

# SCHOLAR

Online courses for schools across Scotland

AUTUMN 2016

## Attainment, attainment, attainment

Media reports have highlighted the poor attainment by pupils from low income households

The correlation is stark showing that, for Highers, school leavers from the most deprived areas in Scotland currently do half as well as from the most affluent areas.

You could argue that exam results are simply a proxy for poverty. But it is the poverty of expectations and ambition that blights young people's lives.

Our ethos is that education is for young people to discover their individual passions and talents, to extend the boundaries of their abilities and to break through the constraints of their social environment. Surely the rest will follow ... including good qualifications which open the doors to employment or further and higher education.

SCHOLAR provides not only online courses from some of the best teachers in Scotland but, through educational technology, the opportunity to remove the barriers to educational inequality.

*Professor Phillip John  
Executive Chair, SCHOLAR*

## BREAKING NEWS:

### Authorities backing SCHOLAR

Fantastic news for SCHOLAR. It's been a bit nerve racking to come to the end of the last 3 year contract in 2016. All but one of the 32 Authorities in Scotland have signed up, so far, to SCHOLAR from 2016 onwards. The value is also recognised by the independent sector with 30 SCIS schools subscribing as well.

Now we can focus on bringing to teachers and students; stimulating online courses for the Senior Phase. We provide a range of subjects and levels plus support such as homework and CPD sessions to make effective use of educational technology.

Planning for the next 3 years for SCHOLAR is underway with intriguing possibilities in adaptive learning, augmented reality and next gen e-assessment around the corner. But it takes ingenuity of teachers to keep the students engaged and enthusiastic ... we are there to help!

### New National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher English courses

We are happy to announce that the new CfE National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher English courses will be available on SCHOLAR from August 2016

Our authoring team consists of experienced teachers who are currently writing the material for the new courses. The new materials are available to teachers and students registered for these courses in 2016/17.

## AUTUMN 2016

- New English courses available now.
- Live online sessions: Homework and revision.
- New feature: Change and reset passwords.
- Cut costs and bulk buy our Study Guides.

## Live Online Sessions: Feedback

"It helps to see if I am on the right track to understanding the current topic being discussed."

*Student*

"It gave me new ideas on how to tackle the different parts of the exam."

*Student*

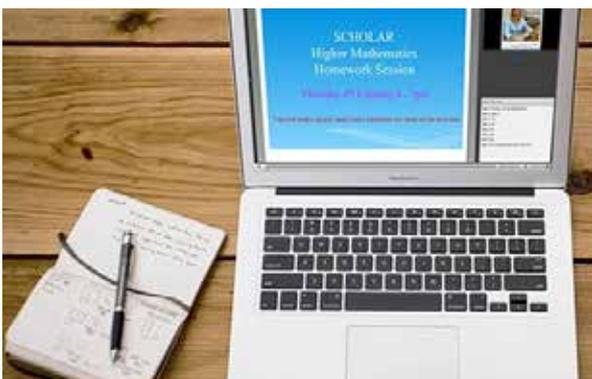
"It was an enjoyable method of revision. I liked the interactivity of it."

*Student*

## Live Online Sessions are recorded

Students studying SCHOLAR subjects are invited to take part in homework and revision sessions

All students and teachers are welcome to attend these Live Online Sessions which are interactive events hosted by subject specialists. The subjects currently being covered are Maths, Computing Science, Modern Languages and English.



The sessions, usually held in the evening, cover specific themes throughout the year. Each session lasts up to an hour in total, including time for questions and answers. See our current schedule <http://j.mp/SCHOLARsessions> including new homework sessions for English and Physics.

### Recorded sessions

Live Online Sessions are recorded and are made available for you to view anytime. <http://j.mp/PreviousSessions>

## A journey from SCHOLAR to quantum technology

"My journey in Physics really started back in 2006 when I attended Perth Academy. I studied Higher and then Advanced Higher Physics; both of which were fully supported by the SCHOLAR online programme. The courseware, worked examples and tutorials really helped me gain a fundamental understanding of Physics and made it a much more enjoyable subject to study. The SCHOLAR material was also used to complement my first year at Heriot-Watt University, where I studied Engineering Physics, making the more advanced material easier to follow. Having now obtained a doctorate at Heriot-Watt I am part of a major international effort to develop quantum based technologies.

Quantum physics is counter-intuitive to the way we normally view the world around us. However, many technologies today rely on quantum mechanics at their core, such as lasers or nuclear magnetic resonance imaging (NMRI). My research on quantum communications relies on sending information with a single photon of light. The information encoded into a single photon is quantised. If a 'hacker' tries to intercept the data as it travels through the network, the interception will be revealed due to the 'spooky' properties of quantum physics and the act of interfering with the network will scramble the information to the hacker in an unpredictable way."

