Dear parents and carers

S5 Subject Choice – 2026/2027

In February, our S5 learners will make decisions regarding their subject choices for S6 and for post-school plans. As S5 pupils move into S6 they will be looking to choose a minimum of 4 subjects at SCQF level 5/6/7. In S6, we would recommend a blend of subjects previously studied alongside picking up subjects linked to their progression pathway. Aberdeen City Schools also have the option of choosing subjects from ABZ campus which includes subjects taught in other schools and at NESCOL.

In some cases, pupils may look to break their current pathway and crash a subject. This could be a sideways or backwards step in terms of presentation to pick up a new subject e.g N5 and Higher Biology to Higher Chemistry having not studied N5.

From last academic session we moved to a free choice model for our course choice. This means that young people going into S5 and S6 will simply have to select their options from the range offered below (some subjects may still be added to this over the next few weeks). The ABZ offer will continue to run on set afternoons, and this will be reflected on the course choice sheet.

Level					
SCQF 5	English Practical Cookery Hospitality ESOL (invite only) Applied Science Photography Woodworking	Biology Chemistry Physics Laboratory Skills Leadership Science & Technology L4	Art & Design Geography History Modern Studies Physical Education Personal Finance Spanish French	Applications of Mathematics Computer Games Development Drama Mathematics German Music	Business Management Computing Science Design & Manufacture Graphics Applications of Maths
SCQF 6	English *ESOL (invite only) Film and Media Politics Legal studies Sports Leaders Communications	Biology Chemistry Physics Leadership Modern Studies NPA Hospitality Mathematics	Art & Design Geography History Modern Studies Physical Education French Exercise and Fitness Leadership	Accounting Computer Games Development Drama Human Biology Music H Photography Spanish	Applications of Mathematics Business Management Computing Science Design & Manufacture Graphics
SCQF 7	English Chemistry Mathematics Art & Design	Biology (ABZ – column A) Modern Studies (ABZ – column A)	Geography (ABZ – column B) Physics (ABZ – column B)	French NPA Refereeing	

Electives

S5 and 6 pupils will also have the opportunity to pick up a wider achievement elective which will run for two periods per week. They will gain a range of awards or NPAs from these electives and will get a detailed run down of what each entail. The options will be as follows:

L5 Numeracy	L5/6 Literacy	Mental Health award	Powering Futures	Spanish	Robotics
Music Performance	Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies	Prefect duty	Community Placements	Website Graphics	Active Schools
Creative Industries	School Show				

Moving into session 2026-2027, we have enhanced our pathway planning process to ensure it is more strategic, data-informed, and tailored to each young person's individual needs. By using academic performance data and tracking progress, we can provide more effective guidance and support for pathway planning, helping every young person make informed decisions about their future. If you would like to discuss your child's course choices, please contact their Guidance Teacher, attend one of our coursing evenings or make an appointment during Parent's evening. In addition, if your young person wishes to discuss their course choice with their Guidance teacher, they can complete the Microsoft form available on their year group Google classroom by Friday 20th February.

The key dates below to aid with the subject choice process:

Event	Dates	What does this mean?
Faculty week – progression pathways	w/c 2nd February	Each Faculty will discuss progression pathways with the learners
PSE focus on subject choice with Guidance teacher	From the start of February	PSE lessons will discuss, explain and support learners on the subject choice process, the subject choice sheet and then future planning and progression pathways
Course choice pupil assembly	Friday 30th January	Explanation of the course choice process for the whole year group
Pathway planning event	Wednesday 4th February 5-7pm	We will hear from a range of professionals across the City about different pathway opportunities – this will involve speakers from Aberdeen University, Robert Gordon's University, NESCol, ABZ Campus, NESCol Schools links courses, Barnardos etc.
Faculty Curricular Evening/Course Choice Event	Thursday 19th February 4.30-7pm	All Faculties across the school will be offering drop-in sessions to go through courses on offer, pathways, progression routes and support parents and pupils making their choices. In addition, there will also be a drop-in room to discuss the course choice process with Skills Development Scotland, RGU and Depute responsible for curriculum. Presentations will run at various times throughout the evening: 4.45-5.05pm, 5.40-6pm, 6.30-6.50pm.
Subject choice process	Monday 12th February until Friday 27th February	Learners can opt to have a meeting with an allocated member of the Guidance team to discuss subjects and will then take home the subject choice sheet. This will need to be returned by Wednesday 4th March.

In order to best support your young person with their course choice you could:

- Discuss choices and progression pathways at home
- Use the school report to identify key areas of strength
- Help ensure the course sheet is returned by the deadline

The following websites will also be beneficial for promoting discussion and looking at post-school options:

Website address	Information you can find there

www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk	Skills Development Scotland work with young people in schools through our Careers Advisor and the website will help with career guidance and apprenticeship information
My World of Work |	My World of Work is a website that helps you plan your career, find a job, training or voluntary work, and discover new skills
https://www.nescol.ac.uk/	North East Scotland College for looking at college courses and entry requirements
https://digital.ucas.com/search	UCAS Search for looking at university courses and entry requirements
https://www.sruc.ac.uk/	Scottish Rural College for looking at college courses and entry requirements

If you have any questions about the coursing process, please contact your child's Guidance teacher, Mrs Lawrenson on jane.lawrenson@ab-ed.org