



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Questions asked by pupils during research

Here is a summary of questions and answers asked by S4 and S5 students during the course choice process

COLLEGE QUESTIONS:



APPLYING FOR A SCHOOL-COLLEGE COURSE AND INTERVIEW SUPPORT

What are the entry requirements? Each course has different requirements, however all clearly state entry requirements, so go onto the college website to find out.

What course are available for me to study? Go onto the college website to find out ([click here](#)) or refer to the summary document that I have created and is available on St Mungo's website ([click here](#)). You can study Highers, HNCs, City & Guilds, Foundation Apprenticeships, SVQs, National Progression Awards at College. **Refer to the Qualification Summary Sheet to find out more about these qualifications.**

How do I express an interest in a school-college course? During your course choice interview, we will ask you to express a note of interest for a course. Do not apply independently as support will be given.

What is the application process? A college application form will be submitted online. You need to register and create an account with FV College to access and submit the application.

Who will help me with my application form? You will be given support to write your application and any follow up interview tips/practice sessions. There will be a **closing date** for each course, so make sure that the application is submitted in plenty of time.

What information do you need to include in the college application form? The FV College application is just like a job application with sections including:

- **Course/s** you are applying to
- **Personal Details** (name, address, NI No, SQA candidate number, school & dates, contact details)
- **Personal Statement** – why you want to study the course, experience, interests, job etc.
- **Qualifications**
- **Reference**

Is there an interview for college courses and when would this take place?

The college usually has some form of selection process and they will explain to you fully what this will involve. College staff will also ask pastoral staff to provide an overview of pupil's suitability and attendance summary.

The application form asks me to give the name of a referee. Who should I nominate? You should write the name of your Pastoral Teacher or Year Head (who has a greater knowledge of you).

When would I need to apply for a school college partnership course? You should make sure that we are aware that you want to apply. There will be a closing date and as some courses are very popular, places are taken quickly.

Am I able to do 2 school college courses or just the one? – It's very, very unusual to study 2 school-college courses as studying 2 courses in S5 will negatively affect the amount of time in your other subjects.

PSYCHOLOGY HIGHER

If I took Psychology as a Higher would I have to go to College to do it? There is one school who delivers Higher Psychology and spaces are usually taken up by their students, so I would advise you to study this at FV College.

I've heard that Psychology Higher is only available for Sixth Year students. Is that true? Yes, FV College require students to have passed Higher English to study Psychology, so spaces are usually taken up by S6s.



GENERAL QUESTIONS - COLLEGE

Are you able to complete a school-college course at the City of Glasgow College as part time while still going to school? - Sorry no, our partnership courses are with FV College only.

What qualifications can you get from college and how useful are they? There are many qualifications to suit academic and vocational aspirations – a mixture of hands-on and academic, including SVQs, HNCs, Highers, Foundation Apprenticeships, National Progression Awards, Skills for Work courses, City & Guilds All qualifications from FV College are accepted by colleges, universities and employers. **Refer to the Qualification Summary Sheet to find out more about these qualifications.**

COSTS AND TRAVELLING TO SCHOOL-COLLEGE PARTNERSHIP COURSES

How will I get to and home from college? Are there any costs? – At this point, there are no costs involved and transport is arranged through the local authority. A bus usually comes to school during the most popular college times (Tuesday & Thursday lunchtime) to take students to college. If your course finishes at the end of the day, you will usually go on the bus that is closest to your home e.g. if you live in Denny, you would go home on the Denny High School bus and be dropped off at a central point in Denny.

How many times would we go to college? – It is dependent on each course. Times of courses will be available on the college website or school summary booklet. Some courses ask students to attend on a Tues & Thursday afternoon, others for a day or 2 half days or even a full day etc. **You need to carefully consider the impact a college course time/s might have on your other subjects.**

Useful links and QR codes for College Courses

Foundation Apprenticeships:
Forth Valley College ([click here](#))



School College Partnership Courses
Forth Valley College ([click here](#))



QUESTIONS ON UNIVERSITY



I am just a little confused about UCAS and applying to University – Don't worry, we will fully support applicants nearer the time. We are asking S4 and S5 students to undertake some preliminary research into courses you might be interested in so that you are aware of the essential and desirable subjects/qualifications you might need to study this year.

