

Frequently Asked Questions



What courses will be on offer?

Following consultation with schools across the four Local Authorities that make up the South West Education Improvement Collaborative (SWEIC), our initial offer will include the following subjects at SCQF level 7 – Advanced Higher:

- [Business Management](#)
- [Computing Studies](#)
- [English](#)
- [French](#)
- [Graphic Communication](#)
- [History](#)
- [Mathematics](#)
- [Modern Studies](#)
- [Physical Education](#)
- [Spanish](#)

In addition, we hope to offer the following subjects at SCQF level 6 – Higher:

- [Accounting](#)
- [Child Care and Development](#)
- [Computing Studies](#)
- [Politics](#)
- [Sociology](#)

Initial applications from students will close on Sunday 27 March 2022 – at this point decisions will be reached on the viability of sections to be confirmed in the final offer. Students can still apply after this point if required and if there is still space in the class.

When are classes running on the timetable?

Leads from each local authority have agreed 2 timetable blocks for the delivery of the live lessons/ learner conversations/ tutorials. As there is such variance across the SWEIC in terms of period times the “live” sessions have been agreed as follows:

Block 1 Tuesday 9am – 10.30am, Thursday 9am – 10.30am + Friday 9am – 9.45am

Block 2 Tuesday 1.45pm – 3.15pm, Thursday 1.45pm – 3.15pm + Friday 9.45am – 10.30am

Information about which subjects will be delivered in each block will be communicated asap.

Who will be teaching the courses?

All courses will be taught by experienced teachers who are currently working in schools across the 4 Local Authorities in the South West Education Improvement Collaborative. All teachers involved have expressed an interest in delivering through @South-West Connects and are comfortable with the delivery model.

Where can I find out more about each course on offer?

To view the descriptor for each course, click on the subject name in the table at the top of the page.

Are there 'marketing' materials for prospective students and parent that schools can use?

Information and materials promoting the @South-West Connects offer will be made available for schools to share – this will include a prospectus and a Blog.

Are there entrance requirements to apply?

For AHs: a good Higher pass (typically A or B) in the subject plus an endorsement from school re suitability considering ability to learn independently / confidence and academic ability. A good range of Higher passes is also a useful platform to embark on SCQF 7 level study.

For Higher courses: a good National 5 pass in a relevant subject would be required. In addition, candidates should be capable of studying at least 3 Highers as part of their Senior Phase plan.

How do I apply and when do I need to apply by?

Applications can be made at: <https://forms.office.com/r/vRxtzCanZj>. Applications are open now. An initial closing date has been set for Sunday 27th March 2022. This will allow decisions to be reached regarding viability of classes. If subjects are not running due to low uptake schools will be informed of this before schools break up for the Easter holidays. Places will be confirmed by the end of April.

How are places on courses determined?

Previous levels of attainment and school references re suitability will be considered as part of the application process.

When will places be confirmed?

Confirmation of places will be made by 25th April at the very latest.

What is the minimum viable number to allow a course to run?

The minimum number of students required to allow a course to run is 8.

What happens if a course is oversubscribed?

If a course is oversubscribed, it may be that more than one class is offered for that subject. If not, there will be a selection process.

When do courses begin/end?

All courses will start week beginning 6th June 2022 and end in April/May 2023.

Will differences re school holiday dates/INSET across the SWEIC be accommodated?

Yes, a blended delivery approach will be used at this time. Work can be set by the teacher and lessons recorded if required.

What pastoral support is provided via @South-West Connects?

Pastoral support will be provided by the base school through normal procedures. If any pastoral issues are highlighted by the @South-West teacher these will be shared with the key contact in the base school.

What information/personal data will be shared/required?

Agreement will be required to share relevant data from one school to another. A data sharing agreement with appropriate permissions will be provided. Schools will be advised what data is required to be shared e.g., AAA requirements.

ICT requirements/ suitable places to work in school and at home for students involved?

Students will require access to a device equipped with a webcam and microphone. They will also require headphones. Some courses will require individual software to be uploaded to devices – this will be made available. It is essential for schools to identify appropriate places for students to work. This should not be at the back of another class or in a social area as the student will be required to engage in live learning and teaching activities during set lessons.

Schools may wish to allow students to access @South-West Connects sessions from home – students will need to be able to access the necessary ICT both in school and at home. Access to the internet/ data will also be essential.

What resources other than ICT do students require e.g., textbooks?

This will be determined by the individual subject teachers and will be advised when individual subject plans and delivery timelines are prepared. All materials will be provided.

Is there an induction programme? What would this involve?

All pupils accepted on to @South-West Connect courses will take part in face-to-face induction sessions week beginning 6 June. Details re date and venue will be confirmed nearer the time. At these sessions students will be engaged in:

- a) generic induction activities relating to ICT/Teams – how to access lessons/ upload work/ ask questions of their teacher etc.,
- b) subject specific induction activities to get underway with the skills and content of the course, this will be determined by the individual subject, and
- c) team building activities to get to know their fellow students, teacher and the staff at the @South-West Connects team.

Is there a cost to students?

No. There is no fee to students for studying through @South-West Connects.

Who assesses the course, and how is feedback provided?

The teacher responsible for subject delivery is responsible for planning and assessing all work. They will also provide regular feedback to the base school, the student, and their parents/ carers.

How will pupil progress be communicated? How many reports will be produced?

Along with regular feedback – 4 reports and reporting information will be provided by the subject teacher. Reports will be issued as follows: Oct, Dec, Feb and Mar.

How will attendance be monitored and tracked?

This will be the responsibility of the @South-West Connects subject teacher with the information fed back to schools as appropriate. 3 unexplained absences in any term will result in a referral back to the base school. Ongoing and unresolved concerns may result in removal from the course.

How are concerns re engagement or progress dealt with?

This will be highlighted with staff in the base school who will progress as per normal school procedures.

Who enters students for SQA, submits estimates etc.?

The base school will enter students for all exams studied through @South-West Connects and submit any SQA information as required.

Are prelims set? If so, when will they take place?

Yes – students will be advised of prelim dates when individual subject plans and delivery timelines are finalised. Typically, prelims for @South-West courses would be scheduled for the last week in January. Any special exam arrangements e.g., additional time, use of scribe etc will be accommodated within any assessment plans and these will be the responsibility of the base school.

Where do students sit the final exam?

Students will sit all assessments including final exams in their base school. If they are entitled to additional assessment arrangements these will be accommodated.

Who receives the SQA results on certification day?

As with all SQA results students will receive these on results day in August. The base school will also receive results on this day. Staff in base schools will be expected to share results with @South-West Connects teachers and the SWEIC coordinator.

Should students require to use the post results service the base school will liaise with the subject delivery teacher to progress.

How is attainment generated through @South-West Connects reflected within Insight?

As schools retain responsibility for presentations to SQA this should appear on individual schools' data/ INSIGHT reports. An overall attainment report will be required for the SWEIC – this will be done by the @South-West Connects coordinator.