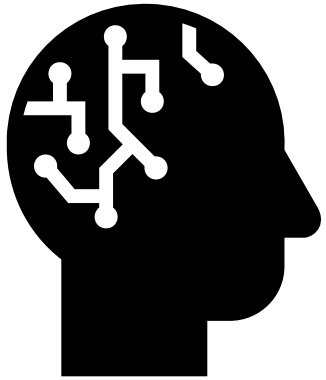
KELSO HIGH SCHOOL

PARTICIPATION
RESPECT
INCLUDED
DETERMINATION
EXCELLENCE



Pathways: Senior School and Beyond…



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Pathways: The Landscape

- As young people move up the school, they gain more ability to personalise their timetable to their strengths, interests and needs for the future

- This is a key theme of PSE lessons over the coming weeks in S2-5 classes

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Kelso High School – Positive Destinations

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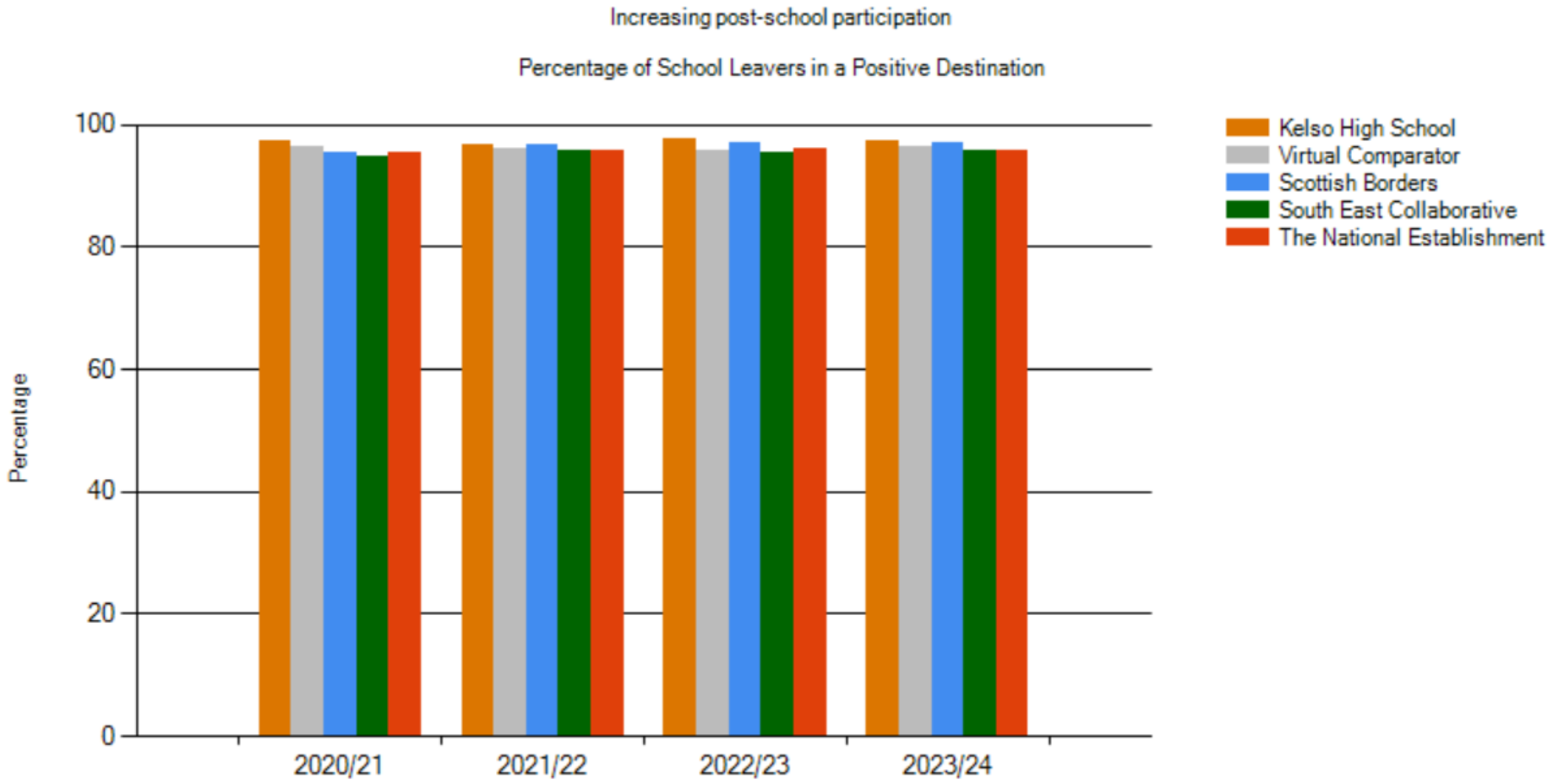

