

Dear Parent or Carer  
S4 Progress Report – December 2023



- A copy of your child’s Progress Report will be issued to you and your child by email. This report includes comments from each of the subject teacher. A final tracking report will be issued in April 2024.
- **Each subject has provided an important course update and this is found in the final part of this document.**
- **Parent Consultations** will offer an opportunity to discuss the tracking and written reports in more detail with some of the class teachers. This is scheduled for **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January** from 4.15pm.
- There will also be a S4 to S5 Course Choice presentation evening on **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January** at 6.30pm
- This report **includes Working Grade and Target Grades.**
- The **Working Level** indicates the current level your child is working at. Progress judgements are based against the Working Level stated. The Working Levels are 5=National 5, 6 = Higher, 7 = Advanced Higher
- The tracking categories used are:

<b>Progress</b>	How well are young people meeting course demands?
<b>Effort</b>	Are young people consistently engaged in their learning?
<b>Homework</b>	Is homework completed to expected standards?
<b>Behaviour</b>	Is behaviour meeting school expectations?

- **Next Steps for Improvement (NSI)** are used for **Levels 3 or 4** and these provide some suggestions for ways that a pupil may make improvements.
- Summary of tracking categories to be used in this report:

	Level	Progress	Effort	Homework	Behaviour
<b>Exceeding Expectations</b>	1	<b>Coping well</b> with course, making <b>good progress</b> overall	<b>Highly engaged, conscientious and consistent</b>	<b>Always</b> makes a <b>very good</b> attempt	Behaves <b>very well</b> at all times in class
<b>Meeting Expectations</b>	2	<b>Coping</b> with course, making <b>progress as expected</b>	<b>Engaged in learning, effort is consistently good</b>	Makes a <b>good</b> attempt	<b>Behaves well</b> in classes
<b>Requires Improvement</b>	3	<b>Requires some improvements</b> to meet course demands, some <b>gaps</b> in knowledge, understanding and skills <b>Use NSIs for improvement</b>	<b>Not always engaged</b> and effort is <b>inconsistent</b>	<b>Inconsistent</b> when completing homework	<b>Inconsistent</b> behaviour and some <b>improvements required</b>
<b>Cause for Concern</b>	4	<b>Not coping</b> with course demands	Pupil is <b>not engaged</b> , and effort is <b>minimal</b>	<b>Rarely</b> makes a good attempt	<b>Serious concerns</b> with behaviour

- For further reference:

<b>Working Level</b>	This is the current level which you are working at e.g. National 3, National 4, National 5, Higher (6) or Advanced Higher (7)
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<b>Working Grade</b>	<p>Are a snap-shot of current attainment based on work completed up to this stage in the course.</p> <p>These are given in SQA notional Bands 1-9 for N5, Higher &amp; AH.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="448 293 1294 629"> <thead> <tr> <th>Band</th> <th>Estimated Performance</th> <th>Notional %</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>A upper</td> <td>85-100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>A lower</td> <td>70-84</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>B upper</td> <td>65-69</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>B lower</td> <td>60-64</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>C upper</td> <td>55-59</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>C lower</td> <td>50-54</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7 or 77</td> <td>D</td> <td>40-49</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>No Award (NA)</td> <td>30-39</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>No Award (NA)</td> <td>0-29</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The grade bands can vary from subject to subject and these can be changed for different tests e.g. from class tests to unit tests to prelims. They reflect the breadth and depth of the assessments undertaken.</p> <p>National 3, National 4 and NPA courses use SQA grades of:  <b>Pass</b> - on target to pass the course at this level  <b>Fail</b> - not yet working at a level that demonstrates likelihood of passing the course</p>	Band	Estimated Performance	Notional %	1	A upper	85-100	2	A lower	70-84	3	B upper	65-69	4	B lower	60-64	5	C upper	55-59	6	C lower	50-54	7 or 77	D	40-49	8	No Award (NA)	30-39	9	No Award (NA)	0-29
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<b>Target Grade</b>	<p>This is an aspirational grade set by the pupil. It is not a teacher predicted grade.</p>																														

## S4 Course updates – December 2023

### Administration and IT

Pupils have covered a range of topics from the different Admin and IT units. They have covered several theory topics, built skills in a range of applications including Word, Spreadsheet and Database. As well as completing a range of communications tasks including Email, E-diary and internet research. All support materials for pupils can be found on-line in Office365 (OneNote, Teams) or the revision booklets they have been handed out in class.

