Over the coming weeks, students in S3 will make their subject choices for next session. In preparation for this, please take the opportunity to talk to your child about what different pathways are open to them and what subjects would help them achieve the best results possible.

Please access our Armadale Academy Learning Pathways website for more information on the different subject areas:

<https://www.armadalelearningpathways.co.uk/>

**New S4 Students should remember the following:**

* Students moving into S4 will have a full timetable
* In addition to their subjects, students will have Personal and Social Education (PSE) and Religious Education and PE on their timetable. These subjects will allow them to gain 2 additional qualifications at Level 5.
* Students should be **dropping** **2 subjects** from the **current subjects they study**. The only new subjects they can pick up are those that do not exist in S3:
  + Travel and Tourism
  + Sport and Recreation
  + Lab Skills
  + Health Sector
  + Practical Electronics
  + Childcare
  + Retail
* Students wishing to choose a college option for the Tuesday/Thursday afternoon must commit to this for the full year.
* Students must pick a reserve choice
* Students should write down their career aspiration on the form to allow us to check that they are taking the correct range of subjects
* ‘Start a course, finish a course!’

**Additional Advice:**

One of our core school values is ‘Ambition’ and students in S3 should think about the subjects they are strongest in to maximise their chances of success and the number of N5s they can sit. Think about:

* Tracking reports
* Assessment results
* Future pathways to Higher and beyond
* Look at University entry requirements/College entry requirements if Further or Higher education is a pathway you are considering

**S3 into S4 Pathway Planning**

**Thinking about your learner journey is important when thinking about your course choice for S4. Students will complete the following form in advance of their course choice.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Complete this form in PSE after researching potential career pathways and reflecting on what you want in the future. Use the Armadale Academy Learning Pathways website to explore different subject areas and My World of Work to look at potential future careers and industries you have an interest in. | | | | | | | | |
| **LEARNER PATHWAY PLANNING** | | | | | | | | |
| Please select when you are planning to leave school | End of S4 |  | Christmas S5 |  | End of S5 |  | End of S6 |  |
| What is your preferred pathway when you leave school? | Employment | | | |  | | | |
| University | | | |  | | | |
| College | | | |  | | | |
| Modern Apprenticeship | | | |  | | | |
| Graduate Apprenticeship | | | |  | | | |
| Other | | | |  | | | |
| What industry/career area/field and/or course are you interested in pursuing? |  | | | | | | | |
| Please write a short paragraph telling us how you plan on reaching your career goals. What qualifications/experiences do you need to help you on your journey? |  | | | | | | | |
| What subjects do you consider to be your strength and why? | Are there any subjects you find more challenging? Why? | | | | | | | |

**Progression Routes through the Senior Phase**

**Entry requirements to courses can vary depending on numerous factors. The following table provides a general guide.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Minimum Attainment** | **Progresses to** |
| Completion of the Broad General Education of CfE | National Courses  Progression may be at N3, N4 or N5 level depending on each individual student’s progress through the BGE  Subjects may include courses studied at L5 SCQF |
| National 4 Pass | National 5 / Level 5 SCQF |
| National 5 Pass | Higher  (crash Highers are suitable for some students depending on S4 results) |
| Higher A-B Pass | Advanced Higher  (including West Lothian Virtual Academy, LEAPS and YASS courses) |

