



# Understanding SQA Qualifications

New qualifications — new opportunities for your child



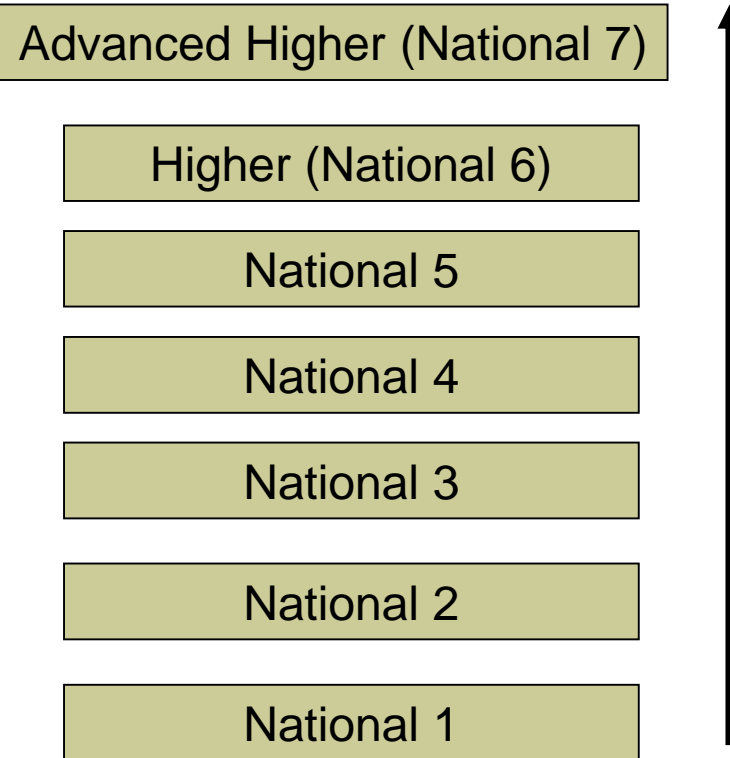
The new National 1 to National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher qualifications are designed to give your child the knowledge and skills they will need to succeed in the 21st century.

it can  
be done 

# The National Qualifications



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The qualifications will have equal status and credibility to previous qualifications

# How are Nationals assessed?



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**NAT 1 TO 4**

- In-School Assessment – UASP and AVU

**NAT 5**

**HIGHER**

**ADVANCED HIGHER**

- In-School & **External Assessment\***

# Unit Assessments – What are they?



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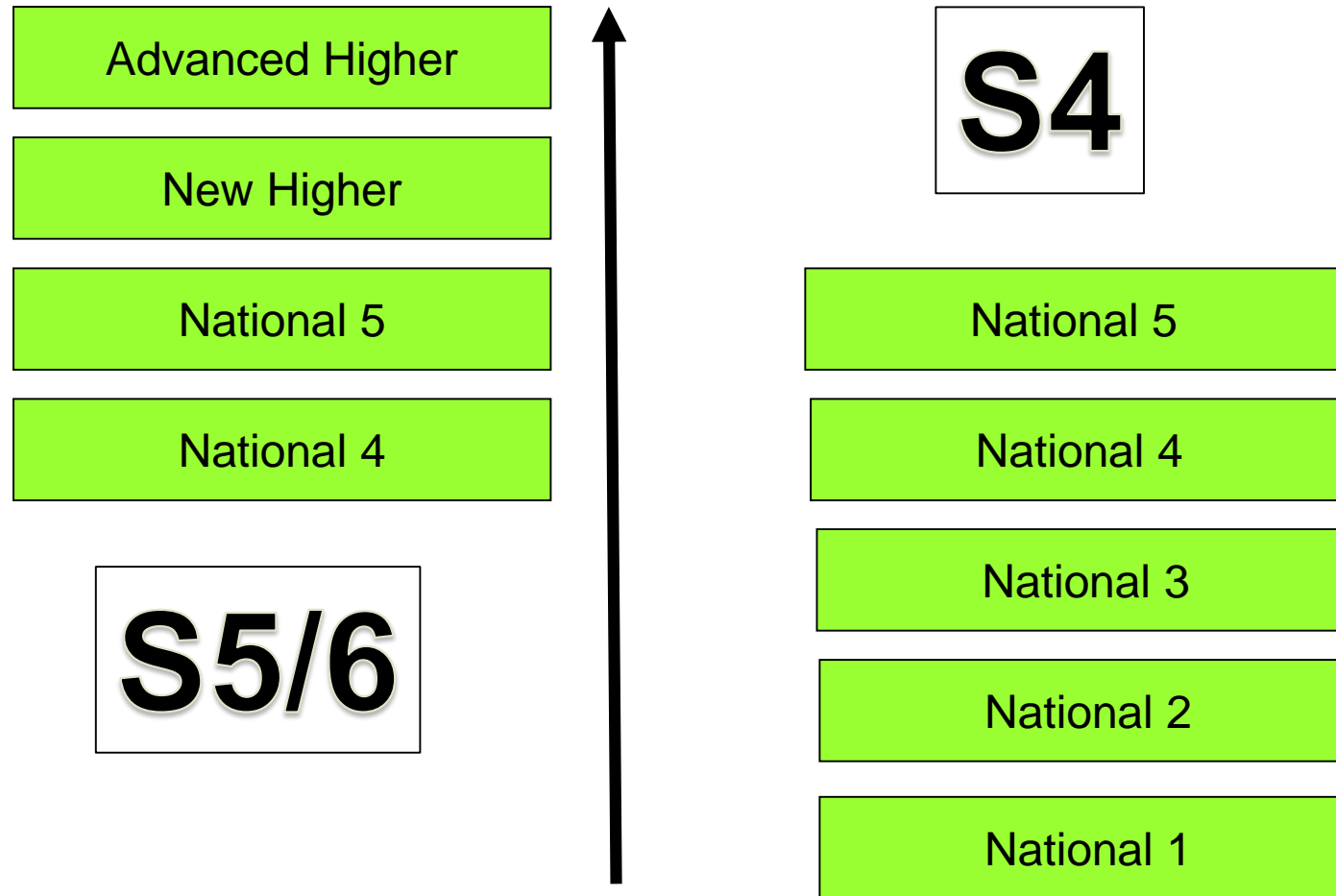
- Most courses are split into 3 sections (Units)
- Outcomes to be met at the end or during each Unit
- **Much** easier standard than final exam, generally to “C” level.
- Part of coursework includes an “Added Value Unit” (AVU) which typically contributes to overall grade.
- Each outcome **MUST** be passed in order to sit exam
- Normally One re-sit / resubmission allowed if required

