Keith Grammar School

Course Choice Descriptor Information

Planning for Session 2026-27

Course Title

ART & DESIGN

Level

Higher

Units Covered

The Art & Design course consists of three elements: Expressive, Design and Critical Analysis.

An Expressive Portfolio with a focus on observational drawing, media handling and awareness of the visual elements. Pupils will choose a theme and genre to work within.

A Design Portfolio where pupils are tasked with designing a piece of 2D or 3D design; challenging their ability to answer a brief, problem-solve and work with materials.

And a Critical Analysis Unit which involves describing and explaining the work of artists and designers.

Pupils are awarded a high degree of choice and personalization during the course. It is hoped that prior learning in S1-S3 will have allowed pupils to find their strengths and areas of interest within Art & Design and build upon these during Senior Phase.

Assessment:
Higher (Level 6) is externally assessed, with an exam. The Expressive & Design Portfolios account for 77% and the Exam (Critical Analysis) is weighted at 23%.

Progression

Advanced Higher Art & Design

Keith Grammar School

Course Choice Descriptor Information

Planning for Session 2026-27

Course Title

Administration and IT

Level

Higher

Units Covered

The course helps develop advanced administrative skills and digital literacy, enabling you to contribute to the effective functioning of organisations in supervisory administrative positions.

Candidates will develop an understanding of:

- The importance of administration theory in the workplace – e.g. factors contributing to an efficient administrative function such as time and task management, effective teams, complying with workplace legislation, the impact of digital technologies, and customer care.

- Advanced digital literacy skills such as databases, spreadsheets, word processing and emerging technologies - to organise/manage information; use functions to analyse, process and manage information, in order to create and edit complex business documents; understand the barriers to communication and ways of overcoming them to ensure communication is effective; understand how to maintain the security and confidentiality of information.

Assessment is both a practical assignment and written exam.

The course is suitable for candidates who are interested in the management functions of administration and advanced uses of digital technology, and who want to develop these skills further.

Progression

Further/Higher Education
Foundation Apprenticeship: Business Skills (UHI Moray)

Keith Grammar School

Course Choice Descriptor Information

Planning for Session 2026-27

Course Title

APPLICATIONS OF MATHEMATICS

Level

Higher

Units Covered

This course develops skills that employers want: analysing statistical and mathematical information, solving problems, assessing risk and making informed decisions by using critical and logical thinking. It aims to develop mathematical skills that can be applied across different fields and in real life.

The course comprises of four units:

- Mathematical Modelling –creating mathematical models, evaluate, analyse and interpret mathematical models, use software (spreadsheets and R Studio) in calculations
- Statistics & Probability – tree diagrams, Venn diagrams, constructing and interpreting statistical diagrams, interpreting the distribution of data, correlation and linear regression
- Finance - calculating present and future values of monetary payments, solving problems related to personal financial products and transactions, personal financial planning
- Planning & Decision Making – PERT charts, Gantt charts, critical paths

The course is assessed by a statistics project and a final exam, which is 2 hours and 5 minutes.

Entry requirements - A secure pass in National 5 Applications of Maths or National 5 Maths.

Progression

Potential careers/study include science, business management, research, insurance, social sciences.

Further/Higher Education

Keith Grammar School

Course Choice Descriptor Information

Planning for Session 2026-27

Course Title

Business Management

Level

Higher

Units Covered

The course highlights the different ways in which large organisations operate. Candidates learn to understand and make use of business information to interpret and report on overall business performance, in a range of contexts. Using current business theory and practice, the course reflects the integrated nature of large organisations, their functions and decisionmaking processes.
Candidates develop understanding of:

- the ways in which society relies on organisations and how external influences can affect them
- a range of methods that businesses and other organisations use to meet customer needs
- enterprising skills and attributes
- how to analyse and interpret business information and communicate it in a clear and concise way

The course consists of five areas of study:

- Understanding business
- Management of marketing
- Management of operations
- Management of people
- Management of finance

Progression

Advanced Higher Business Management

Keith Grammar School

Course Choice Descriptor Information

Planning for Session 2026-27

Course Title

CHEMISTRY

Level

Higher

Units Covered

The course develops learners' curiosity, interest and enthusiasm for chemistry in a range of contexts. The skills of scientific inquiry and investigation are developed throughout the Course, and the relevance of chemistry is highlighted by the study of the applications of chemistry in everyday contexts.