### Art and Design

For National 5 Art & Design submission this year pupils have to complete an Expressive folio and a Design folio and sit a written paper exam. The written exam returns back to the full paper this year after Covid mitigations reduced the written paper exam by half. The paper will return to four questions rather than two and pupils will have 1 hour 30 minutes to answer an *Expressive and Design* section. National 4 pupils submit a folio but don't sit a written exam.

### Written Paper Prelim

We have all completed a written prelim exam and Nat 5 pupils will revisit this later in the year in preparation for the final exam in May.

### Expressive Unit

We have been working on the Expressive unit in class. All pupils have now sat their 'practical prelim' for their final expressive piece. This was a teacher supported full day in-class to produce a finished painting. Pupils will have class time to complete and mount their expressive project with a hand-in date of 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023. Pupils are currently completing their analytical and development studies in class and should be working on their studies as homework. There will be after school study classes should pupils require this time.

### Design Unit

Pupils are working on this, and this will be the main focus after the winter holidays. Pupils should have agreed a brief, produced investigation and development images/ samples, and be working on their final piece, but

we are aware all pupils and projects develop at different rates. The deadline for Design hand-in is Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

Final presentation level will be agreed after the expressive folio final hand-in and pupil evidence has been reviewed around the start of January.

## **Biology**

Biology classes have now completed the content for Unit 1: Cell Biology and Unit 2: Multicellular Organisms of the National 5 course, all of which was assessed in November's prelim exam.

Work on the Assignment, which is externally marked by the SQA, is carried out in class time, over several lessons between completing review of the prelim and the December holiday.

The remaining time in class will be spent completing Unit 3: Life on Earth and revision in preparation for the final exam.

### Useful resources include:

SQA N5 Biology Course specifications (p25 – 47)

[https://www.sqa.org.uk/files\\_ccc/n5-course-spec-biology.pdf](https://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/n5-course-spec-biology.pdf)

National eLearning at:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/nationalelearning/resources-2/>

SCHOLAR:

<https://scholar.hw.ac.uk/>

BBC Bitesize National 5 Biology

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zync87h>

YouTube: Mr Mitchell's Biology (narrated PowerPoints)

Various materials on class Teams pages (Problem solving booklets etc.)

## **Business Management**

In National 5 Business Management, we have covered Understanding Business, Management of Marketing and Management of Operations. We are currently covering Management of People and will then cover the final unit Management of Finance. Unit tests have been completed and the class are soon to complete their final two unit tests on Management of People and Management of Finance.

The assessment of the Business Management course is made up of the exam set by the SQA on all the content covered in class which contributes 75% of pupils overall grade and the assignment worth 25% which is carried out in class under exam conditions and sent away for external marking by the SQA.

All pupils have printed copies of the course notes and all support materials can be found on OneNote.

## **Computing Science**

In Computing Science, pupils have spent time developing their understanding and practical skills in the following areas:

- Software Design and Development (SDD)- Developed their programming and computational thinking skills by implementing practical solutions in Python and explaining how these programs work
- Computer Systems (S) - Investigated how data and instructions are stored in a computer and explored basic computer architecture including security.
- Web Design and Development (WDD) - Applied computational thinking skills to analyse, design, implement, test and evaluate practical solutions to web-based problems, using a range of development tools such as HTML, CSS and JavaScript.

Pupils will begin focussing on mastering their practical skills in preparation for the practical assignment. The practical assignment will be carried out in class from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February and will run until Monday 4<sup>th</sup> /Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March. This is 33% of the overall grade. Pupils are welcome in the department, by arrangement with the teacher, to get extra support in theory or practical aspects of the course. In addition, supported study sessions after school will be on offer from January. Day to be confirmed in the New Year.

## **Chemistry**

Pupils have studied the following topics in S3/4:

Chemical Changes and Structure

- Rates of Reaction
- Atomic Structure and Bonding Related to Properties of Materials
- Formulae and Reacting Quantities
- Acids and Bases

#### Natures Chemistry

- Homologous Series
- Everyday Consumer Products
- Energy from Fuels

#### Chemistry in Society

- Metals
- Plastics

The exam consists of 2 sections, a 25 mark multiple choice section and a 75 mark short answer section, sat in 1 sitting lasting 2 hours 30 minutes and will contribute to 80% of the overall grade. The other 20% is from the assignment which will be completed in class time.

