Parent Information Booklet – Senior Phase Curriculum Autumn Term 2 2026

English – S4 National 5 Mrs Thompson

Our main work this term is continuing to read and analyse the drama text 'An Inspector Calls' by J.B. Priestley, their key text for critical reading in the National 5 exam. Pupils will analyse characterisation, language, and techniques such as themes and motifs used by the playwright, and will be taught how to write a critical essay on the text, which they will need to do in their National 5 prelim and exam.

Pupils will also be working on their folio piece, as the requirement is to produce 2 drafts and a final essay which will be submitted to the SQA. They have been taught both discursive and creative writing skills and written a first draft. Pupils are then working on a second draft following whole class feedback. They will receive individual written feedback on their second draft. Pupils will redraft their piece and submit a third and final draft which will be sent to the SQA. The folio is worth 30% of the National 5 English qualification.

Assessments

Pupils will sit in-class assessments in exam conditions in the classroom, in preparation for Prelim.

Folio deadlines are:

DRAFT 1 DUE ON TEAMS – FRIDAY 18 SEPTEMBER

WHOLE CLASS VERBAL FEEDBACK ON DRAFT 1 – MONDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

DRAFT 2 DUE ON TEAMS – MONDAY 26 OCTOBER

INDIVIDUAL WRITTEN FEEDBACK ON DRAFT 2 – MONDAY 9 NOVEMBER

FINAL DRAFT DUE ON TEAMS – MONDAY 30 NOVEMBER

Pupils will also be working on developing Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation (RUAE) in preparation for the National 5 exam.

Some time in class will be spent revising the 6 poems for the Scottish Set text paper. Pupils should also be revising these independently using their annotated poems, notes and flashcards, ready for Prelim in January. BBC Bitesize also has excellent revision pages

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zghtyrd

Speaking and listening skills will be assessed continually throughout the course, and pupils will be required to deliver a talk to the class or a small group next term. A Pass/Fail grade will be submitted to the SQA. All pupils must pass to achieve a National 5 award in English.

Parents can support their child by talking to them about their work and encouraging them to read a variety of non-fiction articles both online and offline to prepare for the RUAE exam:

www.bbc.co.uk

www.scotsman.com

www.theguardian.com/uk

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zrphvcw

Past papers can be found on the class Team and the Qualifications Scotland website

https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47410.html

All lesson Powerpoints, additional resources, past papers and student exemplars are on TEAMS. Please encourage your child to check TEAMS/ASSIGNMENTS every day.

Homework will be shared via TEAMS and hard copy handouts and written on the class whiteboard. Please encourage your child to check TEAMS/ASSIGNMENTS and to let me know if they are having any problems accessing TEAMS.

English S4/5 National 5 – Mr Jones

Same as above. However, our folio dates are different.

Folio deadlines are:

DRAFT 1 DUE ON TEAMS – FRIDAY 9th OCTOBER

WHOLE CLASS VERBAL FEEDBACK ON DRAFT 1 – MONDAY 2nd NOVEMBER

DRAFT 2 DUE ON TEAMS – MONDAY 23rd NOVEMBER

INDIVIDUAL WRITTEN FEEDBACK ON DRAFT 2 – MONDAY 23rd NOVEMBER

FINAL DRAFT DUE ON TEAMS – MONDAY 14th DECEMBER

English – S5 Higher Mrs Thompson

Our main work this term is continuing to read and analyse the novel 'The Great Gatsby.' Pupils will analyse characterisation, language, setting, themes, techniques used by the author, themes and motifs. They will be taught how to write a critical essay at Higher level and will analyse SQA exemplars to help them understand what is required at Higher level. They will practise writing essays using past paper questions.

Pupils will also be developing their Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation (RUAE) skills in preparation for the exam. They will complete exercises and tackle exam questions to help them feel more confident.

Some time in class will be spent revising the 6 poems for the Scottish Set text paper. Pupils should be revising the 6 poems they were taught in Term 1 independently, using their annotated poems, notes and flashcards, ready for Prelim in January. BBC Bitesize also has excellent revision pages

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zghtyrd

Assessments

Pupils will sit in-class assessments in exam conditions in the classroom, in preparation for Prelim.

Folio

Pupils will be working on their folio piece, as the requirement is to produce 2 drafts and a final essay which will be submitted to the SQA. They have been taught both discursive and creative writing skills and have chosen which style to write. The folio is worth 30% of the National 5 English qualification.

Folio deadlines are:

DRAFT 1 DUE ON TEAMS – MONDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

WHOLE CLASS VERBAL FEEDBACK ON DRAFT 1 – FRIDAY 9 OCTOBER

DRAFT 2 DUE ON TEAMS – FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER

INDIVIDUAL WRITTEN FEEDBACK ON DRAFT 2 – MONDAY 1 FEBRUARY

FINAL DRAFT DUE ON TEAMS – FRIDAY 5 MARCH.