Chemistry, the study of matter and its interactions, contributes essential knowledge and understanding across all aspects of our lives. Chemistry explains the links between the particulate nature of matter and the macroscopic properties of the world.

This course encourages resilience, which leads to becoming a confident individual. Successful learners in chemistry think creatively, analyse and solve problems. Chemistry can produce responsible citizens through studying the impact it makes on developing sustainability and its effect on the environment, society, and their own and others' lives.

It also provides opportunities for learners to recognise the impact chemistry makes on developing sustainability, and its effects on the environment, on society and on the lives of themselves and others.

The course covers four units –

Chemical Changes and Structure - controlling reaction rates and periodic trends, and strengthens the learner's ability to make reasoned evaluations by recognising underlying patterns and principles. Learners will investigate collision theory and the use of catalysts in reactions. Learners will explore the concept of electronegativity and intra-molecular and intermolecular forces. The connection between bonding and a material's physical properties is investigated.

Researching Chemistry - the key skills necessary to undertake research. Learners will research the relevance of chemical theory to everyday life by exploring the chemistry behind a topical issue. Learners will develop the key skills associated with collecting and synthesising information from a number of different sources. Equipped with the knowledge of common chemistry apparatus and techniques, they will plan and undertake a practical investigation related to a topical issue.

Nature's Chemistry - organic chemistry within the context of the chemistry of food and the chemistry of everyday consumer products, soaps, detergents, fragrances and skincare. The relationship between the structure of organic compounds, their physical and chemical properties and their uses are investigated. Key functional groups and types of organic reaction are covered.

Chemistry in Society - the principles of physical chemistry which allow a chemical process to be taken from the researcher's bench through to industrial production. Learners will calculate quantities of reagents and products, percentage yield and the atom economy of processes. They will develop skills to manipulate dynamic equilibria and predict enthalpy changes. Learners will investigate the ability of substances to act

as oxidising or reducing agents and their use in analytical chemistry through the context of volumetric titrations. Learners will use analytical chemistry to determine the purity of reagents and products.

Learning is tracked through ongoing assessments within each unit. The final 2.5 hour exam contributes 80% of the eventual grade, with the other 20% from an externally marked assignment completed within class.

Progression

Advanced Higher Chemistry

Keith Grammar School

Course Choice Descriptor Information

Planning for Session 2026-27

Course Title

COMPUTING SCIENCE

Level

Higher

Units Covered

If you like puzzles, this is the course for you. You will be able to demonstrate your problem-solving skills by providing coding solutions, using Visual Basic/Python, SQL (Databases), HTML and CSS (Web pages). The assessment is based on an assignment where you demonstrate your Practical Skills (externally assessed) and an exam.

The course consists of four units:

Computer Systems – You will develop your understanding of how data and instructions are stored in binary form and factors affecting system performance. You will gain an awareness of the environmental impact of intelligent systems, as well as the security risks (e.g. Cookies and DDOS attacks), precautions and laws that can protect computer systems.

Software Design and Development – You will use appropriate modular software development environments (Visual Basic/Python) to learn advanced concepts and practical problem-solving skills. You will learn how to read into a program, large files of data (e.g. Grand Prix results, RSPB Birdwatch), manipulate the data and provide appropriate output.

Database Design and Development – You will learn how to create SQL code that powers databases business uses such as Amazon, British Airways, etc. You will develop practical and problem-solving skills through a range of tasks involving creating and querying databases using SQL code.

Web Design and Development – You will use web page development tools and code such as HTML (Hyper Text Mark-Up Language) to structure a web page and CSS (Cascading Style Sheets) to create a consistent look and feel to the pages.

Progression

Advanced Higher Computing Science

Keith Grammar School

Course Choice Descriptor Information

Planning for Session 2026-27

Course Title

Engineering Science

Level

Higher

Units Covered

• **Engineering Contexts and Challenges:** You will analyse complex engineering problems, exploring the deep links between technology, the economy, and the environment. You will investigate how high-level engineering solutions address global challenges.