#### Design & Manufacture

Candidates have undertaken their S4 written prelim paper and completed a prelim design folio. This assessment approach offers pupils a two-part prelim grade which mirrors the final course assessment conditions and allows us to gain a deeper insight into their knowledge and identify areas where work is required.

**Design Folio:** Candidates have studied the design process from initial brief through to design proposal. These skills will help them to develop their abilities in initiating, developing, articulating, and communicating design ideas further. Candidates have gained a clear understanding of the design/make/test process and the importance of evaluating and resolving design proposals on an ongoing basis. They have also developed an understanding of the factors that influence the design of products in the world today. This should give candidates a clear understanding of their strengths and areas for development prior to starting the design course assessment task. This component is externally marked by the SQA and worth 30% of the total course award

**Manufacture:** Candidates have developed their practical skills over the last two years. They now have an appreciation of the properties and uses of wood, manufactured boards, and Acrylic as well as a range of manufacturing processes and techniques. Candidates are currently working on manufacturing a shelf unit, where they are practicing manufacturing and jointing techniques that will aid in their ability to manufacture the final CAT design. The CAT manufacture will be internally marked by CDE staff but externally verified by the SQA and is worth 25% of the total course award.

#### Course Theory

Integrating these two key areas of study is fundamental to achieving success in CAT for Design and Manufacture. Pupils have also been given targeted feedback on the back of their prelim exam where areas of improvement have been identified and tasks developed to help learners fill gaps in knowledge, prior to starting their final exam in May which is worth 45% of the total course award.

#### Drama

Through 4<sup>th</sup> year, pupils have completed units focussing on devising of drama and production skills (set design, props design, costume design, make-up and hair, lighting and sound). These units are intended to improve practical skills, in preparation for the practical element of the course assessment. The units also provide a base of knowledge which we will apply to the written aspect of the course assessment. The Nat 5 written prelim comes early in the Drama curriculum and as such is treated as a valuable learning and teaching tool rather than a clear indication of what a pupil is likely to achieve in the final written exam.

Next term we will be focused on preparing for the practical exam (60% of course award), which is likely to take place between the middle and the end of March. Throughout this period homework will be set alongside which will relate to the written component (40% of course award).

Pupils will need to ensure they are engaging early in research, characterisation techniques, initial design ideas etc. These exercises are vital in ensuring that pupils are making informed decisions about their characters or design concepts to allow for depth in performance and production. This process will be reflected on in their Preparation for Performance, which constitutes 10 marks of the 60 available in the practical exam. The PfP takes the form of a 400-word written description of their preparation process. Exploration of voice and movement will be key for those specialising in acting and, of course, learning lines as quickly as possible. For designers time management will be particularly important to allow exploration of different designs and the reasons for choices made. Pupils should all be looking at past papers, available on the SQA website, to practice exam style questions in the run up to exam diet in May.

## Economics

National 5 Economics course consists of 3 units of content – U1 Economics of the Market, U2 UK Economic Activity and U3 Global Economic activity. To date pupils have completed Units 1 and 2 and have made a start on U3 Global Economic Activity. The Assessment of the Economics course is made up of an Exam set by SQA on all content of the course (worth 75%) and an Assignment (worth 25%) which is carried out in class time under exam conditions which is sent away for external marking by SQA. A school internal deadline will be set for this Assignment (approximately end of Feb) as there are set time requirements allowed and this must be met by pupils.

All support materials for pupils can be found on-line in Office365 (OneNote & Teams) and they also have printed note booklets and will be given revision booklets. There are no published N5 textbooks available.

## Engineering Science

In Engineering Science, the students have now covered all topics in the course. The prelim is complete and marked and we have just started to do a course assessment task. Although the SQA have taken the CAT out of this year's final assessment it is still good practice for the class to do one to bring all their learning together. After they have finished, we will be going over the whole course again in a little more depth to prepare for the final exams in May.