Pupils are encouraged to hand it in before this date. This will then be sent to the SQA.

Speaking and listening skills will be assessed continually throughout the course and pupils will be required to deliver a talk to the class or a small group next term. A Pass/Fail grade will be submitted to the SQA. All pupils must pass to achieve a Higher award in English.

All lesson Powerpoints, additional resources, past papers, student exemplars and homework are on TEAMS and hard copy handouts. Please encourage your child to check TEAMS/ASSIGNMENTS every day.

Parents can support their child by talking to them about their work and encouraging them to read a variety of non-fiction articles both online and offline to prepare for the RUAE exam:

www.bbc.co.uk

www.scotsman.com

www.theguardian.com/uk

Pupils should also be revising all 6 poems by Carol Ann Duffy, using their A3 annotated poems, notes, completing past papers and engaging with BBC Bitesize

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zbgrd2p

Parents can also point their child towards online resources such as BBC Bitesize
https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zqxhfg8

Past papers can be found on the class Team and the Qualifications Scotland website
https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47904.html

Maths

Advanced Higher – Mr Drummond

This term pupils should continue to follow the timeline and detailed study guide provided. They will study properties of graphs (building on the work at Higher), Matrices and also complete the chapters covering differential and integral Calculus.

Parents can help pupils by encouraging them to carry out practice exercises at home in order to stay on track to complete the necessary work. The Advanced Higher Maths website has a wealth of material available for revision and practice.
https://www.advancedhighermathematics.co.uk/

Higher – Mr Drummond

This term we will start by rounding off the Polynomials topic which kicked off Unit 2 and will be aiming to complete the rest of this unit before the Christmas break. This will break down into three main areas:

- *Differential Calculus*: This is the mathematics of rates of change and is one of the most powerful tools availabe to scientists, engineers and economists. Through this section we will learn how to find the derived function of polynomials, some trigonometric functions and some compound functions and then see how these can be used to solve a wide variety of problems.
- *Integral Calculus*: This is the mathematics of area and of summation. The methods for integration are directly related to the previous topic .
- *Trigonometric Equations:* In the first unit, pupils learned several ways to manipulate trigonometric expressions. Here they will apply those methods to solve equations.

Homework will continue to be issued at the end of each topic according to the timeline issued in June and Supported Study will be available on Thursday at lunchtime.

Parents can help pupils by encouraging them to talk through the work they cover each week and by assisting them to manage their study time to fit around their household routines. The best way to learn Maths is to practice so directing pupils to the Higher Maths website is a good starting point.
https://www.highermathematics.co.uk/

To fully achieve their potential in Higher Maths I would recommend that a pupil should try to spend two hours each week outside of school working on study activities.

National 5 Applications of Maths S4 – Mr Archibald

Students will complete the Numeracy Unit and then will be taught the Geometry and Measures Unit which covers the following topics: Tolerance, Rules & Formulae, Scale Drawing, Time/Distance/Speed, Pythagoras, Gradient, Area and Volume. They will receive homework each week and can use the following websites along with the other general sites below:

https://mathsrevision.com/index_files/N5_Lifeskills.htm

https://www.national5maths.co.uk/n5-lifeskills-maths/

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize

Higher Applications of Maths – Mrs Chatterton

Pupils have now completed the Planning and Decision-Making Unit, part of the Statistics and Probability Unit, part of the Modelling Unit and part of the Finance Unit. They will complete an Assessment which will cover all the topics taught so far in these Units. They will also complete a practise project to give them an idea of what is required in the real project, using the skills learnt during the Statistics Unit. They will also start to gather their data for their project. This term they will also work through the rest of the Finance Unit in preparation for the Prelim in January. Supported study is available on a Thursday after school.

Pupils will receive homework each week and can use the following websites below:

https://www.freeapplicationsofmaths.co.uk/higherapps (notes, examples and worksheets)

https://www.applyingmaths.com/

https://cjmaths.wordpress.com/higher-apps/

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIEWZ07veqNTNjVG-eYcwKIH35p2iz5IG (videos)

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLaEEVKxhj6sp_fezM3hLyL-YcDpgyTGCU (videos)

National 5 Applications of Maths S5/6 – Mrs Chatterton

The class are finishing working through the Geometry and Measure Unit this includes covering topics such as scale drawing, speed/distance/time, Pythagoras' theorem and tolerance. The class will then start working through covering the content for the Finance and Statistics Unit. This will include working with income, budgeting, foreign exchange, averages, reading and interpreting a variety of graphs. Homework will be issued regularly, with mini assessments during the Unit and a check-up assessment in November of all the topics covered so far.