• **Electronics and Control:** You will master advanced electronic systems, including complex analogue circuits (using operational amplifiers) and sophisticated digital logic. You will write high-level code for microcontrollers to manage automated systems.

• **Mechanisms and Structures:** You will perform in-depth analysis of mechanical systems. This includes studying complex structural frames using nodal analysis, calculating moments of force, and designing multi-stage pneumatic systems.

Assessment

Component 1: Question Paper, 110 Marks, 2 hours and 30 minutes. This exam challenges your ability to apply advanced mathematical and scientific principles to solve complex engineering scenarios.

Component 2: Assignment, 50 Marks, A rigorous project where you design, simulate, and evaluate a solution to a complex engineering problem, showing a high level of technical integration.

Progression

Advanced Higher Engineering Science
PDA Engineering (UHI Moray)
University/College Engineering degrees.

Keith Grammar School

Course Choice Descriptor Information

Planning for Session 2026-27

Course Title

ENGLISH

Level

Higher

Units Covered

Purpose and aims

The course provides candidates with the opportunity to develop the skills of reading, writing, talking and listening in order to understand and to use language which is detailed and complex in nature.

The course offers candidates opportunities to develop and extend a wide range of skills with growing independence. The main aims of the course are to enable candidates to develop the ability to:

- ♦ read, write, talk and listen in detailed and complex contexts, as appropriate to purpose and audience
- ♦ understand, analyse and evaluate detailed and complex texts, including Scottish texts, in the contexts of literature, language and the media
- ♦ create and produce written texts and spoken language, as appropriate to purpose, audience and context, through the application of knowledge and understanding of detailed and complex language

The broad structure of the course assessment allows these skills to be demonstrated in a balanced way.

Candidates develop complex language skills allowing them to engage with and to process detailed and complex ideas, opinions, information, language forms and use, and to increase their ability to learn with independence.

Course assessment

The course assessment meets the key purposes and aims of the course by addressing:

- ♦ breadth - drawing on knowledge and skills from across the course
- ♦ challenge - requiring greater depth or extension of knowledge and/or skills
- ♦ application - requiring application of knowledge and/or skills in practical or theoretical contexts as appropriate

This enables candidates to demonstrate the ability to:

- ♦ understand, analyse and evaluate two unseen detailed and complex written texts. This is assessed by a question paper
- ♦ understand, analyse and evaluate detailed and complex texts in the contexts of literature, language and/or media. This is assessed by a question paper
- ♦ apply language skills in the creation of texts. This is assessed through the portfolio–writing
- ♦ produce detailed and complex spoken language through the demonstration of talking and listening skills. This is assessed through the performance–spoken language

The course is for those who wish to develop their language and communication skills through the exploration and creation of detailed and complex language, literature and media texts. It provides candidates with opportunities to develop aspects of learning which are transferable across many disciplines. These aspects include

creative and critical thinking, spoken and written communication skills, interpersonal and team-working skills, and independent learning. The course promotes cultural and intellectual engagement and curiosity, and encourages lifelong learning.

The course is designed for those who are at the stage in their learning when they are ready to develop language and communication skills at SCQF level 6. They are likely to have gained an award in National 5 English.

Progression

Advanced Higher English
Further/Higher Education

Keith Grammar School

Course Choice Descriptor Information

Planning for Session 2026-27

Course Title

GEOGRAPHY

Level

Higher

Units Covered

Higher Geography will help you develop, in increasing depth, the knowledge, understanding and skills you need to better understand, describe, explain, and analyse the complex world in which you live. The course revolves around 3 key themes

- The Human Environment (Population, Urban, Rural Land Degradation)
- The Physical Environment (Lithosphere, Biosphere, Hydrosphere and Atmosphere)
- Global Issues (Development & Health and Climate Change)

Geographical skills are assessed in a scenario based exam question which revolves around OS map work and source interpretation.

Higher Geography is assessed in 2 parts:

1) The SQA exam (73%)
2) The Assignment (27% - pupils plan, undertake and write-up a geographical study under exam conditions)

Higher Geography is assessed externally by the SQA.