Does preparing for University just now mean for next year or does it mean for preparing after high school (6th year) – We are asking you to research so that you become independent learners so that you will have skills and knowledge of useful sites to do your own research over the next few years. You also need to be aware of what universities are looking for in terms of entry requirements, including essential and desirable subjects etc. This will support you making correct subject choices in S4 and S5.

Can I apply to university at the end of Fifth Year? Yes you can and each year, we have several Fifth Year students who apply to University. The same support will be given to S5 applicants as is given to Sixth Years students. It is important that you let Miss Marshall know that you are considering an application to university as soon as possible.

How and when do I apply to University? –We usually start the UCAS application process in early June (after your return from SQA exam leave) and support sessions will last until the October break. There is an early deadline of 15 October for Medicine, Vet Medicine, Dentistry and Oxbridge Universities. Most other courses have a deadline of January 15 (except some Art courses)

I'm not sure what course is right for me – That's OK and perfectly fine. It depends on what area you would like to specialise in and this is a great time to broaden your aspirations and find out about all the fabulous courses that are out there that you might not be aware of. You can also ask your subject teacher/s for some additional advice and guidance or attend virtual webinars to ask professionals.

I am not sure what the course is I should be doing to be a GP. I think its medicine but unsure – Yes that is correct. You can specialise in an area of medical practice after you have finished medical studies.

UCAS EXPLORE – Research University Course ([click here](#))



WHAT IS THE APPRENTICESHIP FAMILY?



The Apprenticeship Family

There are 3 types of apprenticeships that can be completed at school or after leaving school.

Click on the 3 images below to see a summary of each apprenticeship

At School

After School

After School



Foundation Apprenticeships

I'd like to do an apprenticeship that gives me experience in the workplace, while still at school.



Modern Apprenticeships

I'm over 16 and looking for paid employment that offers industry recognised training on the job.



Graduate Apprenticeships

I'm looking for a paid job that gives me industry experience and training whilst working towards a degree.

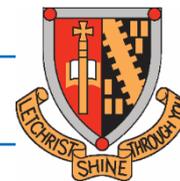
FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIPS

MODERN APPRENTICESHIPS

GRADUATE APPRENTICESHIPS



QUESTIONS ON APPRENTICESHIPS



Should I study a Foundation Apprenticeship? *If you decide that is the best pathway for you, however you should consider several things:*

- Foundation Apprenticeships are designed for students who are likely to leave school at the end of S6 with **1 or 2 Highers**. It is a brilliant opportunity to gain relevant industry experience.
- If your preferred pathway requires you to achieve 4 or 5 Highers by the end of S5, then Foundation Apprenticeships might not be the best choice in Fifth Year. You can sit your 4 or 5 Highers in S5 and then pick up a Fast Track (1 year) Foundation Apprenticeship when you go into Sixth Year.
- Foundation Apprenticeships over 1 year (S6) will straddle many columns of study, so will greatly affect your timetable. Speak to Miss Marshall to consider implications.
- For all students who express an interest in a Foundation Apprenticeship will have a meeting with our career adviser, to ensure that you are making the correct choice before you submit your application.
- If unsure ask or email me on clare.marshall@falkirk.gov.uk

What is a Modern Apprenticeship? – A Modern Apprenticeship is where you will work in an industry doing a full-time job, working with other workers **picking up relevant skills** and gaining **experience**. You will also study at a local college gaining relevant **qualifications** e.g. a Modern Apprentice electrician will work with other electricians, learning ‘on the job’ activities and skills in the work for (usually) 4 days a week. On the fifth day, they will attend college gaining work related qualifications. You will get paid a wage and by the end of Third or Fourth Year of your apprenticeship, you are work ready with the qualifications to get you a job.

Where do I find Modern Apprenticeship vacancies? – There are many apprenticeship sites, and they are often advertised on <http://apprenticeship.scot> or <https://earlycareers.scot/>

Can I do an apprenticeship and still leave at the end of 5th year or do I need to stay till end of 6th? You can start a Modern Apprenticeship when you are 16, so do not need to stay on for Sixth Year.

What is a Graduate Apprenticeship? – A Graduate Apprenticeship is similar to a Modern Apprenticeship, with a notable difference that you need relevant qualifications to attend University (at least 4 Highers). You will work in an industry doing a full-time job, working with others **picking up relevant skills** but you will also study at a local university working towards a degree. So after 4 years, you will have experience of ‘on the job’ activities and a degree. You will get paid a very good wage and by the end of Third or Fourth Year, you are well ahead in terms of practical experiences compared to students who go straight to uni.

