

**LEITH**

**ACADEMY**

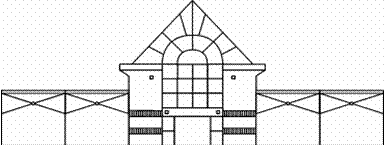
**S3**

**HANDBOOK**

**&**

**LEARNER PATHWAYS**

**2025/26**



Leith Academy

S3 Handbook & Learner Pathways

Session 2025/26

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**Introduction**

Welcome to the ***S2 into S3 Handbook***. This is a short guide to the content of the courses we offer to our S3 pupils as they complete the final year of the Broad General Education and prepare themselves for the Senior Phase, when they will complete their National Qualifications.

The Handbook is divided into sections based on the subject areas offered in S3 and provides details of the specific courses within these, from which pupils’ S3 timetables will be constructed. There are several compulsory subjects in S3 and these are as follows:

* **English** – 3 periods a week
* **Maths** – 3 periods a week
* **Modern Languages** (continuing the main language studied in S1 and S2) – 3 periods a week
* Core **Physical Education** – 2 periods a week
* Core **Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies** – 1 period a week
* Core **Personal Social Education** – 1 period a week; delivered by House Heads

In addition to this, pupils must choose one subject from the following subject areas, indicated in Columns A to D on the Learner Pathway (see page 10):

* **Science**
* **Technology**
* **Social Subjects**
* **Expressive Arts**

Finally, students must make a selection from our “**Choice**” Column E; this Column on the Learner Pathway sheet includes a range of subjects from all subject areas. All subjects from Column A to E are delivered 3 periods a week.

The following pages will hopefully help students be supported to pick the best subjects for them. Should you need any further help or support then you should contact your House Head in the first instance:

**Anderson – Mr Fox:** [**Daniel.Fox@leith.edin.sch.uk**](mailto:Daniel.Fox@leith.edin.sch.uk)

**Barton – Miss Lindsay:** [**Laura.1.Lindsay@leith.edin.sch.uk**](mailto:Laura.1.Lindsay@leith.edin.sch.uk)

**& Mrs Simpson:** [**kelly.simpson@leith.edin.sch.uk**](mailto:kelly.simpson@leith.edin.sch.uk)

**Cowan – Miss Hamill:** [**Jenna.3.Hamill@leith.edin.sch.uk**](mailto:Jenna.3.Hamill@leith.edin.sch.uk)

**Port – Mr Connor:** [**Blair.Connor@leith.edin.sch.uk**](mailto:Blair.Connor@leith.edin.sch.uk)

You can also contact Ben Stewart, Depute Head, who has an overview of course choice:

**Mr Stewart:** [**Benjamin.Stewart@leith.edin.sch.uk**](mailto:Benjamin.Stewart@leith.edin.sch.uk)

**English**

Pupils will develop the four key skills of Reading, Writing, Listening and Talking in S3 English. They will study texts from a range of genres including prose, drama, poetry and film. The course will develop their skills of understanding, analysis and evaluation, which will prepare them for their National 4 or National 5 English or ESOL in S4. Engaging in a variety of writing opportunities will allow pupils to be creative and to develop their research and note-taking skills.

**Media**

Pupils will explore a range of media texts from a range of genres, such as film, TV, print media etc. They will develop their skills in analysing and creating different forms of media. This course will help prepare pupils for the NPA Media course in the Senior Phase and will also develop skills used in N5 and Higher English.

**Maths**

In S3 Maths, you will continue to develop problem solving skills in the areas of numeracy, algebra and geometry. Throughout the year, you will sit assessments at the level you are working at to assess these skills.

**Modern Languages**

**French / Mandarin / Spanish**

The study of languages with a focus on:

* Self: personality, nationality, age, family, leisure activities, daily routine, numbers, clothes
* Learning: school routine, subjects, opinions
* Culture: where people live, holiday activities, festivals
* Employability: part-time jobs, places of work, tasks at work

**Science**

**Biology**

The study of living things, how they work and interact.

