Over the coming weeks, students in S4 and S5 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/>

* 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

**New S5 Students:**

* Students moving into S5 will have a full timetable
* In addition to their subjects, students will have Personal and Social Education (PSE), which will offer study skills advice and help with future planning, and Personal Development (PD) which will give them a valuable Level 6 qualification
* Students choosing 5 Highers will not need to choose any other subjects
* Any student sitting National 5 in S5 will need to pick an additional course from the same column to ensure that they have a full timetable.
* Students moving into S6 will be expected to choose a minimum of 4 subjects
* In addition to their subjects, students will have Personal and Social Education (PSE) on their timetable to support UCAS/College applications
* Students will also have the opportunity to add to their CV or UCAS application by taking part in volunteering

**Additional Advice:**

Students currently in S4 should think about the subjects they are strongest in to maximise their chances of success. Think about:

* Tracking reports
* Prelim results
* Students thinking about a pathway to University should have 5 Highers in S5 to ensure that they exceed the minimum entry requirements. Entry to many courses is highly competitive and the more Highers you have on first sitting, the greater your chance of an offer!
* Look at University entry requirements/College entry requirements if Further or Higher education is a pathway you are considering
* ‘Ambition’ is one of our school values and we would urge all of our students to be as ambitious as possible when choosing their subjects
* If you ‘start a course’ you should ‘finish a course’!

**Thinking about your learner journey is important when thinking about your course choice for S5 and S6. 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 | 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 |  |  |  |
| **Social Subjects** | | | | | |
| History | \* | \* | \* | \* |  |
| Modern Studies | \* | \* | \* | \*VC |  |
| Geography | \* | \* |  |  |  |
| 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 | | | | |

**S6 West Lothian Virtual Academy Offering**

Each year, a number of Advanced Highers are offered through the West Lothian Virtual Academy. Please note that students should only apply for an Advanced Higher place if they are tracking as an A or B pass this session. Additionally, students wishing to take Advanced Higher PE must be playing sport at a National level to qualify for entry. Any student who is studying a Science will be given an ‘in school mentor’ to assist with practical work.

**If they choose, and are granted, a place in the Virtual Academy, students will be expected to:**

* Join 2 periods of ‘live’ learning via Microsoft Teams (either Tuesday or Thursday afternoon depending on the course). Attendance will be monitored at this with students at risk of being dropped from the course if have consistently poor attendance.
* Keep their cameras on and participate during the lessons
* Use ‘non-contact or free periods for self-study and as time to complete work set by the class teacher
* Attend in-person taught tutorials at a central location at least once per term (transport will be provided)

**Parents/Carers will receive:**

* 3 tracking updates throughout the year
* 1 Parents’ evening

Mrs Reid (Acting DHT Curriculum) will liaise with the Virtual Academy team and be a point of contact ensuring that all ASN requirements are shared with the delivery school and that students are made aware of any updates.

**Courses offered for session 25/26 are as follows:**

|  |
| --- |
| AH Biology |
| AH Business |
| AH Chemistry |
| AH Computing |
| AH English |
| AH History |
| AH Modern Studies |
| AH Music |
| AH PE |
| H Philosophy |
| AH Physics |
| AH RMPS |

**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

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S5 Senior Phase Course Choice Form 2025-26** | | | | | | |
| **Year Group** | **Levels** | **Column A** | **Column B** | **Column C** | **Column D** | **Column E** |
|
|  | **N5s** | Modern Studies N5 | Practical Woodwork N5 | PE Games N5 | Practical Electronics N5 | Practical Metalwork N5 |
| S5/6 N5 English | S5/6 N5 Applications | College | S5/6 N5 Applications | History N5 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Skills for Work and 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 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Higher and SCQF L6** | Maths | English | English | Applications of Maths | Computing Science |
| Art & Design | Physics | Biology | Media | English |
| Photography | Music | Photography | Art & Design | Chemistry |
| History | Modern Studies | PE Games | Human Biology | History |
| PE Games | Drama | Admin & IT | Modern Studies | PE Aesthetics |
| Design & Manufacture | French | Fashion & Textiles | Business Management | RMPS |
| Scientific Technology L6 | Business Management | Graphics | Spanish | Music Technology |
|  |  | Exercise, Fitness Leadership L6 |  | Excellence in Sport L6 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Additional Courses** | Employability HUB | Customer Service L6 | Personal Finance L5 | Employability HUB | Statistics L6 |
| Powering Futures L6 | Languages for Life & Work L5 | College | Barista L5 | Languages for Life & Work L5 |
|  |  | Digital Passport L6 |  |  |
| **Choice from each column** | | Art & Design H | English H | Photography H | Spanish  H | History H |
| **Additional Subject if choosing a N5** | |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Reserve** | | Modern Studies H |  |  |  |  |

**Example if choosing 4 Highers**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S5 Senior Phase Course Choice Form 2025-26** | | | | | | |
| **Year Group** | **Levels** | **Column A** | **Column B** | **Column C** | **Column D** | **Column E** |
|
|  | **N5s** | Modern Studies N5 | Practical Woodwork N5 | PE Games N5 | Practical Electronics N5 | Practical Metalwork N5 |
| S5/6 N5 English | S5/6 N5 Applications | College | S5/6 N5 Applications | History N5 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Skills for Work and 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 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Higher and SCQF L6** | Maths | English | English | Applications of Maths | Computing Science |
| Art & Design | Physics | Biology | Media | English |
| Photography | Music | Photography | Art & Design | Chemistry |
| History | Modern Studies | PE Games | Human Biology | History |
| PE Games | Drama | Admin & IT | Modern Studies | PE Aesthetics |
| Design & Manufacture | French | Fashion & Textiles | Business Management | RMPS |
| Scientific Technology L6 | Business Management | Graphics | Spanish | Music Technology |
|  |  | Exercise, Fitness Leadership L6 |  | Excellence in Sport L6 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Additional Courses** | Employability HUB | Customer Service L6 | Personal Finance L5 | Employability HUB | Statistics L6 |
| Powering Futures L6 | Languages for Life & Work L5 | College | Barista L5 | Languages for Life & Work L5 |
|  |  | Digital Passport L6 |  |  |
| **Choice from each column** | | Modern Studies N5 | English H | Photography H | Spanish H | History H |
| **Additional Subject if choosing a N5** | | Powering Futures L6 |  |  |  |  |
| **Reserve** | | Art & Design H |  |  |  |  |

**Checklist**

**Have you?:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Picked a subject from each column |  |
| Checked whether you need to pick a short course |  |
| Picked a reserve option |  |
| Identified your Career Aspiration |  |
| Had your form signed |  |