

Berwickshire High School



**BERWICKSHIRE HIGH SCHOOL**

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**SENIOR OPTIONS**

**2026-27**

## Introduction

This booklet provides hyperlinks to websites that provide information about the different courses we are offering in the 2026-27 session. Most of these link to 'PlanitPlus', which gives details that include:

- Career pathways
- Course content
- Assessment
- Study materials

In the small number of cases where a PlanitPlus link isn't available, the links go directly to the SQA website (which isn't as user-friendly but provides information about courses nonetheless).

If students have any questions about any course they are considering studying next session, they should speak to their teachers, relevant Head of Faculty, or their Head of Year.

## National Qualifications

### National 4s

[Applications of Mathematics](#)

[Biology](#)

[Chemistry](#)

[English](#)

### National 5s

[Administration and IT](#)

[Applications of Mathematics](#)

[Art and Design](#)

[Biology](#)

[Business Management](#)

[Chemistry](#)

[Computing Science](#)

[Drama](#)

[Engineering Science](#)

[English](#)

[Fashion & Textile Technology](#) (Ey HS)

[French](#)

[Geography](#)

[History](#)

[Mathematics](#)

[Modern Studies](#)

[Music](#)

[Music Technology](#)

[Physical Education](#)

[Physics](#)

[Practical Cookery](#)

[Practical Electronics](#)

[Practical Woodworking](#)

[Spanish](#)

[Travel & Tourism](#)

### Highers

[Administration and IT](#)

[Applications of Mathematics](#)

[Art and Design](#)

[Biology](#)

[Business Management](#)

[Chemistry](#)

[Classical Studies](#)

[Computing Science](#)

[Drama](#)

[English](#)

[Fashion & Textile Technology](#) (Ey HS)

[French](#)

[Geography](#)

[History](#)

[Human Biology](#)

[Mathematics](#)

[Modern Studies](#)

[Music](#)

[Physical Education](#)

[Physics](#)

[Politics](#)

[Spanish](#)

## Advanced Highers

[Art and Design \(Design\)](#)

[Biology](#)

[Chemistry](#)

[English](#)

[Geography](#)

[History](#)

[Mathematics](#)

[Mathematics of Mechanics](#)

[Music](#)

[Physical Education](#)

[Physics](#)

## Scottish Baccalaureate in Science

The Scottish Baccalaureate in Science has been designed to provide a challenging and rewarding experience for students in S6. It is based on a coherent group of subjects, **one at Higher and two at Advanced Higher level** (chosen from maths, the sciences, and/or one option from a range of 'broadening courses' such as geography) with the addition of the Interdisciplinary Project, which offers added breadth and value and helps to equip the student with the generic skills, attitudes, and confidence necessary to make the transition into Higher Education and/or employment. ([Click here for list of eligible courses.](#))

The Interdisciplinary Project Unit is graded at A, B or C and is based on any area of the students' interest. In recent years, projects have included the use of microplastics in teabags and the medicinal use of cannabis.

## National Progression Awards

### [Applied Sciences - Level 5](#)

#### **Boat Building - Level 4/5**

Takes place at Eyemouth Marine. Pupils learn traditional skills in a formal work experience setting.

#### [Beekeeping - Level 5](#)

This National Progression Award develops a student's knowledge and understanding of beekeeping. This includes practical beekeeping skills, hive managements and how to safely manipulate bees.

The course is comprised of three units which are assessed and verified internally. There is no SQA exam in this course.

**Beekeeping: An Introduction**

**Beekeeping: Practical Skills**

**Beekeeping: Theory**

The practical aspects of the course are delivered at our partnership site, Marchmont Estate.

Back at school there are a range of activities that students will participate in and learn about, such as:

- Honey tasting, processing and labelling
- How to deal with stings
- Hive structure and design
- Building frames
- Bee Anatomy and the roles of different bees in the colony
- Pollen Identification and microscopy
- Hive management strategies and preparing hives for winter
- Disease identification and treatments
- The importance of pollinators
- Agricultural impact on beekeeping

### [Computer Games Development - Levels 5 and 6](#)

## [Criminology - Level 5](#)

### [NPA Level 5 Esports](#)

Esports is one of the fastest growing professional sports in the world, with a projected forecast of a global worth of more than £4.6 billion by 2029.

An NPA in Esports provides the knowledge and skills needed to understand the principles and practices of esports, as well as the ability to organise and manage esports events. The course covers a range of topics including the history of esports, the different types of esports, the various roles within the esports industry and the business and commercial aspects of esports. This course will provide students with opportunities to enhance their game-playing skills, organise and compete in esports events and develop the essential digital skills that are required in the modern-day digital working environment.

#### **Assessment**

There are three mandatory units:

- **The Esports Industry**
- **Game Performance**
- **Organising and Promoting Events**

The course will be assessed by answering questions about a case study, answering a multiple-choice assessment, demonstrating gaming performance in an esports team and by planning and promoting an esports event.

### [Exercise and Fitness Leadership - Level 6](#)

Exercise and Fitness Leadership provides structured opportunities for candidates to experience a number of recognised ways of leading others in fitness activities. The course allows students to develop their personal leadership qualities and to develop their knowledge and skills in fitness. Exercise and Fitness Leadership requires students to successfully complete written tasks, written assessments under exam conditions, and practical sessions and assessments in the fitness suite. Students must pass the necessary course work and assessments for all three units to receive the NPA course award. The three units that we cover at Berwickshire High School are:

- **Circuit Training**
- **Fixed Weight Training**
- **Free Weight Training**

The course will be delivered over 6 periods and is a combination of theory and practical sessions. All assessments are internally assessed through individual unit assessments.