Parents can help their students by asking them to talk through the maths that they are covering each week. There will be after school supported study on a Thursday for any students who need help with their maths. Students can also use the following websites for help:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize

https://www.national5maths.co.uk/n5-lifeskills-maths/ (National 5)

https://mathsrevision.com/index_files/N5_Lifeskills.htm (National 5)

https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/70972.html

National 5 Maths – Mrs Chatterton

We have completed and assessed the Expressions & Formulae Unit. We have started to cover the content for the Relationships Unit. This will include working with straight lines, linear equations, inequalities, quadratic functions, trigonometric functions and Pythagoras' theorem and properties of shapes. Homework will be issued regularly, with mini assessments during the Unit and a check-up assessment in November of all the topics covered so far. Supported study is available on a Thursday after school.

Parents can help their students by asking them to talk through the maths that they are covering each week. Students can also use all the resources on Teams and the following websites for help:

https://mathsrevision.com/index_files/National5.htm

https://www.national5maths.co.uk/free-national-5-maths-2/

National 4 Applications of Maths S4 – Mrs Millar

The class are finishing working through the Finance and Statistics Unit this includes covering topics such as income, budgeting, foreign exchange, averages, reading and interpreting a variety of graphs. The class will then start working through covering the content for the Geometry and Measure Unit. This will include working with scale drawing, speed/distance/time, Pythagoras' theorem and tolerance. It is hoped to complete the Unit assessment for the Finance and Statistics unit prior to Christmas.

Parents can help their students by asking them to talk through the maths that they are covering each week. There will be after school supported study on a Tuesday for any students who need help with their maths. Students can also use the following websites for help:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize

www.mathsrevision.com

https://www.national5maths.co.uk/free-national-4-maths/

https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/70972.html

National 5 and Higher RMPS

This term N5 & H RMPS pupils will be studying our Religious and Philosophical Questions unit - Miracles. The focus is on developing knowledge, analysis and evaluation of religious, scientific and compatible view on a range of scriptural and non-scriptural miracles. . We will continue to practice exam question skills in preparation for the prelim in January.

Past papers can be found at SQA - NQ - Past papers and marking instructions. Please encourage your young person to use the past papers to practice exam style questions.

Information about RMPS units and links to relevant documents, support materials and the SQA can be found here on the school website. Please take time to look at this and use it to ask question and spark debate with your young person.

Langholm Academy 2-18 School - Higher RMPS

Psychology

National 5

This term N5 pupils will complete work on research methodology. We will begin our unit on conformity where pupils will explore how and why people do the same as others around them, learning about key theories and studies. We will regularly be practicing exam questions in the run up to the prelim in January. Please encourage your child to regularly use teams to ensure that all their notes and tasks from lessons are completed. There is a folder in their team where they can find practice questions. Pupils should be regularly practicing questions and handing these in for feedback.

Higher

This term Higher psychology pupils will complete work on research methodology in readiness for carrying out their own research project and report that contributes a third of marks to their Higher certificate. Alongside this we will begin our unit on conformity and obedience where pupils will explore how and why people do as they are told (or resist!) and why people do the same as others around them.

Past papers can be found at SQA - NQ - Past papers and marking instructions. Please encourage your young person to use the past papers to practice exam style questions.

Information about Psychology units and links to relevant documents, support materials and the SQA can be found here on the school website. Please take time to look at this and use it to ask question and spark debate with your young person.

Langholm Academy 2-18 School - Psychology

Modern Studies

National: Pupils are working through the Democracy topic. We will regularly be practising both knowledge and skills questions in the run up to the prelim in January. Please encourage your child to regularly be using teams to ensure that all their notes and tasks from lessons are completed. There is a folder in their team where they can find practice questions. Pupils should be regularly practicing questions and handing these in for feedback. The class have also been working on their assignments, and your child will need to complete the remainder of this piece of work in their own time, as per the requirement of the SQA. Texts will be sent home with assignment deadlines.

Higher: Pupils are currently working through their second unit of the course Social issues in the UK. the class will learn about health and wealth inequalities and measures to address them. Please encourage your child to regularly use teams to ensure that all their notes and tasks from lessons are completed. Regular class essays will be given, and I recommend that pupils redraft these once feedback has been given.

Please also encourage your child to keep up-to-date with current events, watching the news, documentaries or reading quality newspaper articles.

Art

National 5/ Higher

N5 Pupils are working on their design folios and higher pupils are working on their expressive portfolios The deadline to have the design folio 100% complete is the 20th of November. In parallel, pupils are improving their ability to respond to exam-style image questions while also being introduced to the specific artists' and designers' work which they must demonstrate their understanding of in the exam/prelim.

Pupils may ideally be encouraged to partake in further artwork towards either their practical portfolio or critical work at home.

Art club is offered on a Thursday lunchtime to allow pupils the opportunity to utilise materials/equipment required and provide support and guidance.