## English

N4 and N5 English consist of four components – Reading, Writing, Listening, and Talking, assessed either internally for N4, or a combination of external exam and coursework for N5. At both levels, pupils must evidence their ability to meet 'basic minimum competency' in Analysis and Evaluation (reading and listening) and Creation and Production (writing and talking). These elements are assessed in a prelim and in the final exam, where Paper 1 consists of an hour long Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation (RUAE) paper worth 30 marks, and Paper 2 is a 90 minute test of Scottish Set textual Analysis and Critical essay, both worth 20 marks each. In addition to this, pupils produce a Folio of writing, worth 30%. Normally two pieces, SQA have, in recent years due to Covid, reduced this to one piece out of 15 with the mark doubled to make up the 30%. Your young person's report will have a **prelim grade** based solely on exam performance out of 70, and a separate **working grade** which is out of 100, including the provisional Folio marks. If a pupil has not yet submitted a Folio piece, their working grade will reflect this and likely be significantly lower than the prelim mark as it is missing the final 30%. Folio work is covered in S3 and all pupils should have a first draft completed by this stage of S4. Folios are redrafted between January and late February, with final submission to the SQA before the Easter holiday. Pupils are advised of the department deadline, which is a bit earlier than the uplift date from SQA as there is a significant amount of administration needed before all pieces are sent off. Pupils need to adhere to the departmental deadline.

There is a wide range of support materials available: online, the Heriot watt Scholar programme is useful, especially for RUAE [SCHOLAR \(hw.ac.uk\)](http://hw.ac.uk); BBC Bitesize has excellent, easily understandable 'chunks' of revision [National 5 English - Scotland - BBC Bitesize](#); there are various YouTube tutorials available such as The Learning Cauldron [The Learning Cauldron - YouTube](#) and many useful videos produced by teachers as part of the West OS platform available on each pupil's ClickView account. Hodder Gibson and Leckie and Leckie produce good textbooks and revision materials, and of course, teachers themselves offer support materials and lunchtime / after school drop in sessions nearer exam time. These are publicised around the school. Microsoft Teams is regularly used for class communication, general assignments, information and as a materials resource for the general proceedings and learning of the class. Pupils are also strongly encouraged to approach their teacher or the Head of Department, Ms Stratton, if they are needing further advice or support.

## Graphic Communication

Students have been consolidating their learning experiences acquired in S3 to help prepare for the Course Assessment Components in N5 Graphic Communication. The Course Assessment this session will comprise of two elements: an SQA external examination lasting one and a half hours and will be worth 65 marks; the second element will be a Course Assessment Task which will be completed in class, under exam conditions, and is worth 40 marks. The Course Assessment Task will take place following the February break and is externally marked by the SQA.

The marks achieved in each of the two components are then combined to make an overall Course Assessment score of 105 marks.

The practical work which students undertook in S3 will feed directly into supporting their preparations for both components of the Course Assessment. Since the beginning of the session the class have completed a preparatory Course Assessment Task and will employ their practical skills to explore solutions to questions given in the written prelim exam.

## Geography

In S3 pupils learn:

Map Skills

Coastal Landscapes and Land Use (Dorset)

Urban areas (Dharavi, Mumbai and Edinburgh land use zones)

Glaciated Landscapes. (Cairngorms)

Nat 4 AVU report to be converted into Assignment

In S4 pupils learn

Rural changes (East Anglia and Lower Ganges Valley)

Weather

Global Climate Change

Global Health

Assignment write up

The exam is scheduled for April 23rd. The exam lasts 2 hours 20 minutes and assesses them on a range of physical and human topics requiring them to interpret maps, and answer a question on Global Climate Change and Health, their 2 chosen global issues.

The assignment is 20 marks and will be assessed as a 1 hour write up in mid-March. It is 20% of their total qualification.

Support study takes place every Thursday lunchbreak in room 2-04. There's an active Teams groups which includes coherent course notes for each topic, past papers, templates and other valuable resources. The teacher puts each lesson in advance on teams. There is also printed off course notes, and summarized course notes for each topic. Mr Das is always available to assist with support via email.

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## History

Across S3 and S4 pupils studying History will cover the following units: The Era of the Great War, 1900–1928, The Atlantic Slave Trade, 1770–1807 and Red Flag: Lenin and the Russian Revolution, 1894–1921. By the end of S3 pupils will have completed the Era of the Great War topic and be at least halfway through the Slave Trade topic. The majority of pupils will at this stage in S3 be working at National 5 level, although differentiation of materials may occur due to ability and learning requirements. Decisions on presentation levels are generally not made until after the S4 prelims. To gain a sense of progression and to see how pupils manage with applying their knowledge and understanding to exam style questions, pupils are assessed via mid unit and end of unit tests in each unit we study. This allows pupils to gain feedback and to allow class teachers to monitor progression, particularly in exam skills. Within the class setting however a variety of learning and teaching methods are used to ensure pupils gain not just a knowledge and understanding of the topics studied but also a range of transferrable skills that can be utilised across all subjects. All resources are on TEAMS in order to allow pupils to revise and catch up on work and at this stage, we expect pupils to be proactive and responsible for catching up on any work they miss. If pupils are unsure or require support, they are of course encouraged to speak directly with their teacher.

