

**We are really proud to be a Skills Academy. It means we value providing opportunity to thrive in alternative learning, supporting individuals to find their passion and build the skills necessary to flourish in a work setting.**

**The reason why we do this is the most important question.**

**We actively seek out, review and pilot new programmes from alternative courses, vocational work, e-learning and more to give each pupil the choice and freedom to develop unique and tailored skills. To give pupils at Vale of Leven Academy the best possible chance to be confident to succeed in an ever changing society.**

# VALE OF LEVEN ACADEMY

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**A Curriculum for Excellence was designed to develop pupils who are confident in their ability to contribute positively to society. Skills courses give real-life context to ACfE. It empowers pupils to be leaders of their own learning, developing self-worth, ability to succeed and pathways to a positive destination. We are proud of what we deliver and the success stories that have come from hard-work and commitment from pupils and staff.**

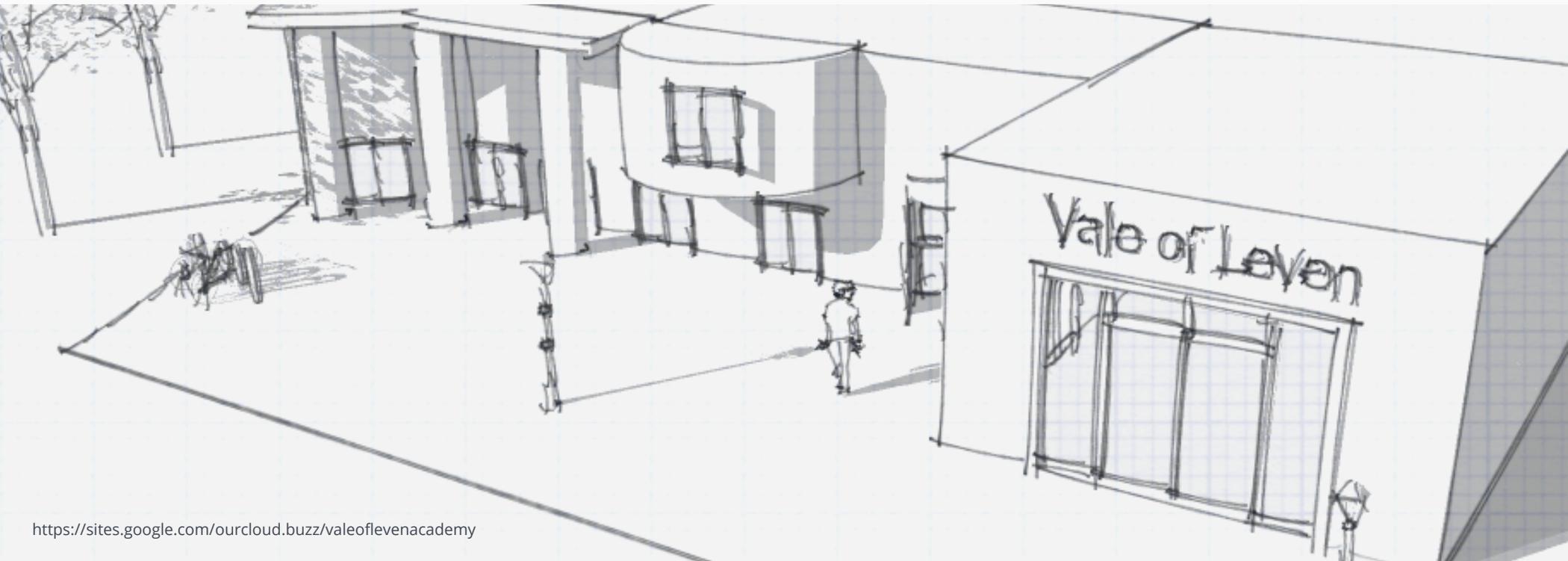
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Vale of Leven Academy  
Main Street  
Alexandria  
G830BH

**Producing confident and skilled young people who are better prepared for the world of work.**





## OUR STORY

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**“When I first joined school of Dance, I wasn’t confident enough to perform in front of people, but throughout my time in performing dances and performing new skills I have gained more confidence and met new people. I also enjoy working with Mrs Todd and learning new dances and skills every week. Throughout the time we have been doing School of dance we have become closer and stronger as a team.” Katie Cameron S2**

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# INFORMATION BOOKLET

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This booklet is designed to help aid pupils, parents and the community to understand our Skills Academy and why we do what we do. It will showcase the ever growing number of alternative subjects we offer. We believe it is what makes us unique and sector leading. We have listened to our pupils and explored ways to cater to their various needs. We are a diverse school that offers opportunities for all, and we are proud of the foundations that we have in place.

