



Skills Development Scotland – Claire Alexander
St Thomas' senior phase
September 2026

Skills Development Scotland – Who We Are

- Scotland's national careers service
- Provide careers information, advice and guidance to all secondary schools
- School and post school support available
- Post school - community based delivery model. In various venues across Edinburgh such as libraries, community centres and college campuses. City centre careers' hub on East Market Street.
- Open to all ages and free service
- Careers appointments and drop ins

Skills Development Scotland – Support We Offer

- Help pupils to identify their skills, strengths and interests to allow them to make informed career decisions
- Support with course choices
- Help pupils develop their Career Management Skills (self, strengths, horizons and networks)
- Explore future options, routes and pathways
- Support pupils to complete applications to courses, jobs and apprenticeships to help them secure a positive post school destination
- Signpost to useful resources
- Help with CVs and interview preparation skills
- One to one appointments and group work in PSE classes

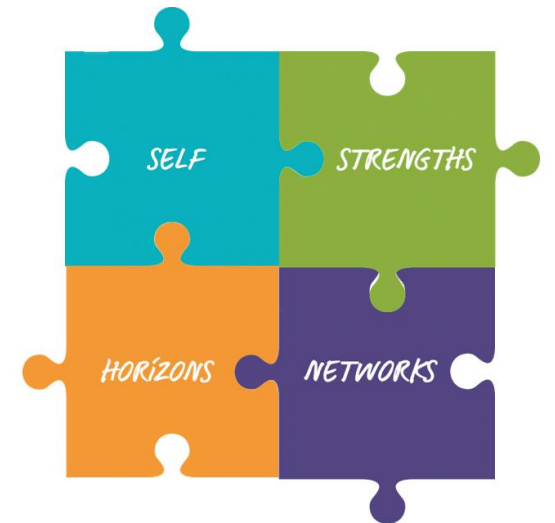
Useful Resources – Career Information

My World of Work – [My World of Work | My World of Work](#)

- Tools – strengths, skills, achievements and profile tool
- Course choices
- Explore careers – job profiles with information about which subjects are needed for different careers, qualifications, skills, routes into that profession
- Marketplace – opportunities from employers
- University, college, apprenticeships, work and volunteering
- Information about CVs, interview skills and job applications
- Parents/carers' section on website

Planit Plus – [Planit : For Careers, Learning, and Schools in Scotland](#)

- Career match
- Career areas/careers A-Z
- Subject career list
- Apprenticeships, work, college and university



Post School Options and Pathways

- Apprenticeships
- College
- University
- Employment
- Training/personal development courses
- Voluntary work
- Gap year

College

- Courses available at all different levels and areas of study with entry requirements ranging from no specific requirements to Highers
- Two intakes per year:
 - August – larger range of courses and open for application from mid January
 - January – open for application at end of October
- Full time courses are funded (but you would need to pay for part time courses)
- HNC (Higher National Certificate) and HND (Higher National Diploma) courses at college can be an alternative route to university:
 - HNC is a 1 year course which is equivalent to an Advanced Higher and usually you can progress straight into 2nd year of university (dependent on university/course)
 - HND is 2 year course and you can usually progress into 3rd year university
 - Entry requirements are 2 or 3 Highers for both HNCs and HNDs
 - Funded through SAAS

Apprenticeships – Foundation, Modern and Graduate

- Foundation (F.A.O. of S4 pupils and S4 parents/carers):
 - Part of school timetable, linking in with Edinburgh College 2 afternoons per week including work placement
 - Majority are 2 year courses – start in S5 and complete in S6. Most FAs are equivalent of a Higher qualification with no exam.
 - Areas of study include engineering, creative/digital media, healthcare and finance
 - Select on course choice sheet and apply through Edinburgh College website in January for August start
- Modern
 - Paid post school full time option lasting 1 – 4 years
 - Gain industry recognised qualification
 - More than 100 areas of study including business, digital marketing and vet nursing
 - No limit on how many you can apply to and advertised throughout the year
- Graduate
 - Study for a degree whilst working on placement and getting paid
 - Include cyber security, accounting, early learning/childcare and civil engineering
 - Separate process from UCAS/university application so can apply to both options
 - No limit on how many applications you can make for GAs
 - Advertised throughout year – some GAs including finance companies from September in final school year but main recruitment period is January to April

Useful Resources – Post School Options

- Apprenticeships

[Apprenticeships in Scotland | Apprenticeships.scot](#) (including Modern and Graduate vacancies)

- Jobs, apprenticeships and training courses

[Opportunities Board](#)

- College

[Edinburgh College | Further and Higher Education in Scotland](#)

- University

- [Choose your future | UCAS](#)

- [Complete University Guide - University Rankings, Guides and Courses](#)

- [Prospects | Job & Course Search | Career & University Advice](#)

- Voluntary work

[home - Volunteer Edinburgh](#)

claire.alexander@sds.co.uk
07717 730 345
Based in room 2.15