**Mathematics** (please review the relevant course that your young person is following) -

**Nat 4 Applications of Mathematics course includes these topics in S3/S4:**

Numeracy Unit

- Whole Numbers
- Decimals
- Percentages & Fractions
- Time/Distance/Speed
- Negative Numbers
- Ratio & Proportion

Geometry & Measure Unit

- Gradient
- Perimeter & Area
- Volume
- Scale Drawing
- Pythagoras
- Times & Timetables
- Rules & Formulae
- Tolerance
- Problem-solving with area & volume

## Finance & Statistics Unit

- Budgeting
- Best Deals
- Pay and Payslips
- Currency Conversion
- Simple Interest
- Interpreting tables
- Comparing data sets
- Mean and Range
- Frequency/Bar/Line/Pie charts
- Scatter Graphs and Lines of best fit

Text used: TeeJay Publishers National 4 Lifeskills and a variety of resources are used in class and through Teams/Onenote.

## **Nat 4 Mathematics course includes these topics in S3/S4:**

### Numeracy

- Fractions and percentages
- Solving percentage problems
- Decimal calculations
- Calculating speed, distance and time

### Geometry

- Area of simple 2D shapes
- Area of composite shapes
- Volume calculations
- Solving area and perimeter problems
- Problem solving using Pythagoras' theorem
- Shape enlargement and reduction

### Algebra and relationships

- Simplifying expressions with brackets in algebra
- Substituting into algebraic expressions and formulae
- Solving equations
- Factorising algebraic expressions
- Completing a table of values to establish a linear pattern
- Calculating the gradient of a straight line
- Determining the equation of a straight line

### Statistics

- Statistics – median, mode, range

### Trigonometry

- Using trigonometry in right-angled triangles

Pupils sat an examination covering these topics in November.

Texts used: Leckie and Leckie National 4 Maths, Teejay books 3G and 4G, Hodder and Gibson National 4 Maths and a variety of resources are used in class and through Teams/Onenote.

## **National 5 Mathematics course includes these topics in S3/S4:**

### Numeracy

- Work with fractions and percentages

### Geometry

- Area and Volume of a cone, pyramid and sphere
- Circle – arc length, sector area and perpendicular bisector
- Converse of Pythagoras
- Vectors

### Algebra and relationships

- Factorising quadratics
- Completing the square
- Simplify algebraic expressions
- Solve linear equations and Inequations
- Simultaneous Equations
- Gradient and equation of a straight Line
- Graphs of quadratic relationships
- Solve quadratic equations by factorising and the formula
- Determine the nature of roots of a quadratic equation using the discriminant

### Statistics

- Charts and Tables – pie charts and scatter graphs
- Mean and standard deviation
- Median and interquartile range
- Apply statistical skills to compare data

### Trigonometry

- Using trigonometry in right-angled triangles
- Apply the sine rule, cosine rule and area of a triangle formula

Pupils sat a Prelim examination covering these topics in November.

Text used: Teejay Intermediate 2/Credit Book 2 or Teejay National 5 Mathematics and a variety of resources are used in class and through Teams/Onenote.

## **Media Studies**

The National 5 Media course is made up of two units: Analysing Media Content (50%) and Creating Media Content (50%).

Pupils are currently working their way through the key aspects of Media in the Analysing Media Content unit which is the theory they will need for the exam question. We have made a start to the coursework from the Creating Media Content unit which is due by 2nd March 2023. This will involve three other deadlines (15th/16<sup>th</sup> December for Question 1,3 and 4, 19th/20<sup>th</sup> January for Question 2, and 2nd/3<sup>rd</sup> February for the final trailer) which will give me an opportunity to advise the pupils. These deadlines are extremely important due to the coursework being 50% of the final mark. Pupils are updated on Teams with all course notes and deadlines and supported study takes place weekly after school on Tuesday; however, pupils are always welcome in the department to use the equipment or seek help.