## TO THE FUTURE

Skills Academy will always look to grow and improve with quality at its heart. We have a number of subjects thriving. The next step is to develop an online learning culture in VOLA. Making it easy for pupils and staff to improve independently in an ever changing society

## PRINCIPAL TEACHER OF SKILLS

A principal teacher of skills has been appointed to ensure quality and improvement. This teacher is dedicated to sourcing and developing opportunities for pupils at Vale of Leven Academy.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

<https://sites.google.com/ourcloud.buzz/skills-academy-vola>



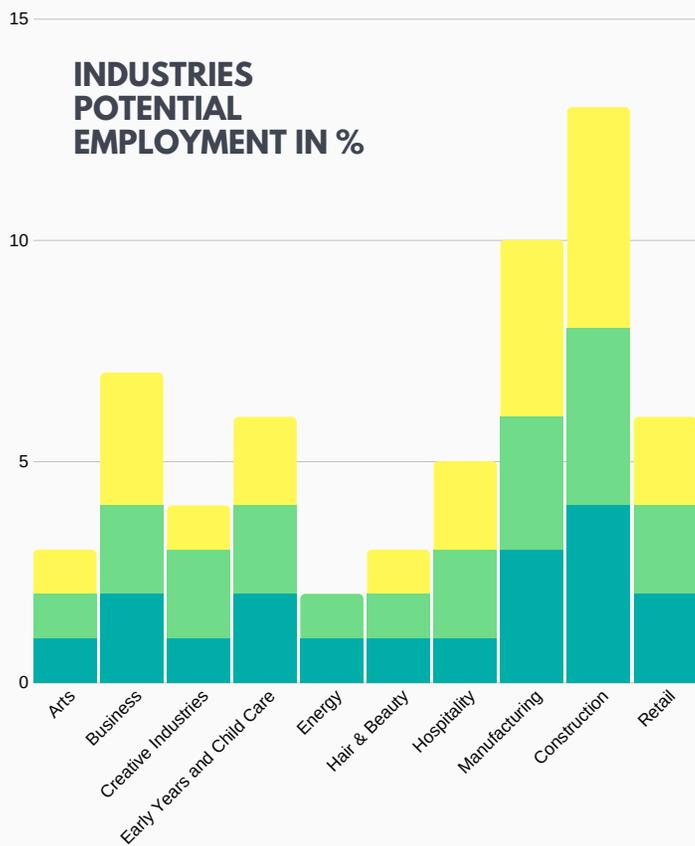
@VoL\_Academy



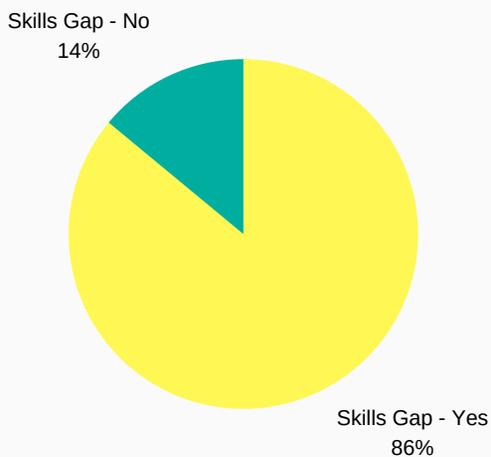
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# THE STATISTICS

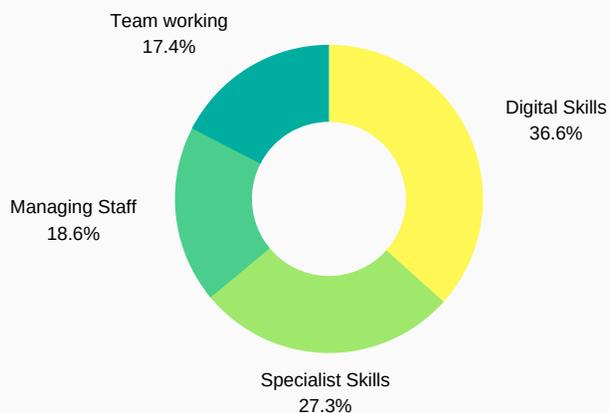
All statistics are taken from Skills Development Scotland.



