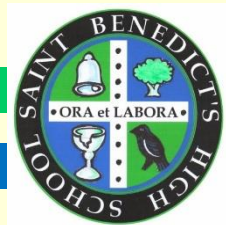




S4 Information Evening

Welcome

4th September 2025



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School Prayer

God, Our Father, we thank you for your gifts which you freely give to us. We ask your son Jesus to help us follow the advice of Benedict, that we may pray and work to the best of our abilities.

We ask the Holy Spirit to assist us in making good decisions so that we can learn to appreciate the true goals of life and live in peace with one another.

St. Benedict, pray for us.

Programme

- Expectations
- Course structures
- Support arrangements

Introductions

- Alan Taylor – Head Teacher
- Bernadette McFadden – Depute Head Teacher (Year Head)
- Michael McGeough – Depute Head Teacher (SQA)
- Claire McGee – PT Pastoral (Attendance)

Workshops

- Attainment and Achievement – Mrs Colligan
- Health and Wellbeing – Mrs Kearns
- Exam Structures & Support – Mrs Carr
- Employability – Miss Delaney

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Exam Success

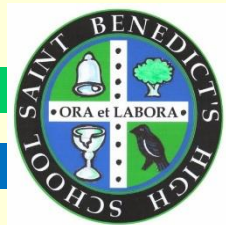


Scottish Government (2022) – Recognised as a school with ongoing significant improvements in SQA attainment (over previous 5 year period)

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Miss McFadden Year Head



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Important Dates in S4

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|------------------------|
| • 03 | October | S4 Tracking Report 1 |
| • 23 | October | Awards Ceremony |
| • 24 | October | Mentor Meeting 1 |
| • 6 | November | Attainment Seminar |
| • 17 – 21 | November | Music Prelims |
| • 11 | December | S4 Parents' Evening |
| • 12 | December | Mentor Meeting 2 |
| • 7 – 21 | January | S4 Prelims |
| • 27 | February | Full Report |
| • 6 | March | Mentor Meeting 3 |
| • | Feb/March | S5 Options Programme |
| • 2 | April | Tracking Report |
| • 22 | April | Start of SQA Exam Diet |
| • 2 | June | Fifth Year |

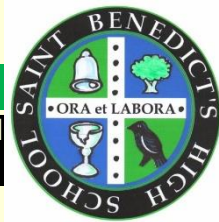




Tracking Reports

Summary of Progress for Subjects

Subject	Teacher	Study Level	Working Grade	Next Target Grade	Effort	Behaviour	Homework
Art & Design	Mrs Allan, Miss Gilfillan	NAT5	3	1	Excellent	Excellent	Good
DesManu	Mr Magee	NAT5	3	1	Excellent	Excellent	Good
English.	Mrs Colligan	NAT5	5	3	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Geography	Miss Lewis	NAT5	5	3	Good	Excellent	Excellent
GrCom	Mr McGrane	NAT5	3	1	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Mathematics	Mrs Nolan	NAT5	3	1	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Physics	Miss MacNeil	NAT4	1	1	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Religious Education	Mr Murphy	School	-	-	Excellent	Excellent	-





Tracking Reports

Study Level	Working Grade	Next Target Grade	
NAT5	3	1	Ex
NAT5	3	1	Ex
NAT5	5	3	Ex
NAT5	5	3	(

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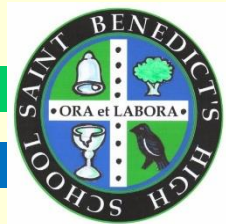
Key messages

- Resilience
- Stickability
- Positive attitude
- Maximise potential
- Minimise distractions

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SQA

Mr. McGeough
SQA Coordinator



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N4 internally
assessed using
SQA produced
assessments

N4: Date decided in school

N5 will have an
externally
assessed exam

N5: Date decided by the SQA
Wednesday 22nd April 2026 –
Monday 1st June 2026

Your Coursework

What is it?