## **Modern Languages (French, German, Mandarin and Spanish)**

### *National 5*

The National 5 course focuses on continuing the development of reading, writing, listening and speaking skills through the teaching of topics which fall under the headings of Society, Learning, Employability and Culture. Pupils are assessed in reading, listening, speaking and writing, with each skill making up 25% of the final grade. The final assessment is made up of 2 papers: Paper 1 (Reading and Writing) and Paper 2 (Listening). The writing paper is a job application letter, which the pupils have already prepared for their prelim and pupils should ensure that they learn this for the final assessment. There is also a Writing Assignment which will be done in January and the speaking assessment is carried shortly after the February break. We have already started to work on the topics that will be covered in the writing assignment and the speaking assessment.

### *National 4*

The National 4 course focuses on continuing the development of reading, writing, listening and speaking skills through the teaching of topics which fall under the headings of Society, Learning, Employability and Culture. Pupils



have to pass one assessment in each skill (reading, listening, writing and speaking) and the Added Value Unit. All assessments are carried out in class and results are submitted to the SQA. National 4 is marked on a pass/fail basis.

### **Modern Studies**

Modern Studies at National 4/5 level comprises three units:

- Democracy in the UK
- the USA
- Crime and the Law.

The National 5 Modern Studies course encourages candidates to develop a greater understanding of the contemporary world and their place in it. They also have opportunities to develop important attitudes such as respect for the values, beliefs and cultures of others; openness to new thinking and ideas; and a sense of responsibility and global citizenship. The course emphasises the development and application of skills. The focus on evaluating sources and making decisions develops thinking skills, as well as skills in literacy and numeracy. Investigative and critical thinking activities give candidates opportunities to gain important experience in contributing to group work and working on their own.

### **Music**

The National 5 Music course is made up of an 8-minute Practical Performance on two instruments (50%), an Understanding Music, listening paper (35%) and a Composition assignment (15%). The pupils have completed both their listening and practical prelims and are finalising their composition assignment, this is sent to the SQA. They are now working on exam style listening questions and preparation for their final performance exam which will take place between February and the end of March. All resources for listening revision are posted on Teams and pupils are encouraged to use [www.mymusiconline.co.uk](http://www.mymusiconline.co.uk) to help this. Supported study takes place weekly at lunchtime and after school on Tuesday; however, pupils are always welcome to practise when it is suitable for them.

### **Music Technology**

The National 5 Music Technology course is made up of a 1 hour listening paper (40%). This assesses their knowledge and understanding of 20th and 21st century styles and genres of music, and how this relates to the development of music technology. They are also assessed on the features and functions of music technology, hardware and software. Their assignment comprises of 2 productions (60%). These are Sound Foley and a Radio Broadcast. Pupils have completed their Sound Foley and are working on the Radio Broadcast. These will be sent to the SQA early in 2024. They have also completed a listening prelim and are now working on exam style questions. Supported study is available to pupils on Tuesday lunchtimes and after school where support is available in both practical and listening elements of the course.

### **Physical Education**

The National 4/5 course has enabled pupils to demonstrate and develop movement and performance skills in a variety of physical activities. Learners have developed an understanding of how mental, emotional, physical and social factors can impact performance whilst investigating various ways to develop performance. They have used various methods to collect data/information on performance, which have allowed them to identify performance strengths and areas requiring development. They have also gained knowledge of how to design, implement, record and monitor training programmes to successfully develop performance in variety of activities.

All pupils have completed section 1 of the National 5 Portfolio in October. We cannot issue marks for this section as the Portfolio is marked by the SQA. Pupils are currently working through section 2 and 3 of the Portfolio which will contribute to 50% of the overall award. It is important that pupils attend all theory and practical sessions to stay on track with their learning.

Most pupils will have been assessed in the Performance Assessment section of the course prior to the Christmas Holidays. Pupils who are being assessed through videos should submit recordings in the next few weeks. Marks will be issued to pupils on completion of all Performance Assessments (approximately March).

### **Physics**

Our work up to the prelim has involved working through topics on:

- Motion, Forces and Energy
- Waves
- Electricity
- Heat and Gas Laws
- Electronics

This leaves us with topics on:

- Scalars
- Vectors and Projectiles
- Nuclear Physics
- Space Physics

As it does not include all topics and question types, prelim grade boundaries have been scaled up to take this into account, giving a reflection of how students are likely to perform in the final exam. The percentage achieved and grade awarded is given in the report to assist with this.

