



# SCIENCE UPDATE

## S4: Course Choice

### Where are we?

Your child will now be halfway through S4 and should have an idea whether they are on track to gain a National 4 or National 5 award.

### Where is my child at?

- Chemistry, Physics and Biology have progress tests throughout S3 and S4 to help pupils identify areas of strength and areas to improve. If a student is struggling with these tests then this may be an indication that they are better suited to National 3 or 4 in S4, but may still have the opportunity to progress to National 5 in S5. Pupils who comfortably pass these assessments will be presented at National 5 level at the end of S4. Details of how each of these levels is assessed can be found [here](#).
- If you are unsure which level your child is being presented at, there will be more information available at parents evening on the 2nd March 2020 and at Course Choice evening on 12th December 2019.

### How can I support my child in their learning?

Lesson resources for each topic are available to pupils on the school SharePoint. Homework will be issued when appropriate throughout the topics. Pupils can access these by:

1. Going to [Tinyurl.com/edi365](http://Tinyurl.com/edi365)
2. Entering their school login number and password
3. Selecting SharePoint (If a JGHS page does not come up at this point, search for the school name using the search bar)
4. Selecting Faculties > Science > Chosen Course (e.g. Biology)

### Senior Phase Course Progression\*

S4	S5	S6
<b>National 4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N5 Biology</li> <li>• N5 Chemistry</li> <li>• N5 Physics</li> <li>• N5 Environmental Science</li> <li>• N5 Laboratory Science</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Higher Biology</li> <li>• Higher Human Biology</li> <li>• Higher Environmental Science</li> <li>• Higher Chemistry</li> <li>• Higher Physics</li> </ul>
<b>National 5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Higher Biology</li> <li>• Higher Human Biology</li> <li>• Higher Environmental Science</li> <li>• Higher Chemistry</li> <li>• Higher Physics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advanced Higher Science (Biology/Chemistry/Physics)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N5 Environmental Science</li> <li>• N5 Laboratory Science</li> <li>• N5 Science (Biology/Chemistry/Physics)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Higher Biology</li> <li>• Higher Human Biology</li> <li>• Higher Environmental Science</li> <li>• Higher Chemistry</li> <li>• Higher Physics</li> </ul>

\*Availability of courses is subject to uptake and prior performance levels. Other pathways are available upon discussion.

## Higher

**Description:** Highers are particularly aimed at pupils who have achieved A/B passes in the National 5 qualifications, and are often needed for entry into university. Depending on the results at the end of S5 pupils can take additional Highers in the sixth year (S6). Information about individual Sciences can be found on our [school website](#).

**Assessment:** External Exam 80%, Assignment 20%, Internal Progress Tests  
**Entry Recommendations:** A or B at National 5

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## Advanced Higher

**Description:** This is a natural progression from Highers. These Science courses are excellent preparation for University, though not necessarily required for all University degrees. If your child is applying to Medicine or Veterinary Medicine, they will typically be required to achieve two Advanced Highers but courses may vary so pupils should look at course requirements when deciding which subjects to choose in S6.

**Assessment:** External Exam ~80%, Assignment ~25%, 3 x Unit Assessments (must pass in order to sit the final exam)

**Entry Recommendations:** A or B at Higher

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## National 5 Environmental Science

**Description:** Learners will investigate [key areas](#) of the living environment such as biodiversity and interdependence, the atmosphere, hydrosphere, geosphere and biosphere, sustainability and climate change.

**Assessment:** External Exam 80%, Assignment 20%

**Entry Recommendation:** Pass at National 4/5

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## National 5 Laboratory Science

**Description:** Pupils will explore a variety of industries and the career opportunities in science laboratories in a local, national and global setting. This [course](#) will give pupils practical experience in the basic practical skills for working in a laboratory. Examples include: measuring, weighing and preparing compounds and solutions and will help pupils to understand and apply the health and safety requirements for a safe working environment. Pupils will develop specific practical skills related to microbiology, measuring radioactivity, chemical handling and laboratory instrumentation.

**Assessment:** 100% internally assessed

**Entry Recommendation:** Pass at National 4/5.

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## NEED SOME SUPPORT?

If your child is unsure about where their interests lie, the following options are available to them at JGHS:

- Arrange a careers appointment by either speaking to their Pupil Support Leader or attending the drop-in clinic on a Tuesday lunchtime in the library.
- Take a look at our [Course Choice](#) Information on the school website
- Register with [www.myworldofwork.co.uk](http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk) to access free resources to support career planning such as the 'My Strengths' assessment or Subject Choice tool