### [NPA Level 4 Horticulture](#)

The aim of the NPA in Horticulture at SCQF level 4 is to provide a broad practical introduction to Horticulture. This includes developing knowledge and skills required to propagate and maintain a range of plants including fruits and vegetables. In addition, learners will become familiar with the safe operation of horticultural tools and develop an understanding of how plants grow and develop.

#### **Assessment**

The course has two mandatory units:

- **Allotment Gardening**
- **Plant Propagation**

At least one other unit will also be completed from:

- **Soft Landscaping**
- **Soft Landscaping: Introduction to Plant Groups, Selection and Use**
- **Horticultural Composting**
- **Plant Identification**
- **Plant Health**
- **Organic Gardening: Edible Crops**

### [NPA Level 6 Journalism](#)

Overview: The Journalism (SCQF level 6) NPA has at its heart the journalistic activity of research and writing but, in line with the many outlets for modern journalism, has options to develop content in page layout, web development and photography.

Creative media production is an ideal base for the development of a wide range of Core Skills especially in:

- Communication
- Information technology
- Problem solving
- Working with others

#### **Assessment**

The course has two mandatory units:

- **Research and Interview Skills for Journalism**
- **Feature Writing**

At least two other units will also be completed from:

- **Newswriting for Print**
- **Page Layout and Design for Print**
- **Basic Website Development**
- **Photography**

The course is all internally assessed.

### [Musical Theatre - Level 6](#)

### [Photography - Level 5](#)

### [Sport and Fitness - Level 5](#)

For successful completion of this NPA, candidates must achieve a pass for the 3 units that are outlined below:

#### **Sport and Fitness: Coaching Development**

This unit is designed to develop students' ability to assess and address the requirements of participants when planning sports coaching sessions. Students are required to develop this ability while considering legal obligations in terms of health and safety, data protection, and participant care. Students will be required to develop, deliver and evaluate a progressive sequence of coaching sessions.

#### **Sports Officiating and Organising - Recreational: Basketball or Association Football**

This unit requires students to describe the fundamental controls and procedures in relation to basketball/football. Students must also organise, host and officiate a tournament at recreational level, with respect to the fundamental controls and procedures within their chosen activity.

#### **Sporting Activity Participation and Performance: Basketball or Association Football**

This unit requires students to explain technical skills and the importance of appropriate behaviour and attire in enhancing participation and performance in their chosen activity. Students must also participate and perform in basketball/football sessions, while monitoring and evaluating personal performance progress.

## Other Courses

### King's Trust, Barista Skills Award and Skills for Work: Retailing N5

[King's Trust](#)

[Barista Skills Award - Level 5](#)

[Skills for Work: Retailing N5](#)

### Borders College

[Schools Academy](#) (filter Types of Study to Schools Academy)

### Professional Development Awards

[Scottish Football Association: Refereeing - Level 7](#)

This qualification covers areas such as understanding of SFA refereeing, concentrating on knowledge and understanding of the Laws of the Game of football. It also includes learning about formal controls, misconduct, match reports and fitness standards for referees. This knowledge is drawn together by refereeing a football match.

Assessments take place through various different means, including fitness testing and completion of a fitness log whereby candidates must achieve the minimum requirement set by the SFA, a formal theory assessment under exam conditions and a practical assessment of candidates refereeing a football match and completing the necessary match reports.

## Awards

[Modern Languages for Life and Work - Level 4](#)

### Aims:

- to provide flexible opportunities to study two modern languages in practical and relevant contexts for life and work purposes.
- to identify and demonstrate employability skills and gain work experience in a real-life business context.

### Course content:

- Modern Languages for Life (SPANISH): topics such as family/friends, school, leisure, etc.
- Employability skills (ENGLISH & FRENCH/ SPANISH): identifying own skills, as well as skills required in a business setting, with the opportunity to see and put these skills in practice in a business setting, courtesy of our partner, Ahlstrom. Opportunities for real life job applications, interview and work experience form part of this unit.
- Modern Languages for Work (FRENCH/ SPANISH): topics such as money, work conditions, opinions of jobs, local environment.

Skills will be developed in Talking, Listening and Reading in the foreign language.

Assessment is internal and involves tasks in the above skills.

### Who is this course aimed at?

- Pupils all of abilities with any level of French and/or Spanish, or indeed no experience of foreign languages.
- Pupils with an interest in languages and business.
- Pupils looking for a more vocational, cross-curricular approach to learning.

### Why take this course?

- 65% of businesses identify a need for foreign language skills.
- Over 70% of employers are very dissatisfied with school leavers' language skills.
- These employers were also dissatisfied with school leavers' "business and customer awareness". (Source CBI Education and Skills Survey 2014)

You can address these concerns with this Award!

## Level 5 Personal Finance Award

**Recommended Entry:** Pupils who have achieved at least a Level 4 Qualification in Mathematics/Applications of Mathematics.

### **Course overview:**

Want some more 'real-life' Maths? Then this is for you! ...

... And better still, it's the **equivalent level** to National 5 Maths!!

The Personal Finance Award at SCQF level 5 builds on the foundations of the money and percentages work we have done as part of previous learning and courses.

The Awards cover a range of topics, including calculating and comparing costs; household budgeting; different forms of borrowing; tax and National Insurance; credit cards; bank accounts; exchange rates, interest and inflation rates.

### **Assessment**

This is an ungraded course. This means that it is either Pass or Fail. To pass this course there is no exam but instead pupils need to pass two Unit Assessment

The course has two mandatory units:

- **Money Management**
- **Understanding Money**