



Stromness Academy

S2 into S3 Course Choice

Information for Pupils and Parents/Carers

2018 - 2019

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Introduction

Stromness Academy aims to give all our pupils opportunities to discover where their talents lie, and to be supported in developing a wide range of skills so that they are able to “be all that they can be”. All children and young people in Scotland have an entitlement to a broad general education from P1 to S3. This covers eight curriculum areas:

- Languages (English and Modern Languages)
- Mathematics
- Expressive Arts
- Health and Wellbeing
- Religious and Moral Education
- Sciences
- Social Studies
- Technologies

As pupils move into S3 they still follow a broad curriculum within the eight curricular areas, ensuring a breadth of education. However, personalisation, relevance and progression are also key principles in curriculum design. S3 pupils are therefore able to tailor the curriculum to their individual strengths and interests by choosing subjects within the curricular areas to study to a greater depth. This provides a pathway towards choices for Senior Phase (S4-6), although it should be noted that it is not always necessary to study a subject in S3 to be able to choose it in Senior Phase.

This year we are pleased to announce an expansion of the curriculum offer for S3. Modern Studies has been introduced for all S3 pupils, providing an insight into contemporary politics which will support pupils in becoming responsible citizens. Drama has been introduced as an option; pupils choosing this will have the opportunity to develop self-confidence in performing and a wide range of key personal skills. In addition, we now offer two option choices within Home Economics: Food Technology and Fashion & Textile Technology, allowing pupils to specialise in a way more directly related to the courses available in this area in Senior Phase.

Making choices isn't easy, but there is lots of help available. As well as this booklet, pupils have PSE lessons and 1:1 interviews with Guidance Teachers, Library sessions on researching careers information, sessions with our Careers Officer and the “My World of Work” website, which has a wealth of information.

We are keen for parents to also be involved in the process of subject choices. We encourage you to discuss the information in this booklet with your son/daughter and to ensure any queries are raised with their Guidance and/or subject teachers. There are two events in school to support you in this:

Course Choice Presentation – Weds 7th February, 6pm

This is a talk in the Stromness Academy Theatre for S2 parents and pupils to explain the options process and how this leads on to the Senior Phase (S4-6). On the same evening we have our Course Choice Information Evening, aimed at parents of pupils in S4 and above who are choosing their Senior Phase options. S2 parents and pupils who would like to begin thinking about options for S4 and above are welcome to visit the subjects exhibition before or after the S2 talk.

S2 Parents' Evening – Thurs 8th March, 5-7pm

Please use this opportunity to raise any questions you have about option choices.

I look forward to seeing many of you at these events, so that home and school are able to work together to help our pupils make the right choices for them.

Jane Partridge, Head Teacher

The Role of the Guidance Staff - note for Pupils

Choosing subjects for S3 is an important part of the S2 PSE programme. In the Spring Term part of the work covered in the PSE class is devoted to ensuring that you are well equipped and well informed so that you are able to make the best possible individual course choice for S3.

As we move into course arrangements, Guidance staff will be working with all S2 pupils so that you are fully aware of the courses on offer, as well as the potential progression routes within each subject area.

One of the ways that preparation is done is through partnership working with our School Librarian, who works closely with Guidance staff to make sure up to date career related resources are available for all pupils. The S2 Careers programme which we will deliver to you is very much skills based. The focus will be on equipping you with the ability to undertake group and personal research on career areas in the Library, as well as encouraging you to consider the skills and personal qualities that may be helpful/essential in the career areas that you are looking at.

During the research period you will be able to access information on potential career routes, including local employment opportunities and further education and training opportunities available in Orkney. You will also be able to access information and entry requirements for a full range of courses available at colleges and universities in Britain and further afield.

As you consider your course choice, Guidance staff will support you with this process, through supportive and informative lessons in PSE and through individual interviews. You will be encouraged to discuss your course choice process regularly and thoroughly at home.

The role of Guidance teacher is to facilitate the decision making process. The decisions belong to you and your parents/carers.

Note – Costs for course materials

Some practical courses involve a fee for materials. The costs vary depending on the materials used, but an approximate cost is given in the Course Description.

We do not wish any pupil to be prevented from choosing appropriate courses due to financial concerns. If you would like to take a course but are worried about being able to pay for materials, please speak to your Guidance Teacher.

Core Subjects

These are the essential subjects which underpin your studies in all areas, both in S3 and on into Senior Phase. They provide key skills which are important in life, learning and work.

English

Why study English?

The core skills taught in English are ones you will use throughout your life: at work, during leisure activities, and at home. They are the skills which underpin success in all your other school subjects, and they are key to maintaining your social relationships as well.

