



# **Govan High School**



## **S4 – S6 Senior Phase Information Booklet**

# INTRODUCTION

This booklet has been produced to give you some idea of what is involved in being in Senior Phase in Govan High School. It deals with the opportunities available to you and the responsibilities placed on you. It also gives useful information about course choice procedures and advice on how to organise your study time.

In the senior phase, no matter if you are in S4, S5 or S6 you have two routes of study available to you.

## A GUIDE TO COURSE CHOICE – S3 to S4

The transition from S3 to S4 is a very important time for you as you will be asked to make choices about the subjects you wish to study and to make plans for your future career.

The purpose of this booklet is to give you information about the various subjects available to you in the school and to help you make decisions about the pathway you will follow through the Senior Phase (S4-S6). In S4 you will progress into National 4 (N4) or National 5 (N5), completing these in the summer of your fourth year.

The flexibility of Curriculum for Excellence will help us to personalise your learner journey. When making choices you need to consider many factors: your career aspirations; abilities in different subjects and your own personal preference. Your enjoyment of a subject is an important motivational factor.

S3 pupils in Govan High are being asked to select 7 subjects to study in S4. The option columns in S4 have been designed to ensure breadth of learning and as much flexibility and choice as possible. All pupils will continue to study English and Maths as well as Health and Wellbeing which includes: Core PE, PSE, Advisor and RME. You will be supported in your personal learning planning and target setting through the Advisor programme.

Pastoral Care and Advisor teachers will continue to support you throughout your school career and all pupils will have individual interviews with their Pastoral Care/Advisor teacher before their pathway from S3 is finalised. These interviews will begin on **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018**. **Option Forms must be returned to school by Friday 2 March 2018.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Possible Career: \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle your choice in each of the columns C to H. English and Maths are not optional in S4 and the same option cannot be chosen twice. You will be timetabled for 2 periods of Wider Achievement which you must select in column H. You will also be timetabled for 2 periods of Core PE as well as 1 period of Pathways. PE Studies is a separate course which will be certificated by SQA at the end of S4.

You will have an interview with your Pastoral Care teacher before you make your final choices and you must discuss your choices with your parent/ carer. This form must be handed into the school office by **Friday 2 March**, before your interview. Interviews begin on **Monday 5 March 2018**.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
							Wider Achievement
English	Maths	Geography History Modern Studies Music	Biology Physics Chemistry Administration	Art Music Business Studies PE Studies	Spanish PCS (Wood) Art Hospitality	Chemistry History Sports Leadership Graphics Pre Apprenticeship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achieve</li> <li>• Cadets</li> <li>• Crest</li> <li>• Dance</li> <li>• DofE</li> <li>• Practical Cake Craft</li> <li>• Social Enterprise</li> <li>• Street League</li> <li>• Sport &amp; Fitness</li> <li>• Volunteering</li> <li>• Work Placement</li> </ul>

**The school reserves the right not to run any course which fails to attract sufficient numbers to make a viable section.**

Pupil Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE BY FRIDAY 2 March 2018**

## A Guide to SQA Qualifications

Pupils will choose 7 subjects to study in S4. It is highly likely that they will continue with subjects that they have studied in S3 and achieve awards at National 4 and 5.

New qualifications, replacing Standard grade and Intermediate courses, began in 2013-14. **National 4** replaces Standard Grade General level and Intermediate 1. **National 5** replaces Standard Grade Credit level and Intermediate 2.

In Govan High pupils will be able to take the following routes:

- Complete National 3 units
- Complete N4 units only
- Complete N4 units and the N4 value-added unit to gain the N4 course award
- Complete N4 and/or N5 Units and the N4 value-added unit to gain the N4 course award
- Complete N5 units and the N5 external assessment to gain the N5 course award.

The National 4 award is assessed by the school. To gain a course award at this level pupils must pass Unit Assessments in school and the Added Value Unit. This is assessed using one of these assessments methods: Assignment; Case study; Practical activity; Performance; Portfolio; Project; or Question paper/test. Pupils will not sit external exams to achieve this level of award.

Courses at National 5 level will also include Units assessed by the school and pupils will also have to pass an additional Course assessment which will be marked externally by SQA. Subjects at National 5 will be graded A to D.

If a learner fails an end of year assessment/exam, they may still receive credit for any Units they have achieved at that level.

At the end of S4, pupils will then have a choice regarding their options as they continue into S5. If they wish to continue to study mainly at National 4/5 level and also want to focus on wider achievement and/or vocational courses then they will pick 7 choices from option form A. If they are hoping to go on to study mainly at higher level then will choose 5 subjects to study in S5 from Option Form B.