Progression

Further/Higher Education
Advanced Higher Geography

Keith Grammar School

Course Choice Descriptor Information

Planning for Session 2026-27

Course Title

HISTORY

Level

Higher

Units Covered

Higher History will help you develop, in increasing depth, the knowledge, understanding and skills you need to comprehend and describe the past and its significance today. It revolves around 3 key themes: Scottish History, British History and European and World History. The following topics are:

- Migration and Empire, 1830-1939
- Britain, 1851-1951
- USA, 1918-1968

These themes are assessed in the exam and account for 73% of the final grade. The exam is split into two: paper 1 assessing Scottish History and paper 2 assessing British and European and World History. The remaining 27% is assessed through 'The Assignment' which will require students to plan and write a historical project.

Progression

Further/Higher Education
Advanced Higher History

Keith Grammar School

Course Choice Descriptor Information

Planning for Session 2026-27

Course Title

HOSPITALITY

Level

NPA

Units Covered

The key message is about developing excellence in customer care, which lies at the heart of all successful hospitality businesses. This course introduces learners to the role of the team leader in hospitality and offers optional units covering specialist areas such as food and beverage service, reception and accommodation servicing.

During the content of this course you will develop skills and knowledge in Customer service, creation of a range of different beverages both hot and cold and planning, implementing and evaluating an event to a group of people involving service of both food and beverages.

Units

- Customer care, excellence in hospitality
- Hospitality industry
- Barista
- Leading a team

Assessment

- Practical assessment – portfolio of evidence
- Power point on different drinks
- A case study with questions
- Report on Hospitality Company
- Planning and implementation of chosen event

There is no external exam. Pupils are assessed throughout the course.

Progression

Further study at College/University
Progression into industry

Keith Grammar School

Course Choice Descriptor Information

Planning for Session 2026-27

Course Title

BIOLOGY

Level

Higher

Units Covered

The course develops candidates' interest and enthusiasm for biology in a range of stimulating, relevant and enjoyable contexts. It also allows flexibility and personalisation by offering a choice of contexts to study. The skills of scientific inquiry and investigation are developed throughout the course. This will enable candidates to become scientifically-literate citizens.

The course allows candidates to develop deeper understanding of the underlying themes of biology. The scale of topics ranges from molecular through to whole organism and beyond.

The course content includes the following areas of biology:

DNA and the genome

The key areas covered are:
♦ structure of DNA ♦ replication of DNA ♦ gene expression ♦ cellular differentiation ♦ the structure of the genome ♦ mutations ♦ evolution ♦ genomic sequencing

Metabolism and survival

The key areas covered are:
♦ metabolic pathways ♦ cellular respiration ♦ metabolic rate ♦ metabolism in conformers and regulators ♦ metabolism and adverse conditions ♦ environmental control of metabolism ♦ genetic control of metabolism

Sustainability and interdependence

The key areas covered are: ♦ food supply, plant growth and productivity ♦ plant and animal breeding ♦ crop protection ♦ animal welfare ♦ symbiosis ♦ social behaviour ♦ components of biodiversity ♦ threats to biodiversity

Assessments are completed at the end of each unit to allow progression onto the final exam. An exam, worth 80% of the final grade, is combined with an externally assessed assignment to give a final mark.

Progression

Advanced Higher Biology
Further/Higher Education

Keith Grammar School

Course Choice Descriptor Information

Planning for Session 2026-27

Course Title

MATHEMATICS

Level

Higher

Units Covered

The following provides a broad overview of the subject skills, knowledge and understanding developed in the course:

- use algebraic and trigonometric skills and apply them in context
- use geometric skills and apply them in context
- use calculus skills and apply them in context
- use algebraic and geometric skills and apply them in context

The course is split into three units:

- Expressions and Functions – exponentials and logarithms, trigonometric functions, vectors
- Relationships and Calculus – polynomials, trigonometric equations, differentiation, integration
- Applications – straight line, equation of a circle, recurrence relations, applications of differentiation and integration

The course assessment has two components: Paper 1 (non-calculator) 1 hour 15 minutes and Paper 2 (calculator) 1 hour 30 minutes.