Physical Education

National 5 PE – Pupils will undertake a block of badminton where they will develop a range of skills from different shots to movement skills and tactics. Pupils will also explore the mental factor through badminton focussing on features such as concentration, decision making and motivation. Pupils will continue to work on the Factors Impacting on Performance Unit during classroom sessions and as homework.

Higher PE – Pupils will be undertaking a block of badminton this term. They will be completing a Personal Development Plan (PDP) to develop a specific shot of their choice. During this term pupils will develop their knowledge of the mental factor by carrying out baseline data gathering tasks on features such as anxiety, determination, decision making and concentration. Pupils will also learn about approaches to develop these mental features such as mental rehearsal, visualisation and deep breathing techniques. Pupils will be completing the Factors Impacting on Performance Unit and working on exam-based questions in preparation for their prelim exam early in the new year.

Exercise and Fitness Leadership - The pupils will continue their micro-teaching block this term, where they will develop the skills needed to lead a sports session. They will also deliver lessons (in pairs) to a group of P5 and P6 pupils focussing on a variety of sports. Further to this the pupils will continue working through the E&F Leadership unit assessments in Cardiovascular Training, Fixed Weight Training and Circuit Training. Pupils will also have the opportunity to work with Active Schools Coordinator, Calum Graham, where they will assist with the delivery of primary sports hall athletics and various extra-curricular clubs.

Parent can encourage their children to access the BBC bitesize National 5 and Higher PE pages to help revise the topics we cover. They can also access excellent resources from www.satpe.co.uk and www.langholmpe.wordpress.com.

Personal Support Programme

S4 – Employability – This term the focus of PSP in S4 will be employability. Pupils will get the chance to prepare for potential upcoming Interviews and will receive a talk from the School's Careers Advisor Shirley Jones. To support your child please provide them with an opportunity to discuss these topics with you. Pupils will also start looking at Exam Preparations through study skills.

S5 – This term the following topics will be covered in S5 PSP:

- Substance Misuse (with a focus on cocaine)
- Young Drivers (talk delivered by PC Rankin)
- Sexual Health - Pornograpghy (Kara McWhinnie)

To support your child please provide them with an opportunity to discuss these topics with you.

Useful website links https://www.talktofrank.com/

S6 - This term the following topics will be covered in S6 PSP:

- UCAS Applications & Personal Statements
- Financial Education – Ailsa Paton
- Christmas Dance preparation and organisation
- CV Preparation

To support your child please provide them with an opportunity to discuss these topics with you.

Useful website links www.ucas.com/parents/

Graphic Communication

National 4/5 - This term we will be continuing to develop the three main aspects of Graphic Communication. Preliminary Graphics, Production Graphics and Promotional Graphics. Pupils will develop skills in both manual and electronic graphic communication techniques. They will acquire knowledge and understanding of terms and techniques in computer-aided design (CAD), and desktop publishing (DTP). They will learn how graphic communication technologies impact on our environment and society. By the end of the term pupils should have a strong understanding of how to:

- produce and interpret 2D sketches and drawings.
- produce preliminary 2D designs and illustrations for single-page promotional displays.
- create 2D promotional graphic layouts
- produce 3D CAD models with more than three parts
- create working drawings to British standards
- create orthographic sketches of everyday objects with good proportion

We will also be preparing to sit the National 5 SQA Assignment. The SQA Assignment is completed in school, over 8 hours and is worth 36% of your pupil's final grade. The SQA Assignment will be completed by the pupils during class time in February, however, we will complete a full practise assignment in class during the month of December.

You can support your young person by encouraging them to read over their notes at home and ensure any homework is completed on time. If your young person is absent all resources used in class will be available on Microsoft Teams or they can ask for missed work when returning to class.

Biology

Higher Human

During the first few weeks of term, we will be completing our assignments, which will account for 20% of the student's overall grade. This will involve a research phase where students will complete a practical to collect data and will also research literacy sources to find another piece of data which they will need to include in their final report of their assignment. The assignment reporting stage will be held under exam conditions and the completed document will be sent to the SQA to be externally marked. We will then commence with our second unit of Higher Biology, "Physiology and Health ". which will continue up to prelims.

Unit of study: Physiology and Health

Learning Intentions:

- Gamete production and fertilisation
- Hormonal control of reproduction
- The biology of controlling fertility

- Antenatal and postnatal screening
- Structure and function of arteries, capillaries and veins.
- The structure and function of the heart
- Pathology of cardiovascular disease (CVD)
- Blood Glucose levels and obesity.

How can parents help higher level students at home:

- Ask your child to check TEAMS for information on homework, assessments and general news.
- If your child is absent from class they can access the work missed via Microsoft Teams.
- Encourage your child to use their Learning intention, Success Criteria and Required Knowledge document (issued at the start of each unit), Revision mind maps and Summary notes when completing homework/undertaking revision. Web-sites, such as BBC Bitesize and Bright Red Publishing may also be useful.
- Pupils will be given notes on their personal "next steps" (based on their performance in the Unit 1 assessment) and personalised homework tasks to be undertaken linked to those "next steps". Please encourage your child to complete this to the best of their ability, as these tasks are designed to upskill them prior to the January prelim.