Topics you will study in S3 Biology:

* Planet Earth​
* Food Science​
* Cells, Cloning & Cancer​
* Inheritance​
* Sports Science

**Chemistry**

The study of chemicals, how they react and what they can be used for.

Topics you will study in S3 Chemistry:

* Atoms and bonding​
* Lab Skills​
* Metals​
* Cosmetic Chemistry​
* Fuels and Hydrocarbons​
* Acids and Formula

**Physics**

The study of trying to understand how the universe works.

Topics you will study in S3 Physics:

* Practical Physics​
* Space & Waves​
* Electricity and Electronics​
* Forces and Motion

**Triple Science**

We know some pupils have a desire to study all three Science subjects throughout S3. Therefore, we offer a special Triple Science Pathway. By selecting this option, pupils can cover the content of all three S3 Science subjects, taught by specialist teachers, but in the same lesson time as two subject choices. As there is less time spent in each subject, you need to discuss and agree with your S2 Science teacher(s) that you will be able to cope with the accelerated pace of the lessons and that your current attainment in Science supports a decision to study three Sciences in S3. This pathway is suitable for pupils who really enjoy all areas of Science and would like to keep their options open about which Science subjects to select in the Senior phase.

**Social Subjects**

**Geography**

Physical Geography

* We learn about how the natural processes of our planet work.
* In S3, we study Weather and Rivers.

Human Geography

* We study how and where people live and the consequences of this.
* In S3, we study Population Issues and study how cities are changing.

Global Issues

* These are issues that affect the whole world – often in the news and discussed in world politics.
* In S3, we study Climate Change and Globalization.

**History**

The Industrial Revolution

* The Industrial Revolution brought the United Kingdom into an era of technology and productivity. It created wealth for many but social problems and poverty for others.

Nevertheless, it is impossible to deny that the years after 1750 were a time of great achievement in terms of Agriculture, Industry, Transport and Communications, and Health and Housing. We will examine these areas.

* We also examine the topic of Crime and Punishment in Victorian Britain.

Civil Rights in the USA

* Early immigration to the USA.
* Attitudes toward these new immigrants.
* Jim Crow Laws that segregated USA.
* The actions of the KKK.

**Modern Studies**

* Political Issues – Recently in Scotland, 16-year-olds were allowed to vote in a referendum. It is important to know how to participate in politics and why you should participate. This unit will look at these issues in the context of Scotland.
* Social Issues – We also study the inequalities which exist in Scotland and the UK. What is the difference between rich and poor in Scotland and why is there such a big difference?
* International Issues – In this unit you will look at international terrorism and later in the year you will look at world issues like child soldiers, HIV in Africa, civil war and poverty.

**World Studies**

This course is a combination of Geography, History and Modern Studies. It will allow pupils to study how the actions of people and events in the past impact on the world today. Pupils will learn about new and ancient cultures and how they have shaped the world around us. Pupils will develop their awareness of the importance which geography had in the rise of different civilisations.

**Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies**

* World Religion: We will study the practice and beliefs of the world’s fastest growing religion - Islam.
* Moral Issues: We cover topics of debate and question if they are right or wrong.
* Philosophy: We will try to answer some of life's difficult questions.

**Business and Computing Technologies**

**World of Business**

We know that many pupils are keen to study a number of areas within Business and want to understand better what is involved within each specialism so we are now offering a combined World of Business course, where pupils will have the opportunity to find out what is involved within each subject as they prepare themselves for the Senior Phase.

World of Business will include the following:

**Accounting**

* Studying the role of the Financial and Management Accountant
* Preparing the Income Statements of small businesses to identify profit or loss.
* Identifying how much a business is worth by preparing the Statement of Financial Position.
* Understanding the crucial role of cash management in the success of a business by preparing Cash Budgets.