## PERCENTAGE OF EMPLOYERS WITH SKILLS GAPS IN THEIR WORKFORCE.



## WORKFORCE SKILLS LACKING AS IDENTIFIED BY EMPLOYERS

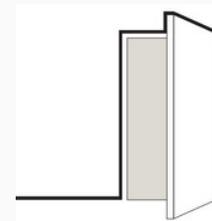


# WHAT IS HAPPENING LOCALLY?

The reason behind the implementation of our Skills Academy is that data shows us where gaps will be in the future regarding job opportunities in the local community. We are striving to predict what our pupils could be doing in a number of years and offering them the best chance to succeed when they eventually leave Vale of Leven Academy. This page is dedicated to statistics that exemplify the need for the Skills Academy.

### 1 IN 3 EMPLOYERS

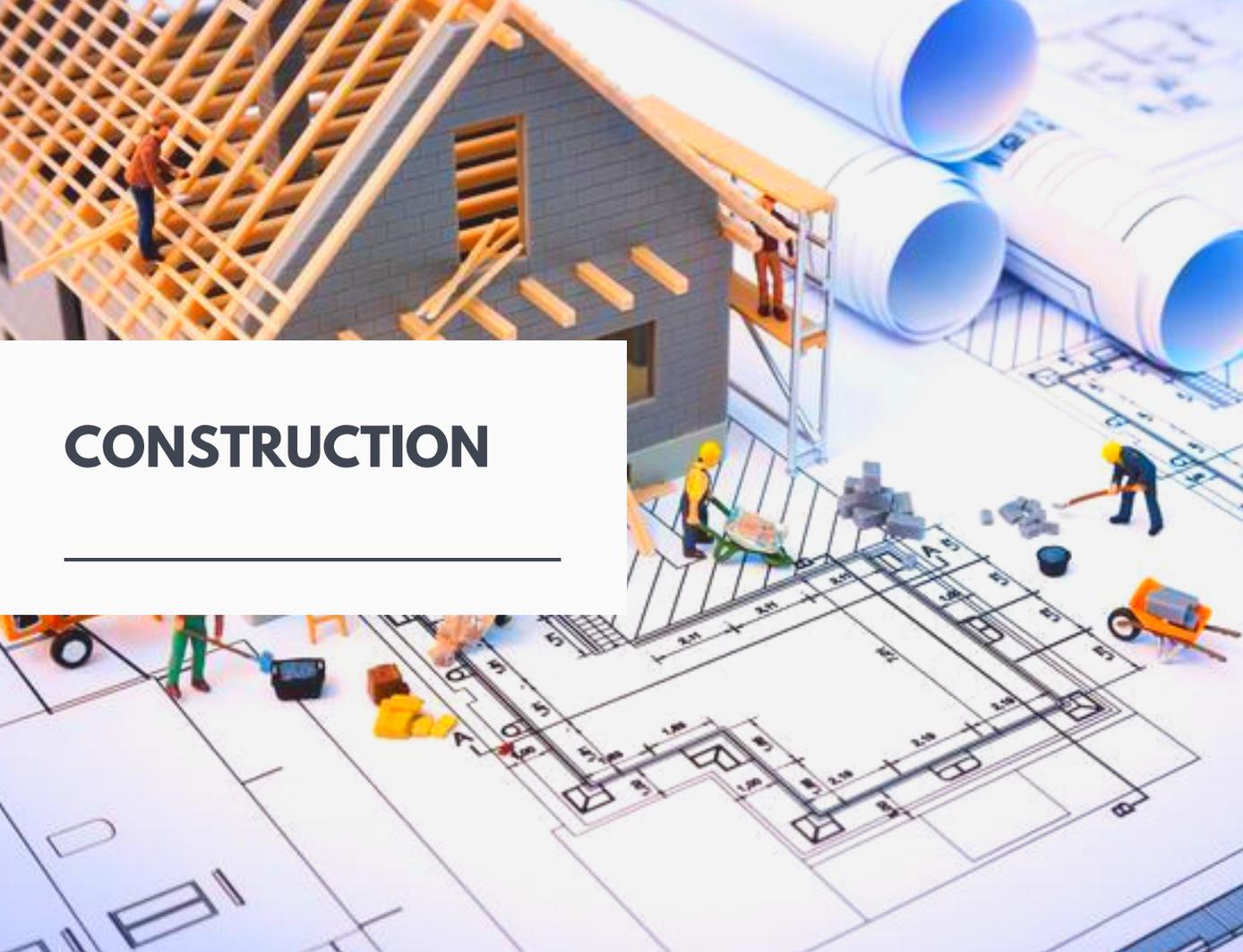
Have difficulty keeping staff as they lack the skills and capabilities.



