

# Senior Phase Pathways

**February 2026**

**For new S4, S5 and S6 pupils**

17 in S2

# Broad General Education

In S3 all pupils follow a broad general education across 8 curricular areas. The curricular areas are:

- 1 Languages/Literacy
- 2 Maths/Numeracy
- 3 Social Studies
- 4 Science
- 5 Expressive Arts
- 6 Technologies
- 7 Health & Wellbeing
- 8 Religious & Moral Education

In S3, you narrowed your subjects down to 8 subjects plus core PE, PSE, and RP.

11 in S3

# Senior Phase

When you go into the Senior Phase (S4 – S6) you study even fewer subjects.

In S4 you will study 6 of the 8 subjects you studied in S3 plus core subjects PE and PSE.

# Senior Phase

When you go into the Senior Phase (S4 – S6) you study even fewer subjects.

In S5 you will continue with 5 of your 6 S4 subjects plus Personal Development and Leadership.

# Senior Phase

When you go into the Senior Phase (S4 – S6) you study even fewer subjects.

In S6 you will study a minimum of 4 subjects\*\* but most pupils will continue with 5 subjects.

# Senior Phase

Hopefully, you have taken some time to think about your future career and have done some research around the qualifications you will need to get there.

<https://somup.com/cOnFInWvU8>

## S4 Pathways Process

The starting point is your S3 report from January.

Read this carefully and identify the subjects you enjoy and the subjects you are good at.

Consider feedback from the S3 Parents Evening on 22<sup>nd</sup> January.

Hopefully, the subjects you enjoy / are good at are the same ones you identify as being required for your career pathway.

# S4 LEARNER PATHWAY 2026 - 2027



NAME: ..... TUTOR CLASS: .....

A	B	C	D	E	F
Applications of Maths	Applications of Maths	Admin & IT	Admin & IT	Art & Design	Business Management
Biology	Art & Design	Chemistry	Biology	Business Management	Drama
Care(with childcare)	English	English	English	Chemistry	English
French	Maths	Media	Laboratory Science	English	Health Sector
Maths	Music	Physical Education	Modern Studies	Graphics	History
Music Technology	Physics	Practical Cookery	Physical Education	Geography	Media
Practical woodworking	Spanish	RMPS	Practical Woodworking	History	Practical Cookery
Retail				Modern Studies	
RMPS					

Pupils must choose ONE option in each column.

All pupils MUST continue to study English. English must be selected in one column.

ALL CLASSES ARE SUBJECT TO PUPIL NUMBERS AND STAFF AVAILABILITY

Parent/Carer's signature \_\_\_\_\_

SLT signature \_\_\_\_\_

Career Aspiration \_\_\_\_\_

When do you plan to leave school? \_\_\_\_\_

## S5 Pathways Process

In S5 you will continue with 5 of the 6 S4 subjects plus Personal Development and Leadership.

Must continue with strongest subjects – cannot drop out a good N5 to crash a Higher.

Can crash in S6 if have good set of Highers in S5.

We are aspirational – most pupils pick 5 Highers.

# S5 LEARNER PATHWAY 2026 - 2027



NAME: .....

TUTOR CLASS: .....

Level of Study	Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E
National 5	Apps of Maths	Apps of Maths	Admin & IT	Admin & IT	Art & Design
	Biology	Art & Design	Chemistry	Biology	Business Education
	Care (with childcare)	English	English	English	Chemistry
	French	Maths	Media	Laboratory Science	English
	Maths	Music	Physical Education	Modern Studies	Graphics
	Music Technology	Physics	Practical Cookery	Physical Education	Geography
	Practical woodwork	Spanish	RMPS	Practical Woodwork	History
	Retail				Modern Studies
RMPS					
Higher	Admin & IT	Business Management	Apps of Maths	Art & Design	English
	Drama	Chemistry	Health & Social Care	Business Management	Graphics
	English	English	History	English	Human Biology
	French	Music	Maths	Health & Social Care	Photography
	History	Modern Studies	Music	Media	Physical Education
	Human Biology	RMPS	Photography	Physical Education	RMPS
	Media	Spanish	Politics	Physics	Travel -WL College
	Music Technology				

Your Choice	Level:	Level:	Level:	Level:	Level:
	Subject:	Subject:	Subject:	Subject:	Subject:

Pupils must choose ONE option in each column, fill in the level/subject chosen under each column.

Parent/Carer's signature \_\_\_\_\_

CLASSES ARE SUBJECT TO PUPIL NUMBERS AND STAFF AVAILABILITY

SLT signature \_\_\_\_\_

# S6 Pathways

We ensure all our S6 leave with 5 Highers.

If you don't achieve 5 in S5 then priority in S6 is achieve a minimum of 5.

Any S6 who does not achieve Leadership, PD, Employability in S5 will do this in S6 instead of a private study period.

Any S6 who has not achieved L6 Literacy and Numeracy in S5 will do this in S6 instead of private study period.