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Pathway Planning



WHEN



WHAT



HOW

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WHEN : Timeline

S3 – S5 (New S4-S6) : Mock Choices – 25th January

→ Align timetables across 9 Secondary school: 4th February

→ S2 Parent Engagement Evening : 4th February

→ S3 Tracking Report: 6th February

↓

Careers Fair: 12th February

→ Senior Tracking Report: 25th February

→ Choice of Course Forms: 24th February

→ S4 Parent Engagement Evening: 26th February

↓

S5/6 Parent Engagement Evening: 4th March

→ S3 Parent Engagement: 10th March

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Pathways: Course Choices



WHAT

S3 into S4

- 7 subjects are required in most cases
- English, Maths, core PE and PSE remain compulsory
- +5 subjects from our course offer, of a young person's choice
- Courses offered from Levels 2-5 to meet learners' needs

S4 into S5

- Number of subjects can vary
- **30 periods of timetabled classes per week** are required
- Higher/L6 courses are primarily 6 periods per week (PPW)
- National 3/4/5 and Level 3/4/5 courses are 4 PPW.



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Pathways: Course Choices

- **S5 into S6**
- Further course options are open to only S6.
- Minimum of 24 periods per week to be timetabled.
- PSE remains compulsory
- Options of **Advanced Highers**
- **Borders College offers more options for Friday Schools Academy**
- **YASS** (open university provided courses)
- University Transition Courses

Sample of Choice of Course Form for S3
from previous year

Choice 1: Sciences	Choice 2: Modern Languages	Choice 3: Social Subjects	Choice 4: Expressive Arts	Choice 5: Technologies
3 periods per week **Choose 1 from**	3 periods per week **Choose 1 from**	3 periods per week **Choose 1 from**	3 periods per week **Choose 1 from**	3 periods per week **Choose 1 from**
Biology Chemistry Physics Science Rural Skills Engineering Science	French German Languages for Life & Work The King's Trust Project	History Geography Modern Studies Religious & Moral Education Scottish Studies	Art Music Fashion & Textiles Technologies Drama P. E. Developing Player Programme: Scottish Rugby	Manufacturing Skills Graphic Communication Computing Science Health & Food Technology Physics E-Sports
Choice 6: Free Choice	3 periods per week **Choose 1 & 1 reserve**	Any subject from the above columns		

Sample of Choice of Course form for S4 from previous year

	Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E	Column F	Column G
	English N1/N2	Apps Maths N1/2					
SCQF Levels 2,3 & 4	English N3	Apps Maths N3	Travel & Tourism N4/5	L3/4 Personal Development Award		RMPS N3	Social Subjects N4
		Apps Maths N4	Practical Cookery N4		Creative Digital Media N4	Biology N4	
	Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E	Column F	Column F
SCQF Levels 4 & 5	English N5	Comms/Lit L5	Biology	Physics	Chemistry	French	Music
	Comms/Lit L5	English N5	Chemistry	Graphic Communication	Rugby Development L5	Biology	Photography
	Maths N5	Maths N5	Computing	History	Drama	PE	Modern Studies
	Applications of Maths N5	Applications of Maths N5	Business & IT L5	Health Sector Studies	Practical Cookery N5	Music Technology	PE
			Art & Design	Intro to Agriculture L5	Business Management	Practical Woodwork	History
			RMPS	Creative Industries L5	Fashion & Textile	Geography	Practical Cookery N5
				Barista & Customer Services L5	Engineering Science		German

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HOW

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Subject Choice Checklist – Key Considerations

Action Points	Completed
Read the school Options Guide carefully.	
Make sure I understand the Subject Options Form and know how to fill it in.	
Find out who I can ask for help if, or when, I need it.	
Find out what each subject or course involves.	
Talk about my option choices with my parents or carers.	
Think about what I really like, and what interests me most. (You usually do better at the subjects you really enjoy.)	
Think about how well I am doing in my subjects now. What am I really good at?	
Find out if I will need any specific subjects to get into the career, or career area, I am interested in. What are they?	
Check if I have left my future career options as open as possible.	
Check that I am choosing my subjects for the right reasons. (Wanting to stay in the same class as your friends, or liking the teacher doesn't count.)	
Check that I've not ruled a subject (or career) out just because people might think it's a 'boys' or 'girls' subject.	
Think about the skills I am good at and the skills I need to develop in the future. Which courses or other opportunities will help me develop these?	