They can continue with subjects which they have studied during S3 & S4 and achieve course awards at National 5 or Higher in these. They will also be able to pick new subjects to study at National 4, National 5 or Higher level.

## **A GUIDE TO COURSE CHOICE in S5 and S6**

The transition from S4 to S5 or from S5 to S6 is a very important time for you as you will be asked to make choices about the subjects you wish to study and to make plans for your future career.

You need to ensure that you choose the subjects in which you are most likely to be successful and which you will need to make the transition from school to University, College or employment. You must build on your achievements from the previous year and add value to your qualifications. If you are thinking of going to University then you must aim for 5 Highers by the end of S5 (i.e. in one sitting) as this is what the Universities will expect you to have achieved. Make sure you check with the Universities about entry qualifications **before** you make your subject choices.

At the end of S4, pupils will have a choice regarding their options as they continue into S5. If they wish to continue to study mainly at National 4/5 level and also want to focus on wider achievement and/or vocational courses then they will pick 7 choices from option form A. If they are hoping to go on to study mainly at higher level then will choose 5 subjects to study from Option Form B. The same applies in S6.

Pastoral Care and Advisor teachers will continue to support you throughout your school career and all pupils will have individual interviews with their Pastoral Care/Advisor teacher before their pathway from S4, S5 or S6 is finalised. These interviews will begin on **Monday 5 March 2018**. **Forms must be returned to school by Friday 2 March 2018.**

All students in S5 and S6 will have a full time-table. **Only pupils in S6 can opt to be pupil buddies.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Possible Career: \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle your choice in each of the columns A to G. The same option cannot be chosen in more than one column. You will also be timetabled for 2 periods of Wider Achievement and you can select your chosen option in Column H. In addition to this you will also be timetabled for 1 period of Pathways which is our Advisor programme in the Senior Phase.

You will have an interview with your Pastoral Care teacher before you make your final choices and you must discuss your choices with your parent/ carer. This form should be handed into the school office by Friday 2 March. Interviews begin on **Monday 5 March 2018**

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
Social Subjects	Sciences	Expressive Arts	Technologies	Elective 1	Elective 2	Elective 3	Wider Achievement
English	Maths	Geography History Modern Studies Hospitality	Biology Physics Chemistry PE Studies	Art Music Business Studies Administration	Spanish PCS (Wood) Art Music	Biology History Sports Leadership Graphics Pre Apprenticeship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achieve</li> <li>• Cadets</li> <li>• Crest</li> <li>• Dance</li> <li>• DoFE</li> <li>• Practical Cake Craft</li> <li>• Refereeing</li> <li>• Social Enterprise</li> <li>• Street League</li> <li>• Sport &amp; Fitness</li> <li>• Volunteering</li> <li>• Work Placement</li> </ul>

**The school reserves the right not to run any course which fails to attract sufficient numbers to make a viable section.**

Pupil Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE BY FRIDAY 2 MARCH**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Possible Career: \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle your choice in each of the columns A to G. The same option cannot be chosen in more than one column. You should also select a Wider Achievement option in column F as you will have a double period of Wider Achievement as part of your timetable. In addition to this you will be timetabled for 1 period of Pathways.

You will have an interview with your Pastoral Care teacher before you make your final choices and you must discuss your choices with your parent/ carer. Please hand your option form into the school office by **Friday 2 March**. Interviews begin on **Monday 5 March 2018**

	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>
	History	Physics	Art	Business	Spanish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achieve</li> <li>• Cadets</li> <li>• Crest</li> <li>• Dance</li> <li>• DofE</li> <li>• Practical Cake Craft</li> <li>• Refereeing</li> <li>• Social Enterprise</li> <li>• Street League</li> <li>• Sport &amp; Fitness</li> <li>• Volunteering</li> <li>• Work Placement</li> </ul>
	Geography	Chemistry	Music	Graphics	PCS (Metal)	
	Maths	English	Modern Studies	Hospitality	Biology	
	PE Studies	Pre Apprenticeship	Maths	English	Administration	
		Work Placement			Music	
		College			Sports Leadership	
S6 Only	Pupil Buddy	Pupil Buddy	Pupil Buddy	Pupil Buddy	Pupil Buddy	

**The school reserves the right not to run any course which fails to attract sufficient numbers to make a viable section.**

Pupil Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED TO THE TEACHER ADVISING YOU BY FRIDAY 2 MARCH 2018**

## **COURSES ON OFFER**

### **Highers**

To take a Higher course in most circumstances you should have a Nat 5 pass in the subject. All Higher courses comprise a number of units assessed in school and an external end of course exam in May. To gain the course award, both the units and the external exam must be passed.