### HALF OF EMPLOYERS

Could not fill vacancies as candidates lacked qualifications or skills.





# CONSTRUCTION

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Construction is offered in the curriculum as a course that helps prepare pupils to eventually develop skills and knowledge to progress into College, Modern Apprenticeships or employment in the Construction sector, perhaps as an Apprentice or Labourer. Construction has many elements associated with it. The units your child will be expected to undertake throughout the two year course are displayed on the right. Attitude, punctuality and communication are key to success in this course.

**"Construction has made me better at woodwork and more confident in myself to mark out, cut a join materials. I enjoy learning how to use new equipment. In the future I want to be a joiner." S3 - Scott Campbell**

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# INFORMATION

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## CONSTRUCTION

### Joinery

This unit introduces learners to general workplace health and safety, work practices, joinery skills, equipment and procedures. Learners are required to build a small-scale framed and panelled assembly and to fabricate and replace one panel.

### Plumbing

This unit learners are introduced to different plumbing equipment, fixtures and fittings. Learners are required to cut, assemble and join plastic pipework in accordance with given drawings using proprietary bends and tee-pieces.

### Painting & decorating

This unit introduces learners to a range of painting and decorating tasks such as decorative painting including the use of brushes and rollers as well as stencilling.

### Bricklaying

In this unit learners will complete a range of bricklaying tasks. These include half-brick walling, one-brick walling, cavity walling, block walling, simple arch construction, and simple decorative brickwork

# INFORMATION

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## HAIR AND BEAUTY

Pronounced like the french word '**voila**' after the origins of most hair and beauty treatments. Voila is a thriving department that is sector leading in West Dunbartonshire. A dedicated treatment room where pupils can comfortably practice and improve their skills. Noreen O'Donnell is our Hairdressing and Beauty specialist. She is dedicated to promoting and encouraging the pupils into the world of work and staging events. Noreen is also determined to provide the best platform for the pupils to succeed into a positive destination.

## NPA MAKE UP ARTISTRY

This course allows VOLA the choice to sample the Make up Artistry discipline in a meaningful way, while gaining a National Qualification. The NPA Cosmetology includes 6 units which cover topics such as working with others, product awareness, assisting in a workplace, health and safety, career options and choices, working with customers and colleagues and Make up Artistry. All these areas are considered to be key areas of learning to employers.



## HAIRDRESSING & BEAUTY

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**"Before I started hairdressing I was really bad at doing peoples hair and I couldn't do a french pleat, but now I can. When I arrived at Noreen's class I learned how to do new things and it has made me more confident. I am looking forward to learning new techniques and hopefully one day I can work with hair and beauty ." Tegan Devlin S3 - Hairdressing**

## SFW NATIONAL 4 HAIRDRESSING

This course provides a broad, experiential introduction into Hairdressing. The focus is on experiencing the salon environment and learning about the different roles and responsibilities in hairdressing and begin to develop vocational skills and knowledge. The course is made up of 4 mandatory units which consist of Salon Awareness, Working In the Salon, Creativity and Employability Skills. These units are linked to the National Occupational Standards of the Hairdressing Industry.