Biology – National 5

During the first few weeks of term, we will be completing our assignments, which will account for 20% of the student's overall grade. This will involve a research phase where students will complete a practical to collect data and will also research literacy sources to find another piece of data which they will need to include in their final report of their assignment. The assignment reporting stage will be held in the assembly hall under exam conditions, the completed document will be sent to the SQA to be externally marked. Those completing National 5 units only do not require an assignment and will continue to complete the Unit 1 assessments. This will be followed for all students by the study of unit 2 "Multicellular organisms".

Unit of study: Multicellular Organisms

Key Areas:

- Producing new cells
- Control and communication
- Reproduction
- Transport systems in plants
- Transport systems in animals
- Absorption of materials
- Variation and inheritance

How can parents help at home:

- Ask your child to check TEAMS for information on homework, assessments and general news.
- If your child is absent from class they can access the work missed via Microsoft Teams.

- Encourage your child to use their Learning intentions (issued at the start of each key area), Revision mind maps and Summary notes when completing homework/undertaking revision. Web-sites, such as BBC Bitesize, scholar, Bright Red Publishing and Oronsay National 5 Biology, may also be useful.
- Pupils will be given notes on their personal "next steps" (based on their performance in the previous unit assessment) and personalised homework tasks to be undertaken linked to those "next steps". Please encourage your child to complete this to the best of their ability, as these tasks are designed to upskill them prior to the January prelim.

Self-study

Advanced Higher

Unit of study: Cells and Proteins

Key Areas:

1. Laboratory Techniques for biologists
2. Proteins
3. Membrane Proteins
4. Communication and signalling
5. Protein control of cell division

In Advanced Higher Biology the students should be independently working through the Key Areas above, from unit 1 Cells and Proteins. Students should also be collecting data for their pilot study and main investigation to progress with their investigation. When revising for assessments, pupils should refer to their Learning intention, Success criteria and Required knowledge document, in addition to their class notes. Other resources, such as revision mind maps, summary notes and websites (e.g. BBC Bitesize and Scholar) may also be useful.

Self-study

Higher Biology

Students completed the first 2 key areas before October holidays they should now be independently studying the rest of unit 2 "Metabolism and Survival". During the first few weeks of term, we will also be completing our assignments, which will account for 20% of the student's overall grade. This will involve a research phase where students will complete a practical to collect data and will also research literacy sources to find another piece of data which they will need to include in their final report of their assignment. The assignment reporting stage will be held under exam conditions and the completed document will be sent to the SQA to be externally marked.

Unit of study: Metabolism and Survival

Learning Intentions:

- Describe metabolic pathways and types of enzyme controlled reactions.
- Give details of the release of chemical energy in glucose through a series of enzyme-controlled reactions (respiration).
- Describe how metabolic rate can be measured.
- Compare and contrast the physiological adaptations of organisms with high metabolic rates.

- Understand the different metabolic strategies demonstrated by conformers and regulators, with particular reference to thermoregulation.
- Give ways in which living organisms can avoid adverse conditions.
- Discuss the use of micro-organisms and how their growth can be controlled in a laboratory.
- Understand the ways in which wild strains of micro-organisms can be improved, for human use.

Chemistry – Mr McLean

Higher

Pupils are working through the unit called "Chemistry and Society"

The topics covered are:

- getting the most from reactants
- controlling the rate
- chemical energy
- equilibria

Pupils will be doing some practice assignments this term in preparation for the assignment assessment which take place in Jan which count 20% towards their final grade

Parents can help by encouraging pupils to visit the website on understanding standards for assignments – link below

https://www.understandingstandards.org.uk/Subjects/Chemistry/higher/*Assignment*

Resources to help support learning from home are available on the school web site and on TEAMS

I would like to signpost some other websites for parents and pupils are linked below

https://scholar.hw.ac.uk/sso/login?service=https%3A%2F%2Fscholar.hw.ac.uk%2Fcourses%2F

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5AXsbJvky19LpmQAHjYx1gweZCrnGVGK

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLpeedPxQgHa36U_aESqcSLCg9103-SLpR

Date for your diary Fri 21st May Chemistry Exam

National 5

Pupils will be completing unit 1 and unit 2

Unit 1 covered the following topics: Reaction Rates, Periodic Table & Atoms, Bonding, Chemical formula and calculations and acids and bases.