### **National 5**

To take a National 5 course in most circumstances you should have a Nat 4 pass in the subject. All National 5 courses comprise an external end of course exam in May and/or an end of Course Assignment. It may be possible to take a National 5 course in a new subject in S5 but this must be discussed and agreed with your Pastoral Care teacher and/or Head of Year.

### **National 4**

Entry into National 4 courses is more flexible. For those in S3 continuing into S4 it is expected that you will have studied the subject area in S3, however this is not always essential and individual exceptions will be discussed at option meetings with Pastoral Care Teachers. In S5 and S6 you may wish to take National 4 qualifications in areas that you have not yet studied to widen your achievements across other curricular areas. All National 4 courses comprise a number of units which are assessed in school.

### **Vocational & Wider Achievement**

We are aiming to continue to offer wider achievement and vocational options as detailed on the option forms. Whether you want to go on to University, College, Modern Apprenticeship or a job, your Wider Achievement option will allow you to develop important skills for learning, life and work. Gaining these skills will allow you to really boost your Personal Statement and CV.

Further information relating to specific courses on offer can be found in the *S4 – S6 Pathways* booklet.

### **Personal and Social Development**

PSE and RME will be delivered as part of the Wider Achievement option. The courses comprise discussion about contemporary issues and, on occasion, visiting speakers.

### **Careers**

All students in S4, S5 and S6 are timetabled for Pathways. These classes involve preparation for future career pathways, career awareness sessions, interviews with career advisor, support for Personal Statements, CVs and work experience.

### **S6 Students**

All courses are available to S6 students. In addition, students who have been successful at Higher may be able to take subjects at Advanced Higher. This will depend on staff being available and a sufficient demand to make it viable. Young people may be able to study certain subjects at the AH Hub at Caledonian University. Young people should speak to their Pastoral Care Teacher if interested. These subjects are good training for college or university as they rely on a lot more independent work by the student, with the teacher adopting a more tutorial approach.



In S6 you can opt to be a pupil buddy in one column only. To carry out this role you will be trained by our Learning Support experts and will then be timetabled to go into class to support some of your younger pupils with their learning. It can also include working with pupils from the local primary schools. This is a great opportunity to gain experience, build up your CV and also give something back to the school.

## **COURSES OUTWITH GOVAN HIGH SCHOOL**

Pupils can also study outwith the school at college as one of their options. These courses are run by partner colleges and coordinated by GCC Vocational Education Unit. If attending college, pupils are required to travel independently to college on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Bus passes are provided. If choosing a college option pupils must be aware that there is no option to leave college half-way through the course. Places on College courses are very limited and you should therefore also pick a second school-based subject in case you cannot get onto the course that you would like.

### **Wider Achievement**

Some wider achievement opportunities are built into the option columns but senior pupils should also seek out opportunities to get involved in the wider life of the school. Universities and employers will expect you to have excellent qualifications and evidence of wider achievement by the time you leave school.

## CAREERS INFORMATION

We are fortunate to have the following careers support:

### **Mrs Grant, Principal Teacher of Developing Govan's Young Workforce**

Students looking for careers advice should in the first instance see **Mrs Grant in the Next Steps Room.**



### **Gerry Carroll – SDS Careers Advisor**

You will find Gerry in the Next Steps Office in school at the following times:

- **Tuesday**
- **Wed pm**
- **Thursday**
- **Friday**

Please drop in or make an appointment to see Gerry who will give you advice on your career options. Gerry is often available at our parents evenings, and welcomes the opportunity to meet with parents during and after school.

To contact Gerry, please contact the school by phoning 0141 582 0090, or email Gerry at [gerrard.carroll@sds.co.uk](mailto:gerrard.carroll@sds.co.uk)

Pupils should also register on [myworldofwork.co.uk](http://myworldofwork.co.uk). Thereafter if more support is required you can request individual support through this website.

Resources to consult for further information about careers and Further Education Courses –

- **School Website and Twitter**
- <https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/>
- <https://www.planitplus.net/>
- <https://www.ucas.com/> (about applying to University)
- **Individual University and College Prospectuses – Next Steps Room and the Library**

## **LIFE AS A SENIOR STUDENT**

### **Attendance**

All Senior Phase students are expected to have a full timetable. Any absence should always be explained by you to Pastoral Care. In school all absences must be accounted for and students should bring parental notes to their Pastoral Care teacher.

Students who do not attend classes regularly will quickly fall behind with the work and this will seriously affect their chances of success in achieving qualifications.