**Administration & IT**

* Developing ICT skills in a professional business context using Microsoft Office software.

**Business Management**

* Understanding how businesses are set up and run.
* The importance of business within the UK economy.
* Developing your entrepreneurial spirit.

**World of Computing**

* It is not about learning ICT skills.
* It is the study of how computers work, how to program them and how they shape and change our human environment.
* You will learn about coding, game design and cyber security.

**Design Technology**

**Design Technology**

This course offers learners a taster project for each of the courses that we offer in the senior school: Design and Manufacture, Creative Thinking, Design Engineer Construct, Woodwork and Jewellery. A large part of this course is classroom-based.

* Design and Manufacture: Designing products with an emphasis on creativity and developing sketching skills. Manufacturing using a variety of materials (wood, metal and plastic).
* Creative Thinking: Learners are encouraged to thinking differently, break rules, fail, collaborate, and generate creative, innovative solutions and ideas.
* Design Engineer Construct: Pupils learn about the built environment and infrastructure design. This is a unique pathway into architecture, engineering, and other careers in this field.
* Practical Woodwork: manufacturing products in wood; developing a variety of woodwork skills.
* Jewellery Techniques: manufacturing products in aluminium, copper and brass; developing a variety of skills used in manufacturing jewellery.

**Practical Skills**

This course is based fully in the workshop, covering skills in woodwork and jewellery techniques.

* Practical Woodwork: manufacturing products in wood, with an emphasis on accuracy and developing a variety of woodwork skills.
* Jewellery Techniques: manufacturing products in aluminium, copper and brass; developing a variety of skills used in manufacturing jewellery.

**Expressive Arts**

**Art**

* Students are offered more room to develop individually tailored work within class projects throughout the course. This encourages confidence and creativity.   We ensure students take ownership of their work, preparing them for the N4/5 next year.
* Students will learn about a variety of designers and will design and make their own pieces - for example, headgear for heroes or villains.
* Pupils will do figure drawing features in the projects.  Learning how to draw people in proportion in an expressive way builds confidence.
* Students will work with a wider range of material including watercolours.  They will be taught new painting techniques on stretched paper for example.
* Students will learn how to create landscapes in perspective using one- and two-point perspective.
* Digital skills are taught - for example, creating architecture using the app Minecraft to design an arts centre situated at Duddingston Loch.

**Dance**

* You will learn the foundations of dance, learning about posture, alignment, body positioning and use of strength/flexibility.
* You will build fitness, strength and flexibility through dance training and building knowledge of dance theory.
* You will explore a variety of dance styles: Ballet, Jazz, Hip Hop, Contemporary and a variety of World Dance styles.
* You will build your skills as a dance choreographer.
* We have also built links with Edinburgh College, who will help and support the delivery of this course. There may be an option to gain a college qualification in Dance Performance through Edinburgh College.

**Drama**

Pupils will learn about a variety of acting and design production roles throughout S3 Drama.

• You will be given lots of performance opportunities which will help you build your confidence with this whether you are an actor on stage or a designer backstage.

• In Drama, you will learn about the actor’s voice and movement, stylized movement and stage combat, how to build a character and how to work with scripts.

• You will also learn about Design Production Areas, Sets, Lighting, Props, Make-up & Hair, Costume and Sound Design.

• You will be assessed through your practical work and through some theory work, which will help those pupils who want to go onto N4/5 Drama or NPA Beauty.

**Health, Food and Cookery**

* Pupils develop cooking skills to prepare them for National 4/5 Hospitality: Practical Cookery.
* Pupils develop knowledge of nutritional values and how these affect our health.
* Pupils gain knowledge of the organisation and planning required to work in hospitality.

**Music**

* Pupils will choose two instruments to specialise for S3.
* Band Project.
* Class Song.
* Understanding Music (learning about different styles of music e.g. jazz, blues, world).
* Song Writing.