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Pathways: The Landscape

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SCOTTISH CREDIT AND QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK (SCQF)

SCQF LEVEL 1	SCQF LEVEL 2	SCQF LEVEL 3	SCQF LEVEL 4	SCQF LEVEL 5	SCQF LEVEL 6	SCQF LEVEL 7	SCQF LEVEL 8	SCQF LEVEL 9	SCQF LEVEL 10	SCQF LEVEL 11	SCQF LEVEL 12
NATIONAL 1	NATIONAL 2	NATIONAL 3	NATIONAL 4	NATIONAL 5	HIGHER	ADVANCED HIGHER		BACHELORS/ ORDINARY DEGREE	HONOURS DEGREE	MASTERS DEGREE	DOCTORAL DEGREE
AWARDS	AWARDS	AWARDS	AWARDS	AWARDS	AWARDS	AWARDS	AWARDS			POST GRADUATE CERTIFICATE	
		SKILLS FOR WORK	SKILLS FOR WORK	SKILLS FOR WORK	SKILLS FOR WORK	SCOTTISH BACCALAUREATE					
	NATIONAL PROGRESSION AWARDS	NATIONAL PROGRESSION AWARDS	NATIONAL PROGRESSION AWARDS	NATIONAL PROGRESSION AWARDS	NATIONAL PROGRESSION AWARDS						
	NATIONAL CERTIFICATES	NATIONAL CERTIFICATES	NATIONAL CERTIFICATES	NATIONAL CERTIFICATES	NATIONAL CERTIFICATES	HIGHER NATIONAL CERTIFICATES	HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA				
					SCOTTISH VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 3	SCOTTISH VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 3	SCOTTISH VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 4				
			MODERN APPRENTICESHIPS SVQ 1	MODERN APPRENTICESHIPS SVQ 2	MODERN APPRENTICESHIPS SVQ 3	MODERN APPRENTICESHIPS SVQ 3	TECHNICAL APPRENTICESHIPS SVQ 4	TECHNICAL APPRENTICESHIPS SVQ 4	PROFESSIONAL APPRENTICESHIPS	PROFESSIONAL APPRENTICESHIPS SVQ 5	PROFESSIONAL APPRENTICESHIPS
					PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

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Pathways: The SCQF Framework



SCQF: Find your qualifications using our interactive diagram

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Pathways: Working in Childcare

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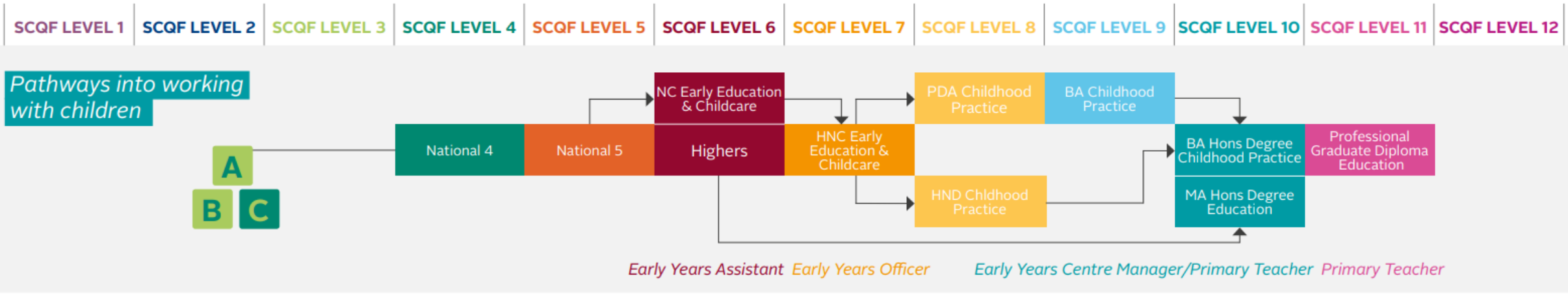