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## SFW NATIONAL 5 HAIRDRESSING

This course has been designed to meet the needs of the Hairdressing Industry and will offer an entry level qualification for those who have identified Hairdressing as a possible career path. The knowledge and experiences acquired by the students will not only enable the students to work in the hairdressing sector but will also develop skills transferable to other employment areas and will in general enhance students employability skills. The course is made up of 4 units which consist of Salon Skills, Creative Trends, Introduction to Colour and Working In a Salon Environment.



## DESIGN ENGINEER CONSTRUCT!

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**"Design, Engineer Construct! has given me a deep insight into the Built Environment and the career opportunities available in the world of the construction industry. DEC! has made me more confident in sharing my views and using my imagination." Mark Morrison - S2**

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## INFORMATION

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### DESIGN ENGINEER CONSTRUCT!

DEC! is the new subject attached to the Design Technology department. It is a true Curriculum for Excellence experience with pupils having the opportunity to use interdisciplinary skills and work with leading professionals. It is a non-SQA certificated course that links pupils with the world of work. Vale of Leven Academy was recently adopted by global powerhouse Arup. This company will work with our young people committing time, money and resources to help the pupils understand all aspects of the built environment. Civil Engineers, Architects, Landscape Designers, Sustainability Officers will all work with the class to help each young person design and create their own Eco-Classroom. Each young person will take on the roles of experts within the construction trade and present their ideas to a panel of professionals.

Level 1 course is taught over two years from S2 and S3 BGE with Level 2 being taught at Senior Phase.

### LEVELS

Level 1 is the equivalent of a National 4 with Level 2 being aimed at Higher.

### SOFTWARE

Pupils will learn industry standard software including Autodesk Revit and Google Sketchup.

<https://www.arup.com/>

<https://designengineerconstruct.com/>



## **PRACTICAL CAKE CRAFT**

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**"What I enjoy most about the cake craft class is, that it has given me the chance to be creative. I feel it has given me the opportunity to develop my Hospitality & life skills especially as this is the industry I would like to be employed in." Abbie Hughes S5**

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## **INFORMATION**

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### **CAKE CRAFT**

The Scottish hospitality industry is large, vibrant and growing, employing a significant proportion of the nation's workforce, cake production is a part of this sector and this course can be seen as a gateway to the hospitality industry. The course aims to allow pupils to develop their technical skills in cake baking, and creative skills in cake finishing. Pupils will develop a knowledge and understanding of cake design and the trends in cake production. They will acquire and use organisational skills in the context of managing time and resources, and gain an understanding of the importance of food safety and hygiene in relation to producing a product of commercial standards. Pupils will also develop the organisational skills needed to research, plan, prepare & evaluate products. The course includes practical cookery which will allow pupils to develop a range of practical baking skills and techniques using appropriate tools & equipment.

### **PROGRESSION**

HNC in Professional Cookery/Hospitality Management at a Further Education College

### **POSSIBLE CAREER DESTINATION**

Patisserie Chef, Catering, Home Economics Teacher, Food Technologist.



# LABORATORY SCIENCE

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## LEVELS OFFERED

Laboratory Skills will be offered at SCQF 5 level and is for **S5/6** pupils. This course is suitable for pupils that have studied a National 4 Science course in S4 or a National 5 Science course in S4 and achieved units only. This may also be suitable for pupils that passed a National 5 Science course in S4 with a C (or D) and plan to leave at the end of S5.

## ASSESSMENT ARRANGEMENTS

There is no final examination for this course. The four units are internally assessed and verified by the SQA.

## PROGRESSION

Successful learners may progress to: National Courses or Units, further education, vocational training or employment.

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# INFORMATION

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## LABORATORY SCIENCE

National 5 Skills for Work: Laboratory Science is an introductory qualification. The course provides a broad experiential introduction to laboratory science. Learners will explore a variety of industries and services, and career opportunities, in science laboratories locally, nationally, and globally.

They will develop the basic practical skills and knowledge needed for working in a laboratory: measuring, weighing and preparing compounds and solutions; and health and safety requirements. Practical skills in microbiology, measuring radioactivity, chemical handling and laboratory instrumentation will be developed.