# S6 Pathways

If you achieve 5 Highers in S5 at A or B then you should aspire to do Baccalaureate.

If you achieve 5 Highers in S5 and not doing Baccalaureate then you must do one Advanced Higher.

**\*\*Wider Achievement can only be picked if you have achieved a minimum of 3 Highers in S5 and should get minimum of 5 by end of S6. Wider Achievement must be timetabled in a Faculty for the year and sign off after 100 hours.**

Pupils are not allowed to “drop subjects” in S6.

# S6 Pathways

Advanced Highers in Whitburn Academy:  
We try to run as many as possible

West Lothian Academy:  
Blended learning experience with some direct teaching but mainly independent study. Must be in column E.

This experience is good preparation for Uni but you must have the discipline to work independently.

LEAPS – course offered by Edinburgh University for pupils achieving 3 or less Highers in S5.  
[Minimum BB]

# S6 LEARNER PATHWAY 2026 - 2027



NAME: .....

TUTOR CLASS: .....

Level of Study	Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E
National 5	Apps of Maths	Apps of Maths	Admin & IT	Admin & IT	Art & Design
	Biology	Art & Design	Chemistry	Biology	Business Education
	Care (with childcare)	English	English	English	Chemistry
	French	Maths	Media	Laboratory Science	English
	Maths	Music	Physical Education	Modern Studies	Graphics
	Music Technology	Physics	Practical Cookery	Physical Education	Geography
	Practical woodwork	Spanish	RMPS	Practical Woodwork	History
	Retail				Modern Studies
RMPS					
Higher	Admin & IT	Business Management	Apps of Maths	Art & Design	English
	Drama	Chemistry	Health & Social Care	Business Management	Graphics
	English	English	History	English	Human Biology
	French	Music	Maths	Health & Social Care	Photography
	History	Modern Studies	Music	Media	Physical Education
	Human Biology	RMPS	Photography	Physical Education	RMPS
	Media	Spanish	Politics	Physics	Travel -WL College
	Music Technology				
In school Advanced Higher	Biology	Chemistry	Maths	Art & Design	History
	Drama	English	Music	Modern Studies	Physics
	French	Music			RMPS
	Music Technology	Spanish			
Other	BAC IP	BAC IP	BAC IP	BAC IP	BAC IP
					L7 LEAPS
					WLVA

Your Choice	Level:	Level:	Level:	Level:	Level:
	Subject:	Subject:	Subject:	Subject:	Subject:

Pupils must choose ONE option in each column, fill in the level/subject chosen under each column.

Parent/Carer's signature \_\_\_\_\_

CLASSES ARE SUBJECT TO PUPIL NUMBERS AND STAFF AVAILABILITY

SLT signature \_\_\_\_\_

### West Lothian Virtual Academy (WLVA) Advanced Higher

You can choose to study ONE Advanced Higher through WLVA. This will be a blended learning experience with some direct teaching however, will mainly be independent study. This experience will set you up well for University however, you need to be confident that you have the discipline to work independently.

The courses being offered are shown below. History is being offered through WLVA however, this course will be delivered by a Whitburn Academy teacher hence this subject appears on our Pathways form as normal.

If you are choosing a WLVA Advanced Higher then you choose 'WLVA Advanced Higher' in column E and indicate which subject you wish to study from the choices given.

**WLVA Advanced Highers** (you should ONLY choose a subject here if the school is not offering it, or you can't fit the school offer with your other subjects).

Biology	Chemistry	Geography	Maths	Physics	
Business Education	Computing	History	Physical Education	RMPS	

### Baccalaureate

You can study for a Baccalaureate (BAC) in Languages, Science, Social Subjects or Expressive Arts. The BAC is a group award consisting of two Advanced Highers, a Higher, and an Interdisciplinary Project (IP). The IP is a graded award and is the equivalent of a Higher therefore you choose the BAC IP in a column. So, in S6 you need to choose two Advanced Highers and the IP. You also need to have achieved the required Higher in S5. To be eligible to study for a Baccalaureate you must achieve a grade A or B at Higher for the two subjects you wish to study at Advanced Higher. The SQA website will give you the eligible subjects for each of the four available BACS.

### LEAPS

This course is offered by Edinburgh University. It is a mix of in person (at Edinburgh University) and online learning. Successful completion of this course will result in a SCQF Level 7 qualification. It will also help you to transition to University and may lower entry requirements. You should only consider this course if you think you will achieve three Highers or less in S5.

### Wider Achievement

Wider Achievement provides the opportunity for you to achieve a Saltire Award by volunteering for a minimum of 100 hours. You will also complete Level 6 Literacy and Level 6 Numeracy if you have not yet achieved Highers in English and Maths. You can only choose Wider Achievement in ONE column if you achieve a minimum of 3 Highers in S5. You must find a faculty willing to have you to complete your volunteering hours. You will remain timetabled with this faculty for the year.