It varies subject by subject. For example;

- Social subjects and the Sciences have an assignment
- English, Art and PE have a folio

Your Coursework

When will you do your coursework?

Again, this will vary subject by subject. For example;

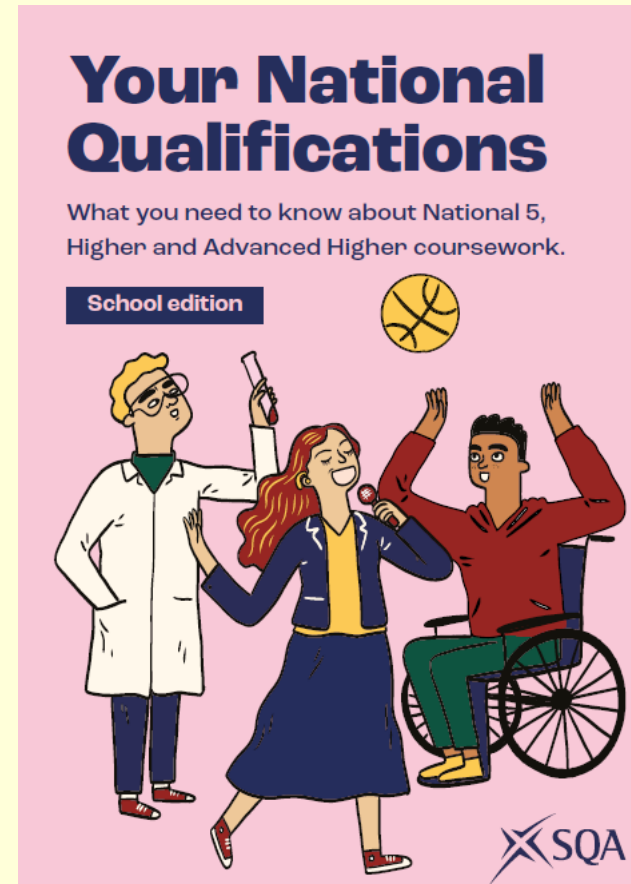
PE and Art are completed during the year

Social Subjects and Science will select a specific time in the year to complete the assignment (normally January/February)

Your Coursework



www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/112068.html



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Your Coursework

We use the term '**coursework**' in this booklet to mean any written or practical assessments (not exams) you do for your National Qualifications. This varies by subject and may include portfolios, practical activities, performances, assignments or projects.

National Qualifications can be made up of different types of coursework, including portfolios, practical activities, performances, assignments and projects. The type of coursework you do will depend on the course you are studying.

Your Coursework

Artificial Intelligence

You might have heard about or used artificial intelligence (AI) tools such as ChatGPT or Google Bard. Many of these AI tools have age restrictions, which means they are not suitable for everyone. The text they produce can be incorrect or contain biased information. As the information is not reliable, **you must not use or reference AI tools as sources for your work.**

You can speak to your teacher to find out more about the sources you can use to complete your coursework and prepare for exams.

Plagiarism

You must only submit your own work. Passing off other people's work and ideas as your own is called 'plagiarism' and it's cheating.

It's also plagiarism if you use other people's work and don't reference the sources as explained on page 9.

It's not your own work if:

- all or some of it has been done, or worked on, by someone else
- it has been done by someone who has produced similar work in the past (such as an older student)
- you use work that your teacher has prepared as an example
- you've copied it from a source, such as a book, website or an essay bank, without trying to put it in your own words or referencing it, or
- you've copied text, images or any other material produced by an AI tool.

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Your Coursework

Collusion

Working with others when you should be working alone is called 'collusion'. This can mean giving or getting help and sharing files, passwords and paperwork.

Everyone involved in collusion is breaking the rules, not just the person who has asked for help. If another learner (for example, someone in your class) asks you for help, you should tell them to speak to the teacher instead.

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Your Coursework

Don't risk it

Spotting plagiarism, collusion and the use of AI isn't difficult.