### **Behaviour**

Students in the Senior Phase are expected to behave in a mature and sensible manner. It should be remembered that once you are sixteen you are in law technically responsible for your own conduct. All communication relating to school and/or college will be sent to you personally and any decision taken about your future will be discussed with you. However, as a courtesy, your parents/guardians will be sent a copy of any communication and will be invited to be present at any interviews.

### **Dress**

You are expected to maintain the highest possible standard of dress at all times and be role models for younger pupils. This includes wearing the school tie and blazer.

## **STUDENTS RECEIVING AN EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE**

Students receiving an EMA are required to maintain 100% attendance and full engagement with learning and this is reported to GCC weekly. Students whose attendance or application falls below an acceptable standard will lose their EMA for the week and may be asked to repay money received as a result of an attendance discrepancy. All students in receipt of an EMA must make sure they are clear about the need for self/medical certification in case of absence.

Students who think they may be entitled to an EMA should apply on the appropriate form which is usually available from the Office staff or can be downloaded during the months of May and June for the following session.

## **KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON**

Students in the Senior Phase should keep up-to-date with what is happening in school by constant attendance at Pathways time, looking regularly at the Senior Noticeboards and Next Steps Office and attending all meetings (which will be advertised).

If you do not do this, you are likely to lose out as you may miss valuable opportunities or information vital to your future career.

# DEVELOPING STUDY SKILLS

## Why is this important?

For most students the fourth, fifth and sixth years in school are very demanding. Much more study is required than for S3 and it is important that this study should be organised carefully and that you make the best use of your time.

We strongly recommend that ALL Senior Phase Students find time to make themselves familiar with all the advice on study skills.

**Remember: no one can do this for you. In the end it must be your responsibility.**

## Ways to Improve Your Study Skills

1. Adopt a positive attitude to schoolwork and study. If you really want to get results, you should think of all your homework and study throughout the session as a means to an end. It will be worth it when you complete the course successfully.
2. Consider how your time is spent in a typical week, e.g. how much time do you spend on social commitments, hobbies, homework, private study, revision, free time, etc.  
*Is the balance right? Are you using your time efficiently?*
3. Study regularly during the session - this does not simply mean doing homework. It means revising notes, doing background reading, memorising, etc. Better results are obtained if you do this every week rather than leaving it until just before an examination. It is useful to draw up a weekly study planner or even a monthly one - so that your study time is planned well ahead.
4. **A fifth or sixth year student taking 3, 4 or 5 Highers should be prepared for a workload of 2 - 3 hours per night, five nights per week.** In Further/Higher Education even more study time is required though some of it can be done during free time in mornings or afternoons. You should be developing good study habits now!!  
**To get the best results, you must take full advantage of all study opportunities.**
5. In the weeks before exams you will obviously spend more time studying, but it should help to make this less of a burden if you have been studying and revising the work covered week by week.
6. Study early in the evening rather than late when your brain will be more tired. It is also recommended to have one day at the weekend completely free of study to prevent you from getting stale.
7. Before taking a part-time job at the weekend or after school make sure that you are not taking on too much. Otherwise your school work may suffer.
8. Practise concentrating regardless of any distractions such as noise, music, people talking, etc. Ask yourself - does background music really help you to concentrate?
9. The most useful skill of all to develop is systematic and efficient note-taking. Above all the ability to **summarise information briefly is vital**, eg. reducing notes to brief headings of the important facts.
10. Peer group pressure is very powerful, ie. if your friends are lazy and don't study, you will feel inclined to do the same. If your friends study a lot, you are likely to follow suit. **Avoid being pressurised away from study if you really want to succeed.** ABOVE ALL, BE ORGANISED

**If you have any problems with schoolwork, don't hesitate to discuss them with your subject teacher or with your Pastoral Care Teacher. We are here to help you.**

## Examples of Learners' Pathways

### Pupil A

#### Preferred Career Destination – University

Pupil A entered Govan High School and experienced a curriculum in S1 and S2 that offered breadth and depth across the curricular areas. Her CAT predictors indicated that her particular area of strength lay towards the Sciences and Maths which was conveyed to her during her CAT interview. Through exploring different career options using Focus Point she identified from an early stage that she would like to go on and study a Science related course at University. This interest was born from involvement in STEM projects such as Go4Set. She also gained accreditation with the SQA Award for Personal Achievement at Silver level through the Wider Achievement programme and in S2 she opted to complete the Navigation Award as part of the personalisation and choice offered within the Wider Achievement curriculum.

As she moved into S3 she carried out personalisation and choice. She selected English, Maths, Geography, Chemistry, Art, Biology, Administration and Spanish. Her enjoyment and completion of the Navigation Award in S2 Wider Achievement led her to pick the Earl of Wessex Award in S3 as her Wider Achievement option.

