCQF 6

NPA Automotive Skills
SCQF 4

Further & Higher Education/ Volunteering

Honours Degree in Technological Education SCQF 10
Honours Degree in Architecture SCQF 10
Honours Degree in Structural/Electrical/Civil Engineering SCQF 10
Cartographer Degree SCQF 9 or 10
HNC/D Games Developing SCQF 7/8/9

Careers in Technologies

Architect £30,000 - £60,000
Cartographer £18,000 - £45,000
Games Developer £25,000 - £70,000
Offshore Drilling Worker £20,000 - £60,000
Blacksmith £28,000 - Unlimited
Self-Driving Car Mechanic - ??
Smart City Designer - ??
Robot Recruiter - ??

Course Choice Timeline

S4	November	S4 Progress Information Evening
	24th November - 5th December	S4 Assessment Block
	8th January	Course Choice Information Evening
	29th January	S4 Progress Reports Issued
	2nd - 6th February	Pupil course choice awareness raising timeslot, faculty planned activities to ensure pupils have a clear understanding of all courses available
	6th February	S4 Course choice data and finalised choices completed
	16th February	Identify S4 pupils for bespoke SCQF Columns.
	16th February	S4 into S5 Course Choice Booklet Available
	16th - 20th February	PSE Course Choice Input in classes
	17th February	S4/5 Course Choice Assembly
	19th February	Course Choice Interviews
	23rd February	S4 Course Choice Returns
	June	Quality Assurance Checks and Follow ups

Course Choice Timeline

S5	October	S5 Progress Information Evening
	8th January	Course Choice Information Evening
	12th January - 23rd January	S5/6 Assessment Block
	16th - 20th February	Pupil course choice awareness raising timeslot, faculty planned activities to ensure pupils have a clear understanding of all courses available
	16th February	S5 into S6 Course Choice Booklet Available
	16th - 20th February	PSE Course Choice Input in classes
	27th February	S5 Course choice data and finalised choices completed
	17th February	S4/5 Course Choice Assembly
	20th February	S5 Progress Report Issued
	24th February	Identify S5 pupils for bespoke SCQF Columns.
	26th February	Course Choice Interviews
	2nd March	S5 Course Choice Returns
	June	Quality Assurance Checks and Follow ups

Important Dates - S4

- November Progress Information Evening
- 29th January S4 Progress Reports Issued
- 16th February S5/6 Pathways Booklet on Website
-
- 19th February S4 Student interviews with Pupil Support PTs - parents/carers invited
- 23rd February Course choice return date



Important Dates - S5

- October S5 Progress Information Evening
- 16th February S5/6 Pathways Booklet on Website
- 20th February S5 Progress Reports Issued
- 26th February S5 Student interviews with Pupil Support PTs - parents/carers invited
- 2nd March Course choice return date



Progress - Support

How will we keep you up to date?



RESPECT • AMBITION • RESILIENCE



Questions



RESPECT • AMBITION • RESILIENCE