Unit 2 covers the following topics naming and drawing hydrocarbons, alkanes, alkenes, alcohols, carboxylic acids and energy from fuels

Parents can help by encouraging pupils to visit the website on understanding standards for assignments – link below

https://www.understandingstandards.org.uk/Subjects/Chemistry/national5/Assignment

Resources to help support learning from home are available on the school web site and on TEAMS

I would like to also signpost some other websites for parents and pupils are linked below

https://scholar.hw.ac.uk/sso/login?service=https%3A%2F%2Fscholar.hw.ac.uk%2Fcourses%2F

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5AXsbJvky19LpmQAHjYx1gweZCrnGVGK

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLpeedPxQgHa36U_aESqcSLCg9103-SLpR

Date for your diary Fri 21st May Chemistry Exam

National 4/5 Practical Cookery

This term, pupils will complete **Unit 1: Cookery Skills, Techniques and Processes**, developing confidence in preparing a variety of dishes using key practical skills.

We will then begin **Unit 2: Organisational Skills for Cookery**, focusing on:

- **Time planning**
- **Serving and presenting food**
- **Requesting and managing equipment**

These skills are essential for the **prelim assessment after Christmas**. Pupils will continue to prepare **two increasingly complex dishes** per session, building accuracy, speed, and confidence.

SQA Assessment Preparation

Between the **February break and Easter**, pupils will be preparing for their **final practical cookery exam** and completing their **written assignment** in class. These are key components of the SQA course, so **full attendance is essential** during this time.

The **SQA Practical Cookery written exam** will take place on **Thursday 28 May 2026, from 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm**. Pupils should continue revising and completing homework tasks to support their preparation for this final paper.

How You Can Support

- Encourage cooking and cleaning up at home as much as possible
- Discuss presentation of food and time planning
- Ensure containers are brought in most Wednesday's and Friday's
- Support completion of **homework tasks** to prepare for the **written prelim and final exam**

Physics

Advanced Higher:

Last term we completed the "Rotational Motion and Astrophysics" unit and started the "Quanta and Waves" unit. This term we will complete this second unit.

Key areas of study are

- Quantum Theory
- Particles from Space
- Simple Harmonic Motion
- Waves
- Interference
- Polarisation

This term pupils should also assemble the equipment and carry out practical tasks for their project, which is worth 25% of their final grade.

Resources including class notes and video clips are available on the school tile and Teams and pupils all have access to scholar. Homework is due regularly following the timeline issued in June and there will be an end of unit assessment in December.

Parents can help pupils by encouraging them to talk through the work they cover each week and by assisting them to manage their study time to fit around their household routines. There are several websites which can be used as part of studying such as scholar and BBC Bitesize. Past papers can be found on "Mr Mckenzies Fizzics" and various mindmaps and notes are available from "Mrs Physics".

To fully achieve their potential in Advanced Higher Physics I would recommend that a pupil should try to spend two hours each week outside of school working on study activities.

Higher:

Last term we completed the "Our Dynamic Universe" unit and started the "Particles and Waves" unit. This term we will complete this second unit.

Key are areas of study are:

- Orders of Magnitude
- The standard model
- Electric Fields
- Nuclear reactions
- Wave properties – Interference and Refraction
- Wave particle duality
- Spectra

Resources including class notes and video clips are available on the school tile and Teams and pupils all have access to scholar. Homework is due regularly following the timeline issued in June and there will be an end of unit assessment in December.

Parents can help pupils by encouraging them to talk through the work they cover each week and by assisting them to manage their study time to fit around their household routines. There are several

websites which can be used as part of studying such as scholar and BBC Bitesize. Past papers can be found on “Mr Mckenzies Fizzics” and various mindmaps and notes are available from “Mrs Physics”.

To fully achieve their potential in Higher Physics I would recommend that a pupil should try to spend two hours each week outside of school working on study activities.

National 5:

This term we will complete the remainder of the “Electricity” unit and all of the “Properties of Matter” unit.

Key are areas of study are:

- Practical electricity
- Electrical and Electronic circuits
- Electrical Power
- Specific Heat Capacity
- Latent Heat
- Pressure and the Gas Laws

Resources including class notes and video clips are available on the school tile and Teams and pupils all have access to scholar. Homework is due regularly following the timeline issued in June and there will be end of unit assessments in November and December.

Parents can help pupils by encouraging them to talk through the work they cover each week and by assisting them to manage their study time to fit around their household routines. There are several websites which can be used as part of studying such as scholar and BBC Bitesize. Past papers can be found on “Mr Mckenzies Fizzics” and various mindmaps and notes are available from “Mrs Physics”.

To fully achieve their potential in National 5 Physics I would recommend that a pupil should try to spend one hour each week outside of school working on study activities.

National 4:

This term we will complete the remainder of the "Electricity and Energy” unit.

Key are areas of study are:

- Generation of Electricity
- Practical Electrical and Electronic circuits
- Electrical Power
- Electromagnetism
- Gas Laws and the Kinetic Model

Resources including class notes and video clips are available on the school tile and Teams and pupils all have access to scholar. Homework is due regularly following the timeline issued in June and there will be end of unit assessments in November and December.