Our post prelim review will help to highlight areas for development, and these should be used to inform future preparation and study. We will of course be happy to support in this, in class and at lunch or after school study support (usually held on a Tuesday), but it will primarily be the responsibility of the student to follow up on this.

Our next step is to begin work on the Assignment, which is externally marked by the SQA. This piece of coursework is carried out in class time, over several lessons between completing the review of the prelim and the December holiday.

Resources continue to be supplied online, with work in class being mirrored online where possible. These resources can be found on class Teams pages and OneNote on Office365, with additional resources also available through the Physics department SharePoint. In the event that a student misses any classes, they can stay up to date with current work, if they are able, keeping their notes up to date and returning to school with any questions to consolidate their understanding.

### **Practical Cookery**

Course Content and Coverage N5 Practical Cookery.

Since the beginning of the academic year, we have been consolidating and building on our knowledge of food preparation techniques and cooking processes. We have also been developing precise practical and organisational skills to prepare students for more complex dishes in preparation for the final exam. We have focused our learning on the following areas:

- Completion of all N4 Units of work
- N5 Theory on Understanding and Using Ingredients and Cookery Processes
- N5 Planning & Service Details theory and practice.
- N5 theory and question paper techniques, knowledge development for Prelim and for the SQA assessment in 2024.

We plan to hold a further practical prelim in January to give students an experience of an SQA exam, preparing three dishes under exam conditions, we have been practicing these SQA dishes in class. They will also create Planning and Service Details for this practical exam under exam conditions at the beginning of term.

The SQA releases the exam dishes in January and our learning will focus on developing the confidence, skills, and food preparation techniques to tackle component 1 and 3 before mid – March.

The final SQA assessment comprises three components.

- Component 1 – Planning and Service Details Assessment set by the SQA: 14 % of final grade (Early March 2024)
- Component 2 – Question Paper set by the SQA 24% of final grade (SQA Exam Diet)
- Component 3- Practical Assessment set by the SQA: 62% of final grade (Mid -March)

Class teams pages are used weekly, and lessons are posted in advance, there are channels for each area of course content as well as a revision channel and revision classes.

This report is based on the results of component 2 as these were in the S4 prelim diet, however we have also included information on developing practical skills as well as knowledge and understanding of curriculum content.

### **Practical Woodwork**

The practical woodworking course is split into three areas of study. Carcase construction, Machining and Finishing and Flat frame construction. Candidates have covered all three units to date.

With the completion of the pencil box and the toolbox projects candidates developed skills, knowledge and understanding in the use of woodworking tools and in making woodworking joints and assemblies commonly used in carcass construction, involving complex features. With the conclusion of the Toy Truck and Spurtle projects candidates have developed skills, knowledge and understanding in using machine and power tools. With the completion of the Trivet and iPad stand projects candidates developed skills, knowledge and understanding in the use of woodworking tools and in making woodworking joints and assemblies commonly used in flat frame construction. Candidates have also developed skills in a variety of woodworking surface preparations and finishing techniques.

All candidates will have developed their practical psychomotor skills, been introduced to safe working practices, and become proactive in matters of health and safety. They will have learnt how to use a range of tools, equipment, and materials safely and correctly and developed skills in reading drawings and diagrams, measuring and marking out, cutting, shaping, and finishing materials. Candidates also learn how to work effectively alongside others in a shared workshop environment.

### **Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies (RMPS)**

The National 4/5 RMPS course encourages active learning in the process of investigating religious, moral, and philosophical topics and issues. To date, the class have completed the 'Hinduism' unit where pupils have examined beliefs and practices within the tradition. Additionally, the class have completed either the 'Morality and Medicine' or 'Morality and Justice' Unit analysing and evaluating different perspectives on medical procedures including embryo research and euthanasia. These first two units have helped pupils to build confidence in evaluating religious and non-religious viewpoints. This is vital for the final unit, 'Does God exist'. Pupils are expected to evaluate religious and scientific arguments before coming to their own reasoned conclusion on this issue. The course is assessed in two components, the assignment which is worth 20% of the overall grade and the final exam worth 80%.

### **Science / Princes Trust Award**

Pupils have been working on topics such as materials, health and electronics to gain a National Science course award. In addition to this they have been given the opportunity to undertake a qualification in Personal Development and Employability Skills, supported by Princes Trust Scotland. During this award they have completed a community project as well as units on enterprise, goal setting and teamwork.