In S4 pupil A selected the following 7 subjects at National 5 level: Maths, Geography, Chemistry, English, Biology and Business as well as Duke of Edinburgh (Bronze) as a Wider Achievement option. In S5 she studied 5 subjects at Higher level; English, Chemistry, Geography, Maths and Biology. In S6 she studied Higher Business Management as well as attending the Advanced Higher Hub at Caledonian University to study Chemistry and Biology. She was part of the Focus West top up programme and UCAS preparation group. She was accepted for a Degree in Biomedical Science at University.

### Pupil B

#### Preferred Career Destination – FE College

Pupil B entered Govan High School and experienced the BGE until the end of S3. He enjoyed creative subjects and Wider Achievement. In particular he liked the YPI challenge in S2 Wider Achievement where he researched PEEK, a street play charity and after winning £3000 for this charity he went on to become a volunteer for them in S3. At this point he realised that he wanted to work with young people to make a difference. In addition to volunteering after school he went on to study Graphics, PE, Music, English, Maths, Biology, PE and History.

Pupil B selected 7 subjects in S4. He studied the following subjects at National 4 level: Maths, History and English. He achieved Graphic Communications, PE and Music at National 5. Pupil B chose Work Experience for 2 afternoons in a local Primary School. In S5 he chose 5 subjects, including English at National 5, PE at Higher level and College to study Early Years at level 5. He then went on to study an HNC in Early Education & Child Care full-time at College.

### **Pupil C**

#### **Preferred Career Destination – Modern Apprenticeship**

Pupil C experienced the BGE across S1 to S3 but struggled to engage in some subject areas. She identified quickly through the skills period and her use of focus point that she was creative but also that she was interested in entering the world of work at the end of S4 and was interested in an apprenticeship. During the S3 careers event she was introduced to our partner Morris Spottiswood and she was excited about a future career in construction.

Pupil C chose 7 subjects in S4. She studied the following subjects at National 4 level: Maths, Physics, PE, English, Graphic Communications and Geography. She chose the Pre-apprenticeship course in Construction. She then went on to a Modern Apprenticeship in Construction with Morris & Spottiswood.

### **Pupil D**

#### **Preferred Career Destination – Employment**

Pupil D entered Govan High School and experienced a broad general education until the end of S3. At the end of S3 he was unsure about his options in relation to his future career as he did not know what he wanted to do on exiting school. As a result he kept his options open and continued to study across all curricular modes. Through the pupil profile on Focus West he was able to explore different career pathways and through the skills programme he became more aware of his skills set. As a result of this he knew that he was good at relating to people and wanted a career in working with people.

Pupil D selected 7 subjects in S4. He studied the following subjects at National 5 level: Maths, English, Business, and Administration. He also achieved Hairdressing, Music and Modern Studies at National 4. In S5 he chose 5 subjects, including Higher English, Business and a Foundation Apprenticeship Pathfinder in Financial Services in partnership with College and work placements. He then went on to secure employment with Lloyds TSB.

**Pupil E****Preferred Career Destination – Modern Apprenticeship**

Pupil E entered Govan High School mid-way through S1. English was an additional language for this pupil and he was new to English, with Arabic being his first language. He was buddied up initially with another boy in his year group who was an Arabic speaker. Over the BGE he received additional input from the EAL response team and quickly developed his social language in English. He was keen on practical subjects such as PE and Drama and was also good at Maths. At the end of S3 he opted to study 7 subjects including ESOL, PE, Maths and Sports Leaders. As he progressed into S5 in the Senior Phase he continued to study PE and Sports Leadership and attended college 2 afternoons per week to study for a Foundation Apprenticeship (Group Award) in Social Services and Healthcare (SCQF Level 6). Sixth year entailed 3 days working in a hospital whilst studying for 2 days in school where he also took part in the buddy programme as he realised he wanted to work in the caring profession. Following the 2 year Foundation Apprenticeship, he left to secure a Modern Apprenticeship in a Hospital.

**Pupil F****Preferred Career Destination – University**

Pupil F entered Govan High School mid-way through S4. He continued his National 5 qualifications and gained 7 qualifications including Chemistry and Biology. His dream was to be a dentist and he continued to study Chemistry and Biology along with 3 other Highers. He secured himself work experience at a local dentist as well as a period of time at the Dental Hospital. Sixth year was spent at the Advanced Higher Hub where he studied Advanced Highers in Chemistry and Biology. Advanced Higher English was studied at school. He was mentored throughout fifth and sixth year by a former doctor as part of the IGM Programme. He was part of the Focus West top up programme and UCAS preparation group. He secured a place at University for Dentistry.