**Music Technology**

* Music Technology Skills: learning how to use specialist music technology equipment, software and apps, whilst also learning basic recording, mixing and mastering skills.
* Music Technology in Context: creating projects such as short film/computer game soundtracks, audiobooks, podcasts and composing electronic music.
* Understanding 20th and 21st Century Music: developing listening skills whilst learning about prominent styles of music from the 20th and 21st centuries.

**PE/Football**

* Pupils develop physical skills, techniques, fitness and tactics in a variety of activities.
* Pupils develop teamwork skills, leadership skills and communication skills when working with others.
* Pupils develop digital learning and analytical skills as well as planning approaches to improve performance.
* Both courses prepare pupils for National PE and Sport and Recreation.

**Prince’s Trust Achieve Programme**

The Prince’s Trust Achieve programme supports pupils to develop the skills and confidence they need to reach their goals through relevant, engaging and informal learning. The course is flexible and supports young people to develop transferable skills that can help them to improve attainment and personal and social skills that can be applied in school and their wider lives. Through engaging in units such as Teamwork Skills, Career Planning, Community Project, and Undertaking an Enterprise Project, among others, learners will have the opportunity to achieve a Scottish Personal Development and Employability Certificate at Levels 3, 4, or 5.

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Description automatically generated**Leith Academy S2>S3 Learner Pathway 2025-26**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ House: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A**  **Sciences** |  | **B**  **Social Subjects** |  | **C**  **Technologies** |  | **D**  **Expressive Arts** |  | **E**  **Free Choice** |  | **F** | **G** | **H** | **I/J/K** |
| **Physics** |  | **World of Business** |  | **World of Business** |  | **Art** |  | **Chemistry** |  | **English** | **Maths** | **French** | **PE/RME/PSE** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Spanish** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Chemistry** |  | **History** |  | **World of Computing** |  | **Drama** |  | **World of Business** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Art** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Biology** |  | **Geography** |  | **Design Technology** |  | **Music** |  | **Mandarin** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Drama** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Triple Science\*** |  | **Modern Studies** |  | **Practical Skills** |  | **PE** |  | **PE** |  | **Please note that no course can be guaranteed - this will depend on numbers and staffing.** |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Geography** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | **RMPS** |  | **Health, Food and Practical Cookery** |  | **Football** |  | **Modern Studies** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **History** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | **World Studies** |  |  |  | **Health, Food and Practical Cookery** |  | **Music Technology** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Media** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | **ACHIEVE\*** |  |  |  |  |  | **Dance** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Triple Science\*** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **World of Computing** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Music** |  |  |  |  |  |