Learners will work with others to produce a plan to undertake a practical investigation to test scientific hypotheses. This will also involve reporting of the results, conclusions and evaluations of the investigation.

Throughout all units the course emphasises the employability skills and attitudes valued by employers which will help to prepare learners for the workplace. Learners will review their own employability skills, and will seek feedback from others on their strengths and weaknesses.

## COURSE OUTLINE

Laboratory Science: Careers using Laboratory Science

Laboratory Science: Working in a Laboratory  
Laboratory Science: Practical Skills

Laboratory Science: Practical Investigation

# INFORMATION

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## SCHOOL OF FOOTBALL

The School of Football programme is open to all boys and girls and operates from S1-3. The motto is Person 1st Player 2nd, developing life skills using football as the vehicle. This is a fantastic opportunity for young people to build their leadership skills, learn to work as a team and instil discipline that they can take into other areas of their school life.

## FORMAT

Pupils participate in a morning double session and single after school. The morning session works on a different theme each week to improve their understanding of the game. Throughout the year pupils are tested on their fitness and there is a strong ethos on growth mindset within the sessions to build the strength of character within each individual.

## COACH

Our SFA coach Paul Mooney is qualified with a UEFA B License and has been delivering the programme for 6 years now. His background in health and education provides the students with the knowledge they need to make positive lifestyle choices. As a result of creating a positive learning environment, it gives everyone the best opportunity to be successful and reach their full potential.



## SCHOOL OF SPORT - FOOTBALL

**“In School of Football, my coach has transformed my mindset which has allowed me to develop my life skills. I feel my effort and attitude have improved over the 3 years which has helped me to develop my abilities as a footballer .” Scott Lees - S3**

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## SCHOOL OF SPORT - DANCE

**“Over the last 2 years I have thoroughly enjoyed developing my ability in dance further at the Academy. Having this qualification has given me more options for the path I wish to take in the future and has given me experience of the challenges I may face later on. I have gained self-confidence and developed self-belief which has allowed me to focus positively on the steps I am taking and progressing further towards my dance career.” Olivia Dow, S5**

### LEARNING EXPERIENCES

- Technique Class.
- Feedback tasks.
- Collaborative learning tasks.
- Technical Performance routine work with performance qualities.
- Pair/small group travelling sequences.
- Pair/small group creative tasks.
- Varied Choreography Workshops.
- Evaluation and target setting tasks.
- Leadership opportunities.
- Opportunities to develop flexibility, stamina and strength.

# INFORMATION

## SCHOOL OF DANCE

Dance is offered to the pupils of Vale of Leven academy as an opportunity to gain a qualification specific to this performing art, whether it be with the desire to pursue a career in dance or to gain a qualification from something you have an interest in, love or passion for. The BGE and SQA courses on offer from S1-3 School of Dance to NPA Level 4 and 5, National 5 and Higher allow pupils to develop a vast range of transferable skills for learning, life and work including leadership, time management, creativity, organisation, team work, communication, target setting and evaluation only to name a few. This great opportunity allows all pupils to achieve and develop their confidence needed to be successful in their future job/career in any industry

## BROAD GENERAL EDUCATION

The course is made up of 2 units, technical skills and choreography. Within the technical skills unit pupils will explore and develop their practical skills in Jazz, Hip-Hop and Contemporary styles of Dance. Within the choreography unit pupils will learn to create and develop movements that communicate a theme or message to an audience from a variety of different stimuli including pictures, poems and videos. They will use different choreographic principles including space, theatre arts and devices to develop their motifs in relation to their theme.

## NATIONAL PROGRESSION AWARD 4/5

Builds from the BGE course where pupils will be assessed in 3 units that can be awarded as standalone units or together as a full award. Pupils will be assessed on their Jazz and Contemporary technique as well as theoretical outcomes about the styles being studied. They will also have to create motifs individually using their stimuli, use different choreographic principles throughout workshops, teach their peers and evaluate their KU and progress. They will also get the opportunity to study a professional piece of choreography.