Parents can help pupils by encouraging them to talk through the work they cover each week and by assisting them to manage their study time to fit around their household routines. There are several websites which can be used as part of studying such as scholar and BBC Bitesize.

Business Management

National 5 Business Management – This term, your child will complete the *Management of Marketing* unit. This unit covers eight key topics, including the marketing mix, the 4Ps (product, price, place, and promotion), and the role of technology within the marketing department. In addition, your child will begin working on the SQA Business Assignment, which is worth 30 marks, but its scaled mark is 20. The assignment is worth 22% of the overall grade.

To support your child, please encourage them to regularly revise the SQA command words and practise using past papers. It is also beneficial for them to watch the news daily and read reputable newspapers to stay informed about current business developments.

Higher Business Management – This term your child will be working on the Management of Operations unit. This unit covers five topics, including inventory management, quality and ethical and environmental issues. In addition, your child will begin working on the SQA Business Assignment. The assignment is worth 30 marks, but its scaled mark is 20. The assignment is worth 22% of the overall grade.

To support your child, please encourage them to regularly revise the SQA command words and the topics covered in class this term and last term. It is also beneficial for them to watch the news daily and read reputable newspapers to stay informed about current business developments.

Legal Services

This term, pupils will begin studying the *Scots Law* unit. This unit explores the formal sources of Scots law, the roles of key legal personnel, the structure of the Scottish criminal courts, and the system of criminal prosecution in Scotland. To successfully complete the unit, pupils must pass six assessed outcomes.

To support your child, please encourage them to watch the news daily and explore Scottish legal documentaries available on BBC iPlayer. These resources will help reinforce their understanding and provide valuable real-world context.

Music

N3-Higher Performance Pupils will continue to build their playing skills on their 2 chosen instruments and should aim to have their full programme complete before Christmas. This is because much of January is taken up by School-wide Prelims and the final practical examination may be as early as mid-February. Pupils are expected to practise both instruments 3-4 times per week in order to reach the required standard for their assessment. Instruments are available at lunch times for practise and some instruments are available for loan.

Advanced Higher Performance Pupils will be required to have at least half of their programme completed by Christmas, since their final practical examination with take place in May.

ALL LEVELS Listening Pupils will be learning about the Classical, Romantic, and 20th Century periods, and will have a unit assessment on the 24th of November. The presentations used in class are available to them via teams, and they are expected to revise the concepts covered weekly to consolidate their learning. Pupils can also use the "mymusiconline" website to revise.

ALL LEVELS Composition Pupils need to complete a composition of their own as part of the Music examination this year. This must be complete by Christmas, to allow time for them to prepare adequately for their practical assessment.

Advanced Higher only- Analytical commentary Pupils are expected to have their chosen piece analysed, and a first draft of their commentary (600-800 words) completed by Christmas.

Support: It is imperative that pupils are encouraged to revise their listening concepts weekly and practise their programme for both pieces 3-4 times a week. Please encourage your young person to keep working on their composition in order to meet the Christmas deadline.

History

National History

This term we will begin working on pupil assignments. You will receive a letter detailing assignment dates of importance. This is a body of research that takes place outside of class time. During class time we will continue with our Changing Britian unit. We begin by examining changes in democratic Britian. We will also move onto our third unit of study, The Era of the Great War and will be working towards covering the prelim topics. To support your child at home you can have them show you the History Team to ensure they have access. This has all the course materials and if pupils are absent the course content is covered here which matches the course descriptor your pupil was given. You can also have them show you their research and draft of their Assignment.

Higher History

This term we will begin working on pupil assignments. You will receive a letter detailing assignment dates of importance. This term we will be studying the final unit of Migration and Empire. This will involve examining the reasons why Scottish people moved within and abroad, the experiences of immigrants who moved into Scotland, the impact of Scots who moved abroad on those nations as well as the impact the notion and reality of Empire had on Scotland up to 1939. This knowledge will be shown through Source techniques and will accumulate in a final assessment paper to show these skills. This unit will require revision, and you can support your child at home by encouraging them to review their notes weekly even if they do not have a specific homework piece due. All course materials and lesson notes are in the Team, and pupils are regularly shown this in class to help support them. You can also have them show you their research and draft of their Assignment.

N4 Rural Skills

This term we will be continuing to develop our practical skills and understanding of Land based industries, by completing research on both the Forestry industry and Wildlife Management.

We will be working within both our local and wider community on a range of Estate Management tasks, such as weeding, fence repair, path maintenance, painting and drain clearance.

Employability skills will also be featuring in our termly planning; self and teacher evaluations being completed.

N4 Scottish Studies

The N4 Analysing Media Unit will be completed by a study of the 2017 film version of 'Whisky Galore.' We will also begin the study of the third Unit which is connected to Rural Skills and is the

Identification of habitat and wildlife in Scotland. Any photographs of animals and habitats would be welcome.