- Teachers are familiar with your work and can spot changes in your writing style and the language you use.
- Markers know their subject inside out, so they're familiar with lots of sources.
- We use software that identifies plagiarism, collusion and the use of AI. This software matches copied phrases and text with the sources they've been taken from.

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Your Coursework

Declaration

Before your school sends your coursework to us for marking, they will give you a declaration to sign. It's really important that you understand the declaration. If you're not sure about anything, ask your teacher.

This is the declaration you'll need to sign.

I confirm the following.

- 
- I have read SQA's 'Your National Qualifications' guide and understand its contents.
 - I understand that SQA may reduce or cancel my grades if I have not followed the rules set out in the 'Your National Qualifications' guide.
 - The coursework submitted with this declaration is all my own work with all sources of information clearly identified and acknowledged.
 - If I have used a resource sheet, I have submitted it along with my coursework.
 - I understand that this coursework will be submitted to SQA for marking.

If you plan to publish or share your work online, you must discuss this with your school.

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SQA Key Dates

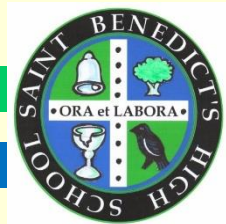
- **Supported Study**
 - Post-prelim
 - Some departments start their own schedule prior to this
- **Prelims (timetable will be shared in December)**
 - Wednesday 8th January 2026 – Wednesday 21st January 2026
- **SQA examination diet**
 - Wednesday 22nd April 2026 – Monday 1st June 2026 (exact timetable due early September)



The Importance of Attendance in S4

Mrs McGee
PT Pastoral Care
(Improving Attendance)

Parents' Information Session



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Attendance Matters – WHY?