Progression

Advanced Higher Mathematics
Further/Higher Education

Keith Grammar School

Course Choice Descriptor Information

Planning for Session 2026-27

Course Title

MODERN LANGUAGES – French/German

Level

Higher

Units Covered

In **Higher French/German** pupils continue to develop and extend their skills gained through prior study of the language. They continue to develop the ability to read, listen, talk and write in the modern language, understand and use detailed and increasingly complex language and apply knowledge about how language works (grammar). Skills are developed through the four key contexts of society, learning, employability and culture.

Assessments are a mixture of exam based and classroom assignments and are split into four areas.

1. **Reading** – completed as an end exam paper (questions on one extended text + a translation element - worth 25%)
2. **Writing** – Part 1 – completed with the reading exam paper (must write between 150-180 words using 1 of 2 stimuli to help – worth 12.5%) Part 2 – class based discursive writing assignment – (200-250 words on one of the four key contexts covered during class time – arguing for/against a certain viewpoint - worth 12.5%)
3. **Listening** – completed as an end exam paper (answer questions on two dialogues repeated 2 times – worth 25%)
4. **Talking** – completed as an assignment (worth 25%). 10 minute conversation with the class teacher in the Modern Language

Progression

Advanced Higher French/German
Further/Higher Education

Keith Grammar School

Course Choice Descriptor Information

Planning for Session 2026-27

Course Title

MODERN LANGUAGES FOR LIFE & WORK

Level

Level 6 Award

Units Covered

Modern Languages for Life and Work course at Level 6 is the perfect opportunity to showcase a new side of yourself and boost your college, university or job applications. Studying a language can help you stand out from others, as you have excellent communication creativity, adaptability and cultural awareness.

This course not only allows you to develop your knowledge of either French or German, but also builds valuable skills that are sought after by universities and employers in sectors ranging from business, law, banking, education, hospitality, engineering and finance.

Course Outline
The course is divided into 2 units:

- Languages for Life – developing your Reading & Listening skills across a range of topics, including gap years, travelling and future plans.
- Languages for Work – developing your Writing & Talking skills to apply for a job.

Progression

Further/Higher Education

Keith Grammar School

Course Choice Descriptor Information

Planning for Session 2026-27

Course Title

MODERN STUDIES

Level

Higher

Units Covered

Higher Modern Studies equips students with the critical thinking, analytical, and evaluative skills needed to understand and engage with contemporary social and political issues. Students explore the structures and processes of democracy in Scotland and the UK, tackle pressing social inequalities, and examine global challenges. By analysing and synthesizing evidence, students develop the ability to make informed, objective decisions, preparing them to be responsible, active citizens.

Key Units:

- **Democracy in Scotland and the UK:** Investigating democratic processes, political institutions, and the role of voting in Scotland and the UK. Topics include government accountability and the governance of Scotland.
- **Social Inequality in the UK:** Analysing the causes and effects of social inequality, with a focus on gender, race, and health disparities, and the policies used to address them.
- **World Issues:** Examining underdevelopment in Africa, exploring causes, impacts, and international responses.

Skills Developed:

- Analysing, evaluating, and synthesizing a wide range of evidence to draw conclusions.
- Identifying objectivity and reliability in sources.

Higher Assignment (30 marks / 27% of final grade):

- **Research Stage:** Students select a topic of interest, gather evidence from multiple sources, and analyse and evaluate information to form conclusions.
- **Write-Up Stage:** A timed 1.5-hour essay to present findings and justify decisions.

This course prepares students for active participation in society, fostering the skills needed to understand and influence the world around them.

Progression

Advanced Higher Modern Studies.
Higher/Further Education: Politics, Law, Sociology, Criminology

Keith Grammar School

Course Choice Descriptor Information

Planning for Session 2026-27

Course Title

MUSIC

Level

Higher

Units Covered

The course contains three compulsory components:

Performing Skills on two instruments or one instruments and voice: Pupils will perform in a range of musical styles by developing a range of complex musical, interpretive and technical skills, showing clear understanding of the composers' intentions, critically self- reflecting and evaluating the quality and accuracy of their performing and refining their performing skills.