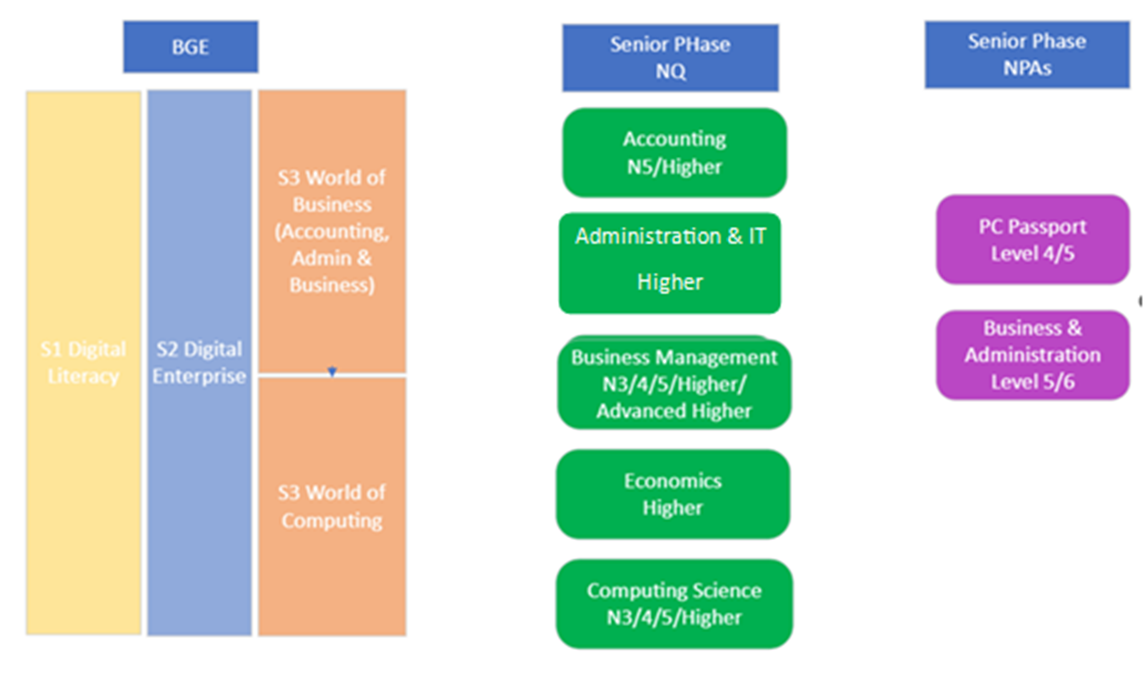
* Columns F – K are compulsory for all pupils.
* Pupils will follow **one** subject from each of Columns A – E **but** they should make a **first and second choice** in each of these columns in case we cannot provide their first choice. **Pupils should do this by placing numbers 1 and 2 in the boxes alongside their subject choices.**
* **ACHIEVE may only be selected in Column B after this has been agreed, prior to coursing, with the House Head and Achieve teaching staff.**
* Pupils selecting **Triple Science**\* must have selected this in both Columns A *and* E. This will involve studying all three Sciences in a contracted time. Pupils must have spoken to and agreed with their Science teacher their suitability for this option before selecting.

**Pupil’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Please hand in or email your completed Learner Pathway Sheet to your House Head by the 20th of January 2025.**