# Qualifications & Assessments 2016/17



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*Sapientia et Gratia - In wisdom and Grace*



# When will I know my child's presentation level (S4)?



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- Indication of progress via tracking report and conversations with class teacher
- We will aspire to give pupils the opportunity to achieve the highest level possible in each subject
- Decisions will be made as and when significant evidence is gathered.
- Presentation levels confirmed via pupil planner.

# Do Prelims Matter?



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- No appeals, now replaced with results service
- Practise for the final exam
- Let pupils, staff and parents know about current attainment – formative assessment
- May be used as deciding factor on presentation level especially in S4.
- May be used if pupil is unable to sit the exam

# What is required to Gain an Award?



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- Pupils cover units of work one year
- End of unit assessments must be passed
- Final exam in May 2017 (N5, Higher, Adv Higher\*)
- Necessary to pass ALL assessments and final exam to gain a course award
- Graded A – D on certificate. (N3, N4 pass / fail only)
- If not mentioned on certificate then No award has been given (certificates recognise positive achievement only)



# What Happens if I fail a Nat 5 exam?



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- If a candidate attempts and fails the final exam at National 5 (provided he/she has passed all of the necessary Unit assessments) then they become eligible for Recognising Positive Achievement (RPA) award at National 4.
- At St Modan's we generally ensure that all candidates sitting the final exam have the necessary Added Value Unit at National 4 in order to benefit from RPA.
- We are also able to enter pupils for RPA until one school year after they have sat the National 5 exam.

# Partnership Working



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- Sitting these qualifications is incredibly demanding for our young people
- To do well in the Senior Phase any pupil requires:
- Excellent Timekeeping
- Focus in class
- Homework
- Planned Revision

# Partnership Working



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- We all care for our young people and want them to achieve their full potential
- We as a community need to ensure that we support each other in terms of consistency and positive reinforcement

# What the School will do....



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- Meeting Learners' Needs (MLN)/Additional Assessment Arrangements
- Regular Tracking and Assessment Updates/ Parents Night
- Pupil Support System/Listening Service
- Study Techniques/Supported Study
- Mentoring

# What Parents/Carers Can do..



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- Remove Barriers to studying

- Create a

- Provide

- Discuss

- Check p

- Commu



# What pupils can do....



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- Use planner
- Prepare fully for each assessment
- Keep to deadlines
- Catch up on any missed work
- Create a realistic and achievable study plan
- Manage stress/seek support

# The Importance of Sleep and Study



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**“MOST PEOPLE ARE AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF SLEEP, BUT AS A SOCIETY WE DON'T DO WHAT IS GOOD FOR US IN THIS AREA. WE ARE CHRONICALLY SLEEP DEPRIVED AND EVEN PROUD OF THE FACT, SINCE IT INDICATES A LIFE ON THE GO AND TOTAL DEDICATION TO OUR WORK. BUT THE MIND PLATTER INDICATES THAT TRUE DEDICATION WOULD CONSIST OF BALANCING THE BRAIN FOR OPTIMAL PERFORMANCE, WHICH MEANS TAKING SERIOUSLY TIME IN, DOWN TIME, AND SLEEP TIME.”**

**- DEEPAK CHOPRA AND RUDOLPH TANZI  
FROM THE BOOK SUPER BRAIN**

# The Importance of Diet



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- Breakfast is key
- Benefits of breakfast on school performance include improved
  - • memory • school attendance • mood
  - • academic performance
- “There is a link between boy's performance and diet -they more than girls find it hard to concentrate and learn if they are even a little hungry”



# The Importance of Fun



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- Our pupils are young people – it is important to remember the pressures that they are under and to allow them time to be young
- The brain works in a similar way to your muscles.
- It is in the recovery phase that the muscle or knowledge grows stronger.