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Pathways: Working in Construction

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Pathways: Modern Studies

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S3	**BGE Modern Studies**		
S4	**Level 3** People in Society	**Level 4** Modern Studies	**Level 5** Modern Studies
S5	**Level** **Level** **Level** Seek R		r Education p (*2 year*
S6	**Level 5** Modern Studies **Level 4/5** Course – Further Education Modern Apprenticeship Seek Related Employment	**Level 6** Modern Studies **Level 6** Course – Further Education Modern Apprenticeship Seek Related Employment **Level 6** Alternative Social Subject *(with Level 6 English gained in S5)*	**Level 7** Modern Studies **Level 6** Politics **Level 6** Psychology (*As part of BCSA)* **Level 6** Alternative Social subject Apply to Further Education (**Level 7/8**) Apply to Higher Education *(UCAS)* Seek Related Employment Modern Apprenticeship

This is an example of info all young people will have access to for all of the main subjects we offer in school

KELSO HIGH SCHOOL

Pathways: Let's Explore

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Where?	What?	Why?	Code to Access
My World of Work	Option Choice Tool	Young people can play around with various options and discover jobs and pathways	
Pathways	College and Uni courses in the East of Scotland that complement each other	To demonstrate alternative pathways to uni, via college – selectable by geographical and subject area.	
National Parent Forum of Scotland	Senior Phase: In a nutshell	A parent friendly explanation of the S4-6 experience in Scottish Secondary Schools	
Borders College	Course Catalogue – Full time and BCSA Courses	BC is offering **201 courses** for 2026-2027 across a whole spectrum of levels and areas	

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Pathways: Can you Find the Right Path?

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Your child is currently in **S4** and has said they want to become a **doctor**.
Which of the following is the **most appropriate plan** from S4 onwards?

A. Focus mainly on any subjects they enjoy as universities do not require specific sciences for medicine.

B. Ensure strong … **both by S5**, gain relevant healthcare exper… 6.

C. Leave science subjects after S4 and concentrate on English and social subjects, as communication skills are most important.

D. Apply directly to medical school after S4 if grades are high enough.

Answer: A - many unis also require Advanced Highers in both sciences in S6 and completion of the 'MCAT' test.

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Pathways: Can you Find the Right Path?

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Your child is currently in **S4** and is interested in becoming a **welder**. Which of the following pathways is the **most appropriate plan** from S4 onwards?

A. Focu sed.

B. Leave

C. Choo cal
subjec
qualifica

D. Wait

Answer: C

Welding is a skilled trade that combines practical ability, safety awareness, and technical knowledge. The most effective pathway includes:

S4–S5: Achieving **National 5s**, particularly in **Maths**, and subjects such as **Practical Craft Skills, Engineering Science, or Design & Manufacture**.

Post-school options: Progressing to **college** (e.g. a welding or fabrication course) or starting a **Modern Apprenticeship** in welding or fabrication and welding.

Pathways: Can you Find the Right Path?

Answer: C

S4–S5: Completing an **NPA in Childcare/Early Education** helps develop key skills such as communication, teamwork, and understanding child development. – New for 2026-2027 at KHS (Level 5) or BCSA. (Level 6)

Progression routes: NPAs can lead directly to **college courses**, **foundation or modern apprenticeships**, or supported employment.

Recognition: NPAs are **valued by employers** and often include **work placement**, helping young people gain confidence and experience.

Flexibility: This pathway allows learners to progress without relying solely on traditional exam-based qualifications. Options A, B, and D are incorrect because they overlook the value of NPAs as recognised, structured pathways into employment and further training.

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How: 1:1 Conversations

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We capture the pathway planning information on a web programme called TOOLS.

Parent/Carer will receive an automated e-mail which will confirm the selections a pupil has made.

A letter will be sent just before the start of the pathway planning conversations start, which will outline more details on the date / time of the 1:1 meeting that is held within the Library.

Please ensure your youngster has their choice of course sheet completed, signed and brought to the 1:1 meeting

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How: Timeline

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Week Beginning	Year Group
9th March	S2 into S3
16th March	S4 into S5
16th March	S5 into S6
23rd March	S3 into S4



Any Questions?