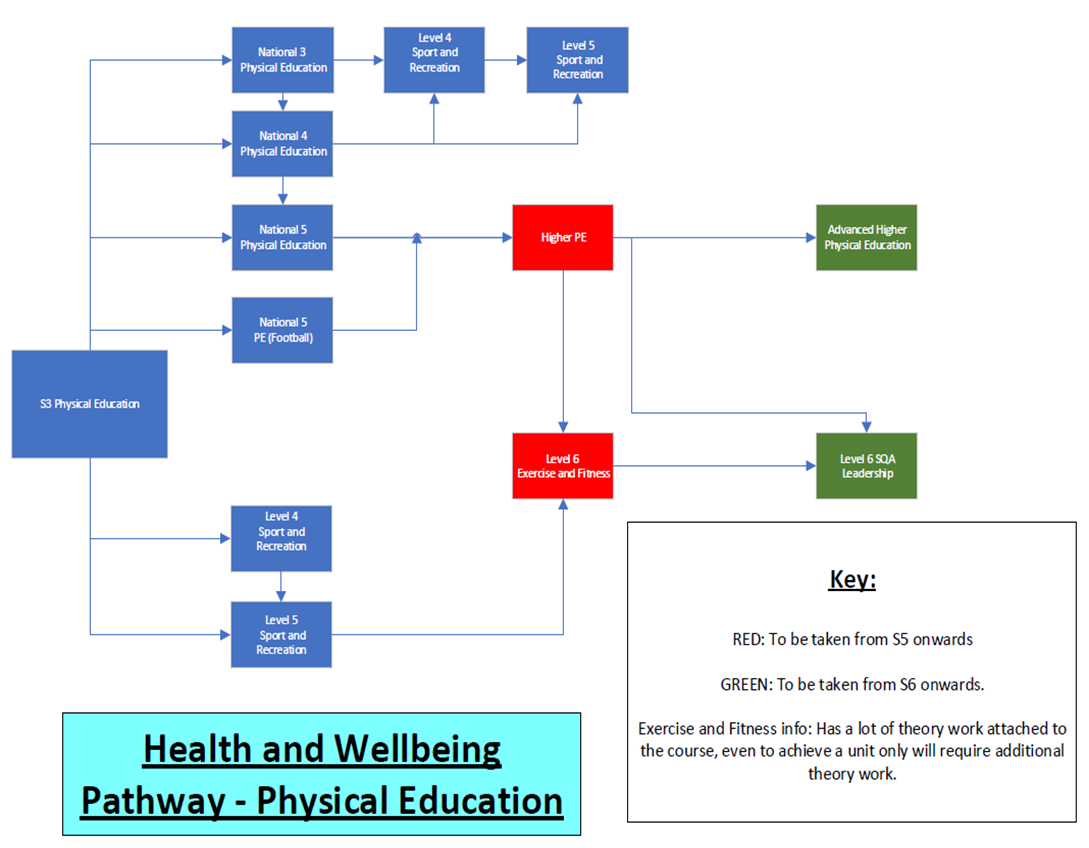
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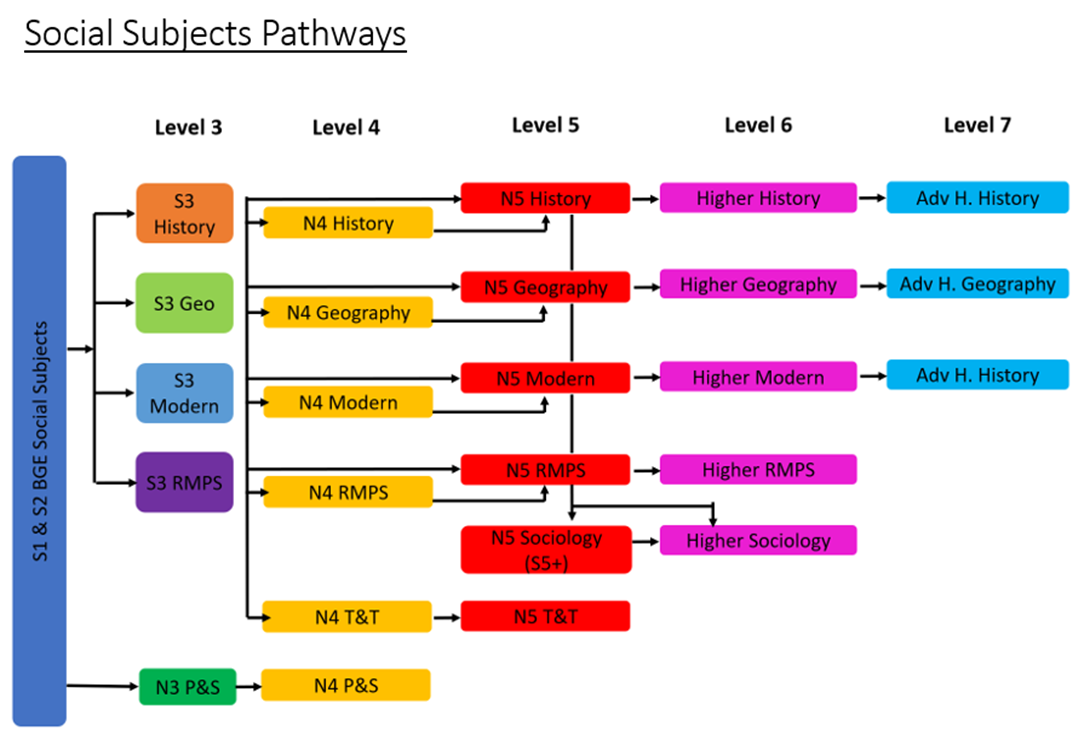
**Subject Pathways**