Strongest predictor of
exam success

Every day counts – small
absences add up

Direct impact on results
and opportunities

Builds routine, resilience,
and confidence



The Impact of Missing School

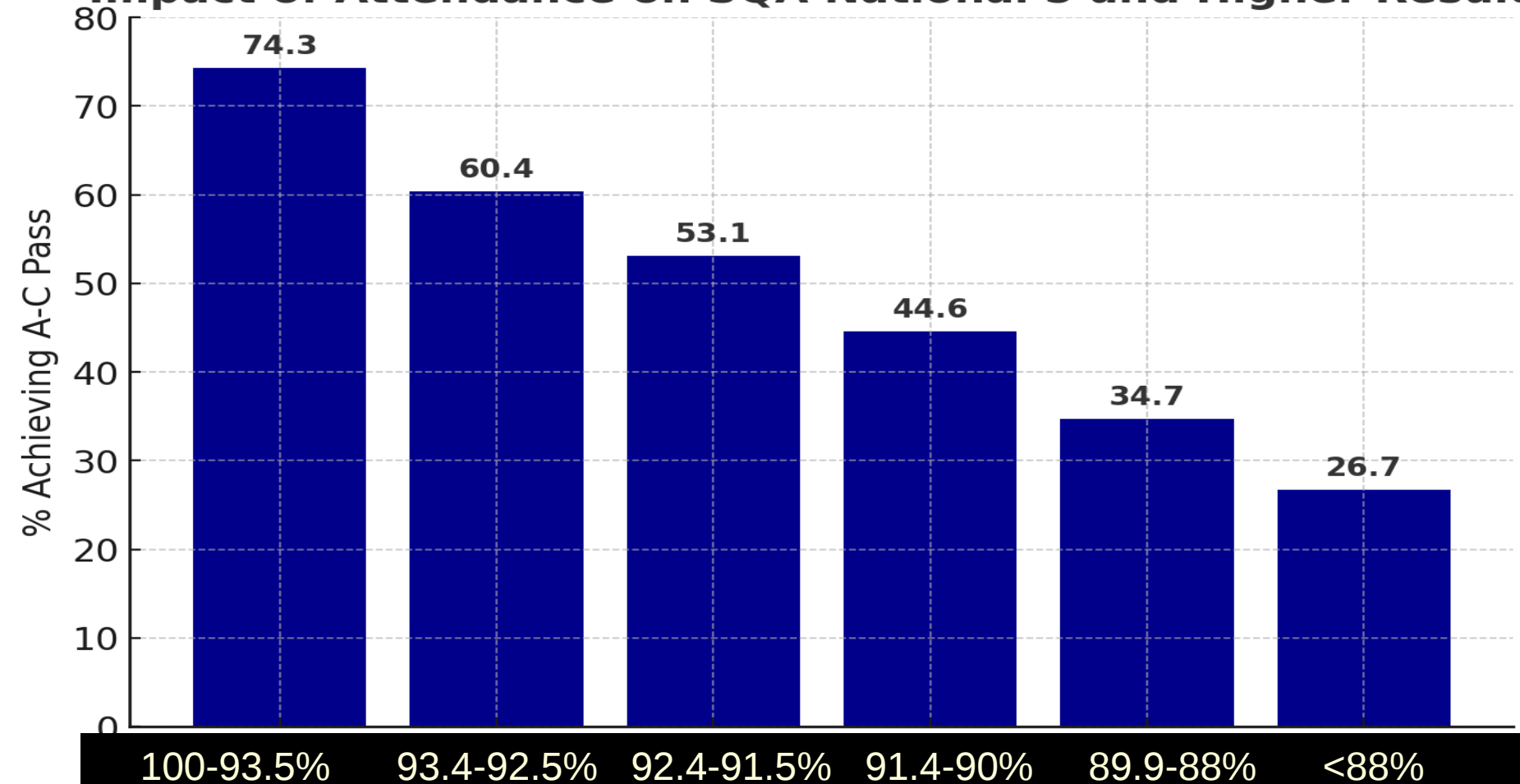
MISSING
(SCHOOL)=
MISSING
OUT

- 1 day off every 2 weeks = almost 1 month lost
- Pupils with >90% attendance = on average 1 grade higher
- Gaps are difficult to catch up on
- Attendance matters for employers and colleges too





Impact of Attendance on SQA National 5 and Higher Results



Attendance Percentage

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Why Attendance Can Slip in S4



SOME THINK
PRELIMS
DON'T
MATTER



BELIEF THAT
EXAMS ARE THE
ONLY
IMPORTANT
PART



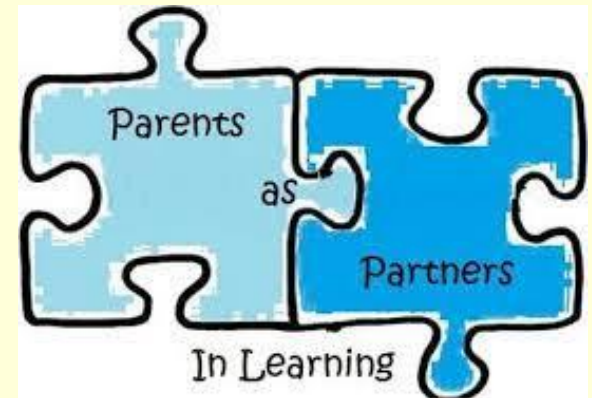
PLANNING TO
LEAVE AFTER S4



COURSEWORK
AND REVISION
PRESSURES BUILD
THROUGHOUT
THE YEAR

How Parents/ Carers Can Help

- Set high expectations:
school = non-negotiable
- Encourage strong
routines: sleep,
punctuality, organisation
- Keep in touch with school
if concerns arise – we are
always available to support
- Celebrate and encourage
good attendance



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Key Message

Attendance improves
Achievement.

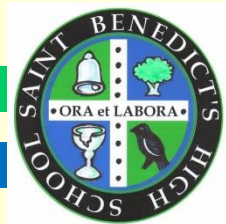
Every day in school gives
your child the best chance
to achieve their potential.

Together, we can help our
young people succeed in
S4 and beyond.

Words of Wisdom

Grace Adams Head Girl
Sean Colligan Head Boy

Parents' Information Session



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