# Mock Pathways

It is important that the school tries to offer the best possible combination of subjects for you.

You may have already had the chance to do mock forms before the February holiday.

These mock forms gave **you** the opportunity to tell the school if there is a combination of subjects that you would like to study but can't because of where they are placed in the Pathways Form.

# What happens now?

Next steps:

Thursday 19th Feb = S3 into S4 pathway interviews begin.

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February = S3 to S4 continued then S2 into S3 pathways interviews begin.

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March = S4 into S5 pathway interviews begin. SP Reports will be issued this week.

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March = S5 into S6 pathways interviews begin.

**Bring your signed Pathways sheet for your Interview.**

**Exams**  
22<sup>nd</sup> April

5 weeks to Easter Holidays!!

Masterclasses started in January and run up to Easter Holidays.

2 hours after school.

Exam preparation.

Pupils must attend if below target.



### Senior Phase Masterclasses

Masterclasses run from Monday 12th January until Friday 17th April from 3.30 - 5.30pm on Monday - Thursday and 12.45 - 2.45pm on Fridays.





# Masterclasses 2026

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April

3:30pm to 5:30pm

- These classes will really help in getting you prepared for your final exams.
- Please prioritise for your subjects that you are below target in.
- For pupils with working grades of D or F these classes are mandatory.
- Masterclasses replace the 1 hour after school revision classes.
- Masterclasses are from 3.30pm to 5.30pm.
- There will be a food / snack break at 4.30pm provided by the school (no food deliveries permitted and no leaving the building).

Monday 3:30pm to 5:30pm		
staff name	subject	level
Miss Jones	Admin	N5
Miss Watters / Mr Greenwood	Drama	N5
Mr Reynolds	Modern Studies	N5
Miss McDougall	Media	N5
Mr Steven	Physics	N5 and Higher
Mrs Cooper	Human Biology	Higher
Mrs Anderson	Admin	Higher
Miss Nicol	Politics	Higher
Miss Mackay	Art and Photography	All levels

Every second Tuesday starting 13th January 3:30pm to 5:30pm		
staff name	subject	level
Miss Stephen / Miss Maher	Chemistry	N5
Miss MacDonald	Media	N5
Miss Higgins	Physical Education	Higher

Wednesday 3:30pm to 5:30pm		
staff name	subject	level
Mrs Cullen	Care	N5
Miss Lambie / Miss Richmond	Biology	N5 and AH
Mr Rennie	Mathematics	N5
Miss Manning / Miss Westhead	RMPS	N5
Miss Gordon	Practical cookery	N5
Mr McGrath	Applications of Maths	N5
Miss Lafferty	Music	All levels
Mr Ravie	Graphic Communication	N5 and Higher
Miss Scott	History	Higher
Mrs Anderson	Business	Higher
Ms Sword	Applications of Maths	Higher
Miss Stephen	Chemistry	Higher
Ms McGurk	Health and Food Technology	Higher
Mr Reynolds	Modern Studies	Adv H
Mr Greenwood	Drama	Higher and AH

Thursday 3:30pm to 5:30pm		
staff name	subject	level
Miss Steel	History	N5
Miss Jones	Business	N5
Mr Reynolds	Modern Studies	N5
Miss Finney-Callan	English	N5
Mr Boag	English	N5 and AH
Mr MacKenzie	Modern Studies	Higher
Miss Chisholm	RMPS	Higher
Mrs McCudden	English	Higher
Mr Rennie	Mathematics	Adv H
Miss Maher	Chemistry	Adv H

Friday 12:45pm to 2:45pm		
staff name	subject	level
Miss McDougall	English	N5
Miss McGrath	Mathematics	Higher

# Impact 23-24

S4

5+ Level 5 SQA

60.59%

5+ Level 5 SCQF

83.53%

S5

1+ Level 6 SQA

47.53%

3+ Level 6 SQA

33.95%

5+ Level 6 SQA

19.14%

1+ Level 6 SCQF

72.22%

3+ Level 6 SCQF

49.38%

5+ Level 6 SCQF

48.15%

S6

1+ Level 6 SQA

58.24%

3+ Level 6 SQA

45.05%

5+ Level 6 SQA

31.87%

1+ Level 7 SQA

15.93%

1+ Level 6 SCQF

86.26%

3+ Level 6 SCQF

58.24%

5+ Level 6 SCQF

53.30%

1+ Level 7 SCQF

23.08%



West Lothian  
Council

# Impact 24-25

## Total presentations and outcomes:

S4:

5+ @N5 was 52% = **3<sup>rd</sup> in WL Council**

S5:

5+ @H was 22% = **2<sup>nd</sup> in WL Council**

3+ @H was 45% = **2<sup>nd</sup> in WL Council**

S6:

1+ @AH was 21% = **3<sup>rd</sup> in WL Council.**

Thank you

Please take a pathways form on the way out.  
S6 is still TBC at this stage.



Learner Pathways 2026