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**A diagram of a design process

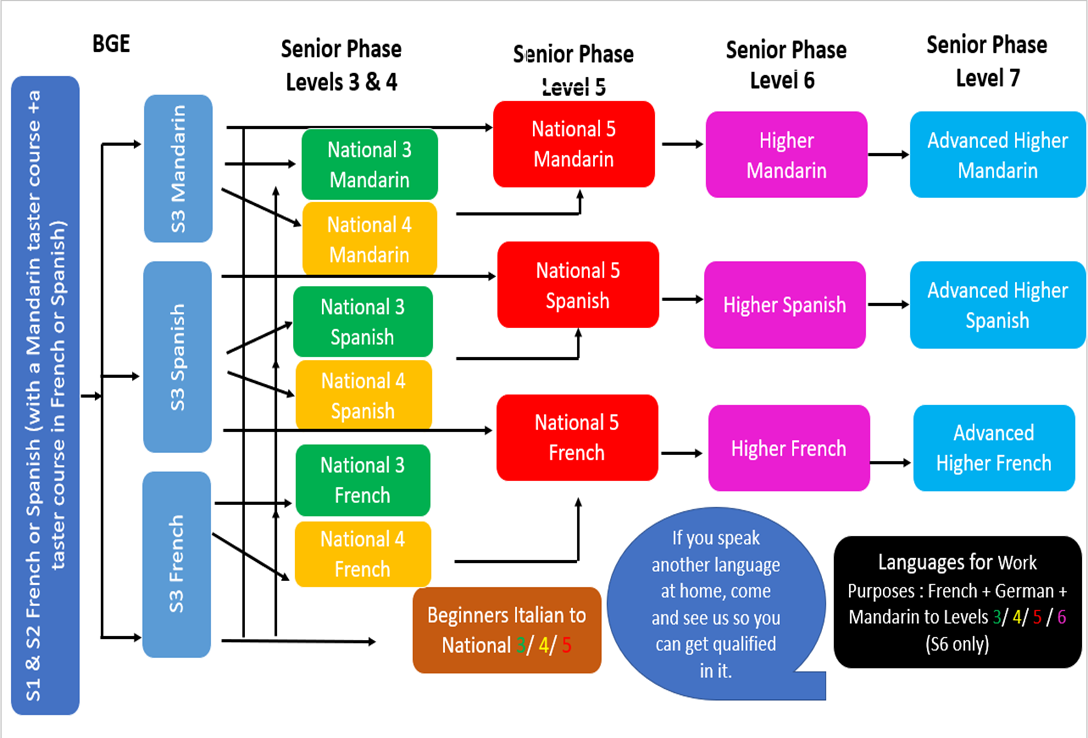
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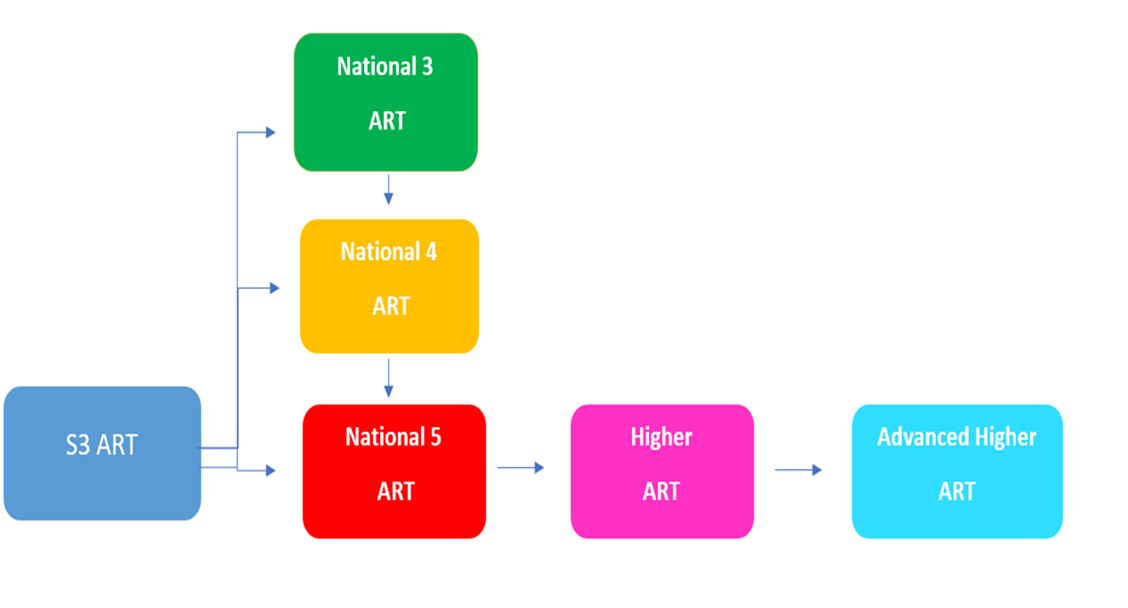
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