# School Website



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## ■ SQA Subject Assessment Guides N5 and Higher

## ■ Nationals and Highers in a Nutshell

## ■ Assessment Calendar

## ■ Assessment Week Timetables

## ■ SQA Timetable (St 'Modanised' version)

**NATIONALS**  
The National Parent Forum of Scotland

**2 UNITS**  
EDD  
CC

**2 UNITS**  
SOFTWARE DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT  
INFORMATION SYSTEM DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT

**4 COURSE ASSESSMENT**  
ASSIGNMENT + QUESTION PAPER

**CFE HIGHER**  
COMPUTING SCIENCE TECHNOLOGIES

**What skill**

- a greater knowledge and skills
- a deeper understanding
- a performance in practical tasks
- producing an
- creativity and
- critical appra
- planning, pro
- investigating
- applying this
- problem solve
- confidence in
- enjoyment in

**WHAT WILL I**

- Active and independent learning
- A blend of e-learning and face-to-face staff facilitated
- Collaborative peer reviews
- Collaboration graphic design techniques
- Space for your units and in the
- Applying learn
- Embedding the
- discussion list

**ASSESSMENT**

- To gain Nationals (the Portfolio)
- Units are assessed
- Unit assessments
- Unit assessments
- the two Units notes, group d
- The Course Assessment
- solution and t

**National 5 progress**

**For more details**  
SQA: Art and Design  
Education Scotland  
Curriculum for Excellence  
www.education.scot.nhs.uk

**National 5 progress**

**Higher Computer Science**  
www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/95924.html

**Curriculum for Excellence Key Terms and Features**  
www.education.scot.nhs.uk/curriculum/KeyTermsandFeatures.pdf

**Further information for Parents and Learners**  
For information on assessment skills, progression, revision resources and summaries of National 5 qualifications visit:  
www.paronforparentsand.org

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**Skills**  
Learners will be able to:

- develop and apply aspects of computational thinking in a range of contemporary contexts
- understand advanced concepts and processes in computing science
- analyse, design, implement and evaluate a range of digital solutions with some complex aspects
- communicate advanced computing concepts and explain computational behaviour clearly and concisely using appropriate terminology
- develop awareness of current trends in computing technologies and their impact in transforming and influencing our environment and society

**Opportunities for Learners**  
Learners will be able to:

- understand the central role of computing professionals as creative problem solvers and designers, able to design, implement and operate hardware and software systems
- understand the far-reaching impact of information technology on our environment and society
- develop and strengthen skills in analysis and problem-solving, software and information system design, development, implementation, testing and evaluation

**Assessment**

- To gain Higher Computing Science, learners must pass the two Units and the Course Assessment (Assignment and Question Paper for 150 marks)
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre and are quality assured by the SQA. Achievement of Units is recorded on the learner's qualifications certificate
- The SQA has provided examples of Unit assessments that teachers/centres can use as they are, or adapt to suit the needs of their learners
- The Course Assessment consists of an Assignment (60 marks) and a Question Paper (exam for 90 marks) which is in two sections (see below). The Assignment is internally marked and the Question Paper is marked externally by the SQA
- Higher Computing Science is graded from A to D or as No Award.

**Question Paper** Section 1: Short answer questions (20 marks) Section 2: Context-based questions requiring the application of knowledge and understanding (70 marks) **2 hours 90 marks**

**SQA Pseudocode** <http://tinyurl.com/6f69cz>

**Specimen Paper Assignment** [www.sqa.org.uk/files\\_ccc/Computing\\_Science\\_SQP\\_H.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/Computing_Science_SQP_H.pdf) **60 marks**  
Learners will develop a digital solution to a computing science problem, evidenced by a record of progress, a report and the final solution.

**Progression** Higher Computing Science can stand alone or follow on from National 5 qualifications and may lead to Advanced Highers, the Scottish Baccalaureate and a range of qualifications within Further and Higher Education.

For course information, specimen question papers and past paper guidance visit:  
[www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/95924.html](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/95924.html)

Curriculum for Excellence Key Terms and Features:  
[www.education.scot.nhs.uk/curriculum/KeyTermsandFeatures.pdf](http://www.education.scot.nhs.uk/curriculum/KeyTermsandFeatures.pdf)

Further information for Parents and Learners: For information on assessment skills, progression, revision resources and summaries of National 5 qualifications visit:  
[www.paronforparentsand.org](http://www.paronforparentsand.org)

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[www.paronforparentsand.org](http://www.paronforparentsand.org)  
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# Questions