## NATIONAL 5 & HIGHER

Pupils will sit one (N5) or two solos (H) in Jazz and Contemporary styles of Dance. They will have to research, plan, create and deliver a choreography to their peers for a theme or their choice and produce a choreography review that highlights their choices of choreographic principles. They will also have a written exam which explores their knowledge and understanding of jazz and its development, evaluation of a professional piece of choreography, evaluation of technical progress, safe dance practice (H) and comparing two contrasting styles of dance (H).



# PHOTOGRAPHY

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**"Photography has allowed me to experience a very different type of learning, i have enjoyed being able to spend lessons outside taking photographs of our natural environment. This course has allowed me to take control of my own learning and learn a new skill I could do as a job in the future" Callum Douse S6**

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## INFORMATION

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### PHOTOGRAPHY

This course is designed to inspire and challenge you to visually represent your personal thoughts and ideas through photography. You will plan, develop and produce imaginative compositions using the technical and creative skills you will learn during the course. You will develop a knowledge and understanding of photographic practices, and a range of skills in problem solving, critical thinking and reflective practice. You will analyse the impact of social and cultural influences on photographers and their work. The course consists of two compulsory units, Image Making and Contextual Imagery, and the course assessment.

### PROGRESSION

HND photography  
BA Hons Film production and Photography  
BA Hons Fine Art and Photography

### CAREERS

Graduates enter the fields of freelance photography, including advertising, architectural, commercial, editorial, fashion photojournalism, and social photography. You could engage with public relations, act as a picture editor, work as a curator, pursue roles in creative agencies, or give back through the widening areas of visual education.

## VOCATIONAL

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We strive to offer courses that are diverse and inspirational. Sometimes a course that ignites a curiosity and enthusiasm to learn can do wonders for a young person's education. We often evaluate our curriculum and have offered courses that may just do this. We piloted Greenpower, which is a mechanics course, and the success stories were phenomenal. Almost all pupils who did the course found a college placement, with only one pupil deciding to continue studying in Vale of Leven Academy.

**Courses that ignite a curiosity within a young person that will inspire them to learn and grow.**

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## INFORMATION

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### VOCATIONAL

Vale of Leven Academy offer courses that can be studied at local colleges. There are various courses that offer alternate pathways and awards. All are designed to improve confidence in a young person's ability to contribute positively to society.

### GREENPOWER

This mechanics course encourages pupils to work in a team to create a F24 race car. They must design, engineer, promote and present their ideas and car to industry experts. Pupils are expected to acquire sponsorship and create a social media buzz.

The final experience is the pupils will race their car against other local authorities with an award ceremony at the end showcasing the success the pupils have undertaken.

### BIKE MAINTENANCE

Pupils have the opportunity to study alternate courses. Bike Maintenance was a skill taught last year through our Construction and ASDAN courses. More opportunities like this will be available within the growing Skills Academy.



## ONLINE LEARNING

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We have all heard that a large percentage of future jobs have yet to be designed, so the challenge is how do we prepare young people to succeed in an ever changing society. The truth is key attributes will always be desirable for employers; excellent communication skills, punctuality, positive and hard working. The important thing is that we prepare pupils to be able to be independent learners who can self improve.

**Online learning will open up new possibilities that were perhaps not as once easily available.**

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## INFORMATION

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### OPEN UNIVERSITY

<http://www.open.ac.uk/>

### ONLINE LEARNING

OpenLearn is an online free resource that allows pupils to study courses to help enhance UCAS applications. It is part of Open University programme. There are a series of short courses ranging from 1hr to 50hrs on a vast range of topics including Education, Science, Technologies, Sport, Business, Law and many more.

These courses can lead to a statement of participation as well as electronic badges that will enhance UCAS applications. Studying an appropriate course or topic could make the difference needed to get into University.

Some important information to note. Pupils are in charge and must take ownership. They must be motivated as you alone are accountable for it. Pupils must sign up to receive any rewards available, such as badges or statement of participation. There is a vast catalogue of courses, so choose wisely, only appropriate courses can or will be used to enhance your UCAS form. Read the course breakdown to ensure you have all necessary resources to complete the topics. School resources can be used, such as chromebooks.



SKILLS  
ACADEMY