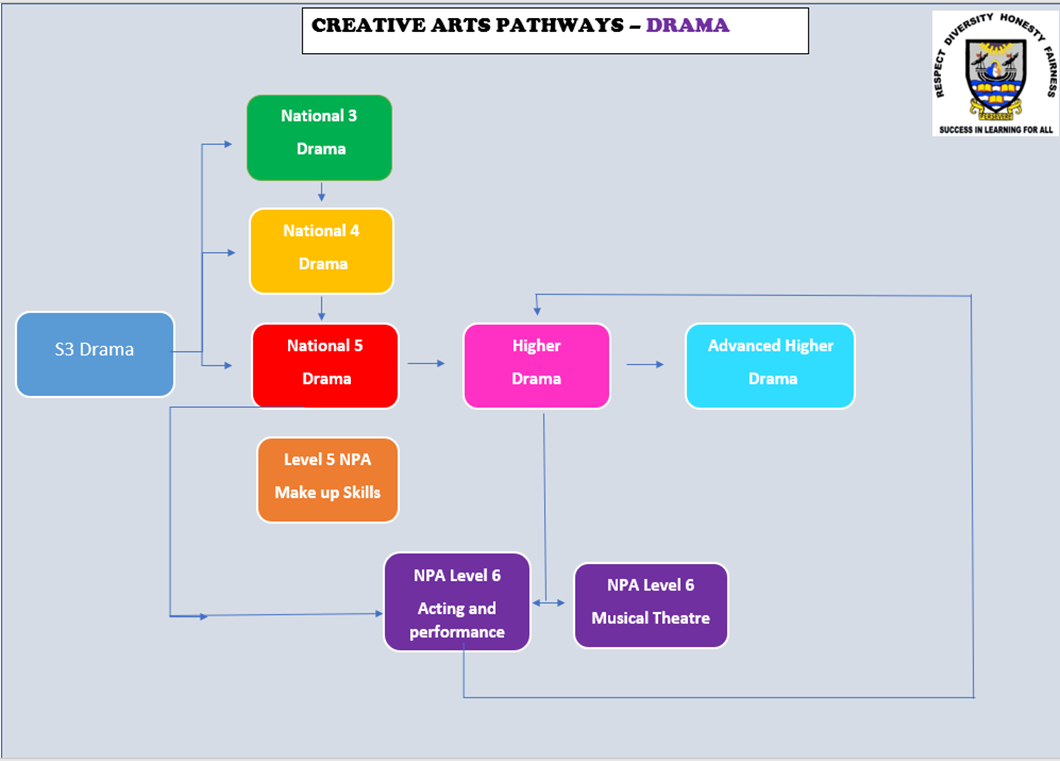
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A diagram of a number of maths

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A diagram of a music tech

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