Geography

National: The class are currently researching information for their assignment, which will be formally written up before the Christmas holidays. Pupils will be completing some of this work at home, for example finishing graphs and further research.

Before Christmas we will be aiming to complete the urban and weather units. With the prelims after Christmas your child should be preparing for these by revising all their classwork at home. You can support your child at home by ensuring they complete their homework, which is uploaded onto Teams. You can also help your child to revise, by helping them make flashcards of key words, and then quiz each other, for example.

Higher: The class are currently working on their assignments, which will be formally written up before the Christmas holidays. Pupils will be completing some of this work at home, for example finishing graphs and further research.

With the prelims after Christmas your child should be preparing for these by revising all their classwork at home. You can support your child at home by ensuring they complete their homework, which is uploaded onto Teams. You can also help your child to revise, by helping them make flashcards of key words, and then quiz each other, for example.

Travel and Tourism

The class have made great progress through the course, having completed the first unit, 'Scotland', last term.

This term the class will focus on completing the 'UK and Worldwide' unit, for three different destinations they will have to write a report about the destination, including attractions and accommodation. For the final part of the unit, they will have to plan an itinerary for a long-haul destination.

You can support your child at home by asking about the content that they have covered in class and encourage them to complete any work that they have missed in class.

Computer Science

National 5

Pupils continue to rotate weekly through Software Design and Development, Database Design and Development, and Computer Systems, building their knowledge and practical skills across all three areas.

In Software Design and Development, pupils have covered most of the theory and are nearing the end of their practical Python programming work. They will then focus on preparing for the practical assessment, revising for their prelims and getting ready for their first in-class assessment.

In Database Design and Development, pupils are moving from learning about database concepts to using SQL. They will practise writing commands to organise and retrieve information, including finding specific data in a database.

In Computer Systems, pupils are studying data representation and computer architecture, learning how computers store and process data and how their main components work together.

You can support your child by encouraging regular revision of class notes and practice with the topics covered in lessons. BBC Bitesize, Achieve and SCHOLAR offer resources to support this learning. Asking your child to explain a concept or describe how they solved a programming or database task can also help consolidate their understanding.

Higher

Pupils continue to rotate weekly through Software Design and Development, Database Design and Development, and Computer Systems, building their knowledge and practical skills across all three areas.

Higher pupils have completed their Python programming and will now turn their attention to completing Unit 1. Alongside this, they will focus on the exam theory required for their prelims and practical assignment. Regular revision of class notes and practice questions will help them build confidence and identify any topics they need to revisit.

In Software Design and Development, pupils will complete Unit 1 and strengthen their understanding of the theory needed for their prelims and practical assignment. They will continue to apply their programming knowledge as they prepare for the practical assignment.

In Database Design and Development, pupils will build on the SQL skills they developed at National 5. They will learn to write and use more complex queries to retrieve and work with information, extending their ability to solve database problems.

In Computer Systems, pupils will move on to security and the environmental impact of computer systems. They will consider how systems can be protected and the effects computing has on the environment.

At home, you can support your child by encouraging them to review their class notes and practise regularly. BBC Bitesize, Achieve and SCHOLAR provide explanations and course materials to support revision. Asking your child to explain a theory topic, describe a security measure or talk through an SQL query can help reinforce what they have learned.

Advanced Higher

Advanced Higher pupils are making good progress with their projects, developing solutions to problems they have identified. They will continue to refine and test their work, while documenting the decisions they make and evaluating how well their finished solution meets its intended purpose.

Pupils are also about to begin exam theory. This includes object-oriented programming, such as classes, objects, inheritance and encapsulation, as well as data structures, including arrays of objects and single and double linked lists. They will learn how these concepts work and how they can be used to solve computing problems.

In Database Design and Development, pupils will develop more advanced techniques for designing and working with relational databases. They will build on their SQL knowledge by writing more complex queries to retrieve and manipulate data and learn how database design helps meet users' needs.

You can support your child by asking them about the problem their project addresses, the progress they have made and how they are testing their solution. Encouraging them to review theory as it is introduced and explain ideas such as inheritance, linked lists or database queries can help reinforce their learning.

ASDAN programme (Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network)

This term, our young people are finishing off their Independent Living module completing various tasks which will help to prepare them with skills for adult life e.g. looking at payslips, tax, benefits, etc.

Once that module is completed and signed off, students will be able to pick a short course of their choice e.g. football, land based, media etc. They will work on various set tasks within that course and submit them through their e-learning portfolio online.

The ASDAN group will continue to work closely with Xcel Youth Project and attend Xcel every Thursday afternoon to complete ASDAN online tasks.

For more information, please see the ASDAN weblink below.

https://www.asdan.org.uk/