Where do I find Graduate Apprenticeship vacancies? – There are many apprenticeship sites, and they are often advertised on <http://apprenticeship.scot> or <https://earlycareers.scot/>

When do you apply for an apprenticeship and is it similar to applying to university? – Apprenticeships are advertised throughout the year. Many larger companies will have set times in the year where they have a big recruitment drive ready for a September start. January – March is the period larger companies start their big annual recruitment drives.

I am just a little worried about applying and the interview part of the apprenticeship – Again don’t worry about this, we will support you through the application and interview processes. Mrs Cleland is the main school link for Apprenticeships.

GENERIC QUESTIONS on the COURSE CHOICE PROCESS

Would it be a good idea to crash a subject? – Our advice is to continue your academic progression from S4 into S5 with the subjects you are currently studying so that you can build on your knowledge of National 4s and National 5s, therefore having more chance to achieve your potential. There will be exceptions and this should be discussed with you Pastoral Head or Miss Marshall. S6s can crash subjects.

What is the content of Fifth and Sixth year courses? – Read the course choice booklet which is available on the school website (or [click here](#)), ask your teacher or the Faculty Head of the subject.

I'm still unsure and really don't really know what I want to do? That is OK, if you continue to do your research and make an informed decision. If you are still unsure at course choice time, choose a broad range of subjects to keep your options open.

Do we offer Advanced Higher Business at St Mungo's? - We do not and no school across the Local Authority has over the last few years. If this situation changes, we will let you know.

Am I able to take the Sports Leadership course or Higher Dance (at another school) if I have never taken National PE? Yes, speak to Mr Brown for clarification. There is an audition for Higher Dance.

How do I apply for courses at other schools? (Consortia) - We do not have a list of subjects available in the consortia column yet, but will let you know when we do. We will then talk you through how to apply for these courses

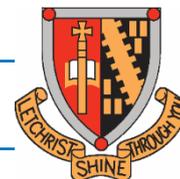
On the course choice sheet there is Maths (year 1 of 1) and (year 2 of 2) and I don't know what the difference is. Year 2 is for those students who **did not** start Higher work in S4. Year 1 is for students who started Higher work during Fourth Year. If unsure, seek clarification from your Maths teacher or Mrs Muir.

I am unsure if it best to keep at least one science. It depends on what you want to do after school and how you will cope with the workload. Some courses insist on certain sciences, so you would need to do your research. Ask your Science teachers. For many courses e.g., Medicine, Vet Medicine, Dentistry certain Sciences at particular levels of study and grades are essential.

Do I need to continue with Maths after Fourth Year? Your pathway will determine whether you want/need to continue with Maths. Many pathways require Maths or Application of Maths at a particular level and grade e.g., at a pass at Nat 4, a B pass at Nat 5/Applications or it might ask for Higher pass. You need to do careful research and consider whether you want to continue with Maths into Fifth Year if you already have the grade/level required – you might decide to choose another subject in Fifth Year and maybe pick up Maths in S6. Our advice is that if you are highly capable of passing Maths, you should. Speak to your Maths teacher, Pastoral Head or Miss Marshall if you require any advice and support. Careful research and advice is required.

Is Maths and Application of Maths treated the same? For some pathways they are both treated the same and it will be made clear as it will say National 5 at B grade **or equivalent** which means that they will be treated the same. Many other courses e.g., Engineering, Medicine etc. require passes in the traditional Maths course. You must research and seek advice before deciding.

WHEN CAN I LEAVE SCHOOL?



The school leaving dates are as follows:

- 31 May
- the first day of the Christmas holidays

Pupils who will be **16 years old on or between 1 March and 30 September** can leave school on 31 May. Pupils who are 16 years old on or between 1 October and the last day of February can leave school on the first day of the Christmas holidays.

NATIONAL INSURANCE NUMBER

When can you get your National Insurance number – *Usually a few weeks before your 16th birthday. It should be sent to you directly.*

ADVICE AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WILL BE GIVEN IN SCHOOL ON:

- **WORK PLACEMENT** (live and virtual)
- **VOLUNTEERING**

IF YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS TO ASK, PLEASE EMAIL ME ON:

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