*Dr Ross Donaldson*

## SCHOLAR on the go...

Gain full access to SCHOLAR wherever you have an internet connection

Did you know you can use SCHOLAR on your mobile device - wherever you have an internet connection? To make full use of SCHOLAR on your phone or tablet, download the free Puffin Academy web browser from the Android Play or Apple App store. Puffin Academy will load any Adobe Flash content which would otherwise not appear properly in most mobile browsers. Please be aware the IP range is changing. Check with your school's technician if it no longer works.

Further details and an instructional video are available on our Technical Requirements page: <http://j.mp/scholartech>





## A reason to celebrate

### Full access to the CfE courses now available

SCHOLAR is set for CfE success having updated our existing courses and subjects. ESOL courses are under development to add to our Languages complement.

#### STEM

	N5	H	AH
Biology		✓	✓
Chemistry		✓	✓
Computing Science		✓	✓
Human Biology		✓	
Mathematics	✓	✓	✓
Physics		✓	✓

#### Business

	N5	H	AH
Accounting		✓	✓
Art and Design		✓	
Business Management		✓	✓
Economics		✓	✓
Psychology		✓	

#### Languages

	N5	H	AH
English	✓	✓	
ESOL	✓	✓	✓
French		✓	✓
Gaelic		✓	
German		✓	✓
Mandarin	✓		
Spanish		✓	✓

## New feature

### Change and reset passwords

Over the next few months we are rolling out a new 'Password Admin' feature to SCHOLAR users in Scottish schools

This will provide:

- password recovery;
- enhanced account security;
- decentralised password distribution.

Changing your password will only be possible if your email address is active. Students will be asked to volunteer an email address when they login. Staff will receive an activation email when the feature is rolled out to their Local Authority.

Simply press the 'activate email address' button when you receive that email.

Activate email address

### Access SCHOLAR through Glow

Glow provides a username and password that gives Scottish learners and educators access to a number of core web services and online resources for education

SCHOLAR courseware is easily accessed through the website ([scholar.hw.ac.uk](http://scholar.hw.ac.uk)) using your distributed username and password but you can also access SCHOLAR courses through Glow via a single sign-on.

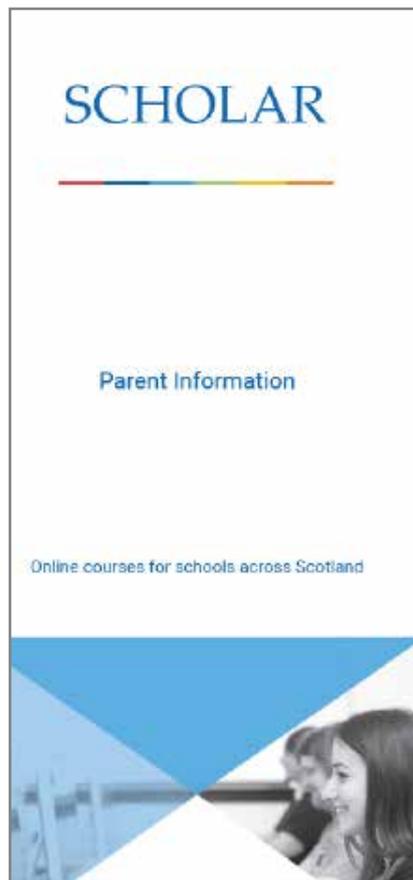




## Welcome

### Meet our newest team member

Stuart Simpson, Software Developer, is working with the software development team on our learning platform and other exciting projects we have in our SCHOLAR eLearning road map.



Parents and carers can now be provided with a password by contacting [info@scholar.hw.ac.uk](mailto:info@scholar.hw.ac.uk)

## Help is at hand

Your Area Coordinator delivers training for staff and students. All events are provided free-of-charge

Coordinators provide a range of quality training including:

- Face-to-face sessions in school. Training is tailored to your staff and student requirements.
- Live online SCHOLAR training sessions. Participate from anywhere in Scotland in our highly interactive sessions to make the most of SCHOLAR.
- Head Teacher/Education Authority presentations.

- Parent Meeting presentations.

<http://j.mp/scholaracs>

## CfE Study Guides

Teachers and students have told us how much they value having a printed Study Guide. We are now offering Study Guides covering all our Higher and Advanced Higher subjects

The Study Guides are designed to complement the interactive content on the SCHOLAR website. We endeavour to keep the cost low by providing separately published units. The 'print on demand' Study Guides are available for purchase online.

The Study Guides are produced and sold by UK Book Publishing. Order Study Guides from here: <http://books.scholar.hw.ac.uk>



## Try for free

If you're not familiar with SCHOLAR why not try it out

We have a Try SCHOLAR section on our website showcasing the range of subjects we offer. <http://j.mp/scholartry>

## Sign up...

Sign up for our newsletter

Keep up-to-date with all things SCHOLAR by signing up for our electronic newsletter <http://j.mp/scholarnewsletter>

## Contact us

<http://scholar.hw.ac.uk>

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[SCHOLARprogramme](https://www.facebook.com/SCHOLARprogramme)

[info@scholar.hw.ac.uk](mailto:info@scholar.hw.ac.uk)

+44 (0)131 451 4002