To succeed in this course you need:

- an enthusiasm for reading widely and regularly
- an ability to write with a good level of technical accuracy
- a willingness to listen to the ideas and information contributed by others
- a willingness to talk to a variety of audiences
- an open mind for new material and new concepts

Course content:

In S3, you will continue working on English and Literacy skills within the framework of the broad general education. There will be an increased element of choice: between August and Christmas you will be offered a selection of nine short courses, each lasting for five weeks. This gives you a chance to follow your own interests and enthusiasms. After Christmas, you will be organised into classes which reflect the level at which you are working. There is scope for movement between classes, based on your performance. In these classes, you will continue to work on the following key areas:

- Analysing and using written and spoken language in a variety of contexts
- Extending the scope of your reading in terms of content and complexity
- Working to improve your understanding of material you read
- Developing evaluative skills by looking at key aspects of texts
- Developing skills in writing about your own thoughts and feelings

Course Assessment

You will be continuously assessed by your teacher, through a mixture of observation, conversation, routine marking, and formal assessment. You will receive regular feedback and advice on how to improve your work, which you should act upon. Your approach to study, and your performance in third year will have a significant impact on the level of study which is available to you in fourth year.

Mathematics

Why study Mathematics?

Mathematics is important in our everyday life. It equips us with the skills we need to interpret and analyse information, simplify and solve problems, assess risk and make informed decisions. It uses a universal language of numbers and symbols which allows us to communicate ideas in a concise, unambiguous and rigorous way.

To succeed in this course, you need...

You need to be prepared to work hard in class and to complete regular homework. Homework will be given on a weekly basis and will include mymaths on a computer and/or revision for assessments and possibly research work for projects. Throughout the year you need to show that you are making progress with your mathematics.

Course Content

Mathematics is structured within three main areas:

Number, money and measure

This includes estimation and rounding; number and number processes; multiples, factors and primes; powers and roots; fractions, decimal fractions and percentages; money; time; measurement; the impact of mathematics on the world; patterns and relationships; expressions and equations.

Shape, position and movement

This includes properties of 2D shapes and 3D objects; angle, symmetry and transformation.

Information handling

This includes data and analysis; ideas of chance and uncertainty.

Course Assessment

Curriculum for Excellence is taught in S3 at levels 3 and 4 with extension work as appropriate. Pupils are arranged into sets based on their progress at the end of S2. The courses are taught in parallel allowing for changes between the sets if necessary.

Your non-calculator skills will be assessed regularly throughout the year and in addition to this you will have tests at level 3, 4 and 5 as appropriate, to help prepare you for further study in S4.

Essentials

You should bring a ruler and a scientific calculator to each lesson. If you have your own calculator it is useful in class, for homework and it means you will become familiar with the working of the machine when it comes to exam use.

Where might this course take me?

Mathematics plays an important role in areas such as maritime, science or technologies, and is vital to research and development in fields such as engineering, computing science, medicine and finance. Learning mathematics will give you access to the wider curriculum and the opportunity to pursue further studies and interests that will give you essential qualifications if you are interested in following the careers mentioned above.

Modern Language 1st Choice French or German

Why study a Modern Language?

Learning a second language is beneficial in a variety of contexts– the most obvious being holidays, making friends, employment, and further study. You will also be able to make connections with different people and cultures and compare them to your own.

Learning another language gives you an insight into new ways of thinking. You will continue to develop literacy skills that will help you to understand and use your own language better, and to learn any other language you might one day need.

To succeed in this course, you need...

You will already realise that successful language learning not only relies on commitment in class but also requires regular application at home. You will need to maintain this positive approach as you proceed with this course in S3.

Course Content

In S3 you will develop your skills in listening, reading, speaking and writing in the foreign language over a range of subjects, which will provide a solid basis for working towards national qualifications in Senior Phase.

Course Assessment

Assessment will take a variety of forms and covers the key skill areas of listening and talking, reading and writing.

Where might this course take me?

Clearly you will be able to continue your language studies into Senior Phase by taking a language qualification at an appropriate level. This in turn can lead into further study at college or university where languages can be studied on their own or combined with a range of other subjects.

Languages can be used in a variety of jobs the most obvious being tourism, hospitality, marketing and financial services.

Learning another language also helps to develop a number of key skills such as literacy, listening to and communicating with others.

Modern Studies

Why study Modern Studies?

By studying Modern Studies you will develop your knowledge and understanding of contemporary political and social issues in local, Scottish, United Kingdom and international contexts.

Not only is Modern Studies about current affairs, it is a subject which gives you considerable skills which are attractive to employers.

To succeed in this course, you need to:

Develop an interest in modern, topical issues

Be prepared to work hard in class and in your own time.

Course content and structure

1. Political and Social issues in the United Kingdom
2. World power e.g. USA
3. Current International Issues e.g. Terrorism

Course Assessment

There will be assessments throughout the course which will be an opportunity for you to show the knowledge and skills you have learned on each topic.

Where might this course take me?

The knowledge and skills introduced during S3 will help you with Modern Studies courses (and other Social Subjects) in S4 and beyond.

Option Subjects

Choosing subjects from this list allows pupils to personalise their curriculum to suit their individual interests, strengths and potential future studies and career.

Whilst it is always helpful to study a subject in S3 if you intend to choose it in Senior Phase, it is not always essential. If you are unsure about this, please discuss it with your subject teacher.

Administration and IT

Why take this course?

The key role of administration is to provide support services which ensure the smooth running of a workplace or other organisation. This course emphasises the increasing role which Information Technology (IT) plays in the activities of all organisations.

Throughout the course technology is used to develop the skills of problem solving, organising and managing information in a business environment.

To succeed in this course, you need...

Since this is a practical course, to maximise your potential, good attendance is **essential**. Most of the coursework is carried out on computers and it can be difficult to catch up with work missed.

The course is suitable for you if you are well organised and like to work in a structured environment.

Course Content

The S3 course is entirely practical – all of your time is spent on computers. The following software applications will be used:

- word processing
- spreadsheets
- databases
- powerpoint
- desk top publishing
- electronic diaries

Course Assessment

Your classwork is marked and recorded. There will be occasional assessments which will bring together topics which you have been studying into an integrated assignment.

Where might this course take me?

The skills acquired during S3 will prepare you for ongoing study of Administration and IT at N4 or N5 level in S4. In addition these practical skills are demanded by employers and, being transferable, will prove invaluable whatever career is finally chosen.

Art and Design

Why take this course?

The course will build on your practical and creative experiences, outcomes and achievements from S1 and S2, also providing opportunities to develop or consolidate other skills for life, learning and work including literacy skills, numeracy and health and wellbeing.

This course mainly focusses on practical and visual skills but communication through one to one discussion, peer and self-evaluation is key.

To succeed in this course, you need...

Progress in this course requires commitment of your time and effort. Resilience is important, as the ability to accept and use constructive criticism and advice to help improve your work is essential. Learning to look at and understand other artists' and designers' work, through critical and analytical writing, is also a part of this course.

Course Content

Creative and critical skills are covered and developed in the BGE Art and Design course including:

- Observing and recording accurately through drawing
- Developing practical expertise in handling different materials in 2D and 3D
- Generating ideas by applying your imagination
- Taking risks in your work
- Thinking questioning and analysing
- Experimenting with multiple possibilities
- Team work
- Producing outcomes
- Presentation
- Reflecting on and assessing your own work and the work of others

These skills are developed through two main bodies of work- Expressive and Design.

Course Assessment

Assessment will be based on the coursework evidence produced in class. One to one feedback will be ongoing.

Where might this course take me?

The breadth and depth of work covered in the Expressive, Design and Critical areas of the S3 course will give you the confidence and ability to progress to National 4 and National 5 level courses in S4.

Developing finer motor skills in art and design would also benefit other practical work based courses, apprenticeships and jobs. Building self confidence in communicating your ideas and accounting for creative decisions is a lifelong skill.

Biology

Why take this course?

Biology, the study of living organisms, plays a crucial role in our everyday existence, and is an increasingly important subject in the modern world. Advances in technologies have made this varied subject more exciting and relevant than ever.

The Biology course encourages the development of skills and resourcefulness. Biologists think creatively, analyse and solve problems. Biology affects everyone and aims to find solutions to many of the world's problems through studying of relevant areas of biology, such as health, environment and sustainability.

To succeed in this course, you need...

The purpose of the course is to develop learners' interest in and enthusiasm for biology in a range of contexts. The skills of scientific inquiry and investigation are developed, throughout the course, by investigating the applications of biology. This will enable learners to become scientifically literate and numerate, able to review the science-based claims which they will meet.

An experimental and investigative approach is used to develop knowledge and understanding of biology concepts.

Course Content

The concepts of biodiversity, interdependence, body systems and cells and inheritance are developed through the Course.

Course Assessment

Assessment will be in practical, investigative and formal topic tests. Project work and research will also take place in preparation for senior phase assessment.

Where might this course take me?

The S3 course further develops the skills and knowledge base from S1/2 and is a stepping stone to