Pupils will prepare a programme of music lasting twelve minutes in total, performing a minimum of two contrasting pieces on each instrument. (A minimum of four minutes within the programme on either instrument). The minimum level of difficulty at Higher is Grade 4 ABRSM. Performance makes up 50% of the final grade. This is externally assessed by a visiting examiner; the final practical exam can take place from mid-February to the end of March.

Composing Skills: Pupils will learn to create original music by identifying the compositional methods and music concepts used in given examples of music. Pupils will experiment and use music concepts and compositional methods to develop and create original music. Pupils will explore and develop musical ideas and create one complete piece of music. This must be completed by March and is externally assessed. A review of the composition and the process undergone to complete must also be included. Composing makes up 10% of your final grade.

Understanding Music: Pupils will learn to identify and analyse the use of music concepts and styles by identifying and distinguishing between complex level-specific music concepts in excerpts of music, analyse the impact of social and cultural influences on the development of specific music styles and analyse and use a variety of music signs and symbols and terms. The final assessment is a question paper of approximately 1 hour in length. The question paper makes up 40% of the final grade.

Progression

Advanced Higher Music
Further/Higher Education

Keith Grammar School

Course Choice Descriptor Information

Planning for Session 2026-27

Course Title

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Level

Higher

Units Covered

Purpose

This course is designed to give pupils the chance to explore how Mental, Emotional, Social and Physical factors impact on sporting performance. Pupils will take part in 3 activities across the year, carrying out a training program in each.

Entry requirement

Entry to this course should be through National 5 Physical Education. Pupils are able to gain entry to the Higher course without doing National 5 however this should only be attempted after consultation and will be at the discretion of the PE department.

Assessment

Practical Performance

Pupils will take part in 2 graded performances. The performances are both marked out of 30, totaling 60 marks (50% of the total marks available for course assessment).

The purpose of these performances is to assess the pupil's ability levels in two different activities. Pupils will be able to select the activities they wish to be assessed in. In the case of unusual or less mainstream activities being selected by pupils this will be at the discretion of the department. The context of the performances must be challenging, competitive and/or demanding, and each performance will be assessed during a single event.

Question Paper

The question paper will have 50 marks (50% of the total marks available for the course assessment). It will have no optional questions. Learners will undertake the question paper in 2 hours and 30 minutes.

The purpose of this question paper is to assess the learner's ability to integrate and apply knowledge and understanding from across the course. It is designed to assess applied knowledge, understanding and evaluation skills.

Progression

Advanced Higher Physical Education
Further/Higher Education

Keith Grammar School

Course Choice Descriptor Information

Planning for Session 2026-27

Course Title

PHYSICS

Level

Higher

Units Covered

The course develops candidates' interest and enthusiasm for physics in a range of contexts. The skills of scientific inquiry and investigation are developed throughout the course. The relevance of physics is highlighted by the study of the applications of physics in everyday contexts.

The course develops scientific understanding of issues relating to physics. It enables candidates to gain an in-depth knowledge of concepts in physics, and to develop confidence in the skills of scientific inquiry.

Candidates develop their ability to describe and interpret physical phenomena using mathematical skills, and practise scientific methods of investigation from which general relationships are derived and explored.

Candidates gain a deeper insight into the structure of the subject and reinforce and extend their knowledge and understanding of the concepts of physics.

Advances in physics mean that our view of what is possible is continually being updated. The course allows candidates to deepen their understanding of the processes behind scientific advances, and thus promotes awareness that physics involves interaction between theory and practice.

The course content includes the following areas of physics:

Our dynamic Universe
The topics covered are:
- motion — equations and graphs
- forces, energy and power
- collisions, explosions, and impulse
- gravitation
- special relativity
- the expanding Universe

Particles and waves
The topics covered are:
- forces on charged particles
- the Standard Model
- nuclear reactions
- inverse square law
- wave-particle duality
- interference
- spectra
- refraction of light

Electricity
The topics covered are:
- monitoring and measuring AC
- current, potential difference, power, and resistance
- electrical sources and internal resistance
- capacitors
- semiconductors and p-n junctions

The course is assessed by an examination paper and an assignment, both of which are marked by SQA markers.

Progression

Advanced Higher Physics
Further/Higher Education

Keith Grammar School

Course Choice Descriptor Information

Planning for Session 2026-27

Ambition Excellence Respect Success