**Progression of courses and Levels**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Subject** | **N4** | **N5** | **Higher** | **AH** | **Notes** |
| **English and Languages** | | | | | |
| English | \* | \* | \* | \* |  |
| Media | \* | \* | \* |  |  |
| French | \* | \* | \* | \* | AH at Edinburgh College |
| Spanish | \* | \* | \* | \* | AH at Edinburgh College |
| **Maths and Computing Science** | | | | | |
| Maths | \* | \* | \* | \* |  |
| Maths Apps |  | \* | \* |  |  |
| L5 Personal Finance |  | L5 |  |  |  |
| L6 Statistics |  |  | L6 |  |  |
| Computing | \* | \* | \* | \* VC |  |
| Computer Games Development |  | L5 |  |  |  |
| Geography | \* | \* | \* |  |  |
| **Social Subjects** | | | | | |
| History | \* | \* | \* | \* |  |
| Modern Studies | \* | \* | \* | \*VC |  |
| RME |  | \* | \* |  |  |
| Travel and Tourism | \* | \* |  |  |  |
| Global Studies | \* |  |  |  | S4 only – students will gain 2x N4 qualifications |
| Admin and IT | \* | \* | \* |  |  |
| Business Management | \* | \* | \* | \*VC |  |
| **Creative, Aesthetics and Technologies** | | | | | |
| Art & Design | \* | \* | \* | \* |  |
| Photography |  | \* NPA | \* |  |  |
| Fashion & Textiles | \* | \* | \* |  |  |
| Practical Woodwork | \* | \* |  |  |  |
| Practical Metalwork | \* |  |  |  |  |
| Design & Manufacture | \* | \* | \* | \* VC |  |
| Graphic Communication | \* | \* | \* | \* VC |  |
| Practical Cookery | \* | \* |  |  |  |
| Practical Cake Craft (S5/6 only) |  | \* |  |  | S5/6 only |
| **Sport and Performance** | | | | | |
| PE (Games or Aesthetics) | \* | \* | \* | \* VC |  |
| School of Football |  | \* |  |  |  |
| Dance | \* | \* |  |  |  |
| Sport and Recreation | \* | \* |  |  |  |
| Achieving Excellence |  |  | L6 |  | Football focus |
| Exercise and Fitness Leadership |  |  | L6 |  | Fitness Suite |
| Referee Development |  |  |  | L7 |  |
| Drama | \* | \* | \* |  |  |
| Music | \* | \* | \* | \* |  |
| Music Technology |  | \* |  |  |  |
| Creative Industries |  | \* |  |  | Musical Theatre Focus |
| **Science** | | | | | |
| Biology | \* | \* | \* | \* VC |  |
| Human Biology |  |  | \* |  |  |
| Chemistry | \* | \* | \* | \* VC |  |
| Physics | \* | \* | \* | \* VC |  |
| Lab Skills |  | \* |  |  |  |
| Health Sector |  | \* |  |  |  |
| Practical Electronics |  | \* |  |  |  |
| Scientific Technologies |  |  | L6 |  |  |
|  | | | | | |
| **Additional Qualifications** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Retail |  | L5 |  |  |  |
| Barista |  | L5 |  |  |  |
| French for Languages, Life and Work |  | L5 |  |  |  |
| Spanish for Languages, Life and Work |  | L5 |  |  |  |
| Early Education and Childcare | \* | \*N5 |  |  |  |
| Customer Service |  |  | L6 |  |  |
| Powering Futures |  |  | L6 |  |  |
|  | | | | | |
| **Other Options** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Employability HUB | Focus on assisting students with CVs and work experience opportunities. Ideal for Christmas leavers | | | | |
| West Lothian College | Students must apply for this and should have attended the college support sessions | | | | |
| YASS | Students will be guided through the application by Mrs Lumsden, our Librarian | | | | |
| West Lothian Virtual Academy | Students must apply for this and should have a predicted Higher grade of A or B in the chosen subject | | | | |
| LEAPS L7 | Students must apply for this themselves and cannot choose both this and Virtual Academy | | | | |

**Please note that while this table provides a full list of subjects, some may not run depending on numbers and staffing.**

**Students will be called down to the Assembly Hall where a member of the Senior Management Team, along with their Head of House, will help them make their choices. They will then bring a copy of their form home for a parent/carer to check and sign.**

**If any changes to the initial choices are made at home, please make sure they are clear and signed by a parent/carer next to the change.**

Example Form

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S4 Senior Phase Course Choice Form 2025-26** | | | | | | | | |
| **Year Group** | **Levels** | **Column A** | **Column B** | **Column C** | **Column D** | **Column E** | **Column F** | **Column G** |
|
|  | **National 4 National 5** | French/Spanish N4 x2 | History N5 | History N5 | Dance N5 | Art & Design 3D | S4 English | S4 English |
| Modern Studies N5 | Social Subjects N4 x2 | Modern Studies N5 | PE Games N5 | French N5 | S4 Maths | S4 Maths |
| PE Aesthetics N5 | Modern Studies N5 | PE Games N5 | Art & Design 3D N5 | RMPS N5 |  |  |
| Biology N5 | PE N5 (school of football) | French N5 | Spanish N5 | Design & Manufacture N5 |  |  |
| Computing N5 | Art & Design N5 (2D) | Drama N5 | Design & Manufacture N5 | Practical Metalwork N5 |  |  |
| Graphic Communication N5 | Practical Woodwork N5 | Practical Cookery N5 | Practical Electronics N5 | Practical Cookery N5 |  |  |
| Music N5 | Fashion & Textiles N5 | Chemistry N5 | Biology N5 | Chemistry N5 |  |  |
| Geography N5 | Biology N5 | Physics N5 | History N5 | Computing N5 |  |  |
| Media N5 | Admin & IT N5 | Music N5 | Music Technology N5 | Business Management N5 |  |  |
| S5/6 N5 English | S5/6 N5 Applications | College | S5/6 N5 Applications | History N5 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Skills for Work & SCQF** | Early Education & Childcare (SfW) N5 | Computer Games Design L5 | Travel & Tourism (SfW) N5 | Retail L5 | Photography (SfW) L5 |  |  |
| Sport & Recreation (SfW) N5 | Lab Skills (SfW) N5 | Lab Skills (SfW) N5 | Travel & Tourism (SfW) N5 | Sport & Recreation (SfW) N5 |  |  |
| **Choice from each column** | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Reserve** | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Checklist**

**Have you?:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Picked 5 subjects |  |
| Picked a reserve option |  |
| Already applied for college if you have picked it |  |
| Told us what your career aspiration is |  |
| Had your form signed |  |
| Told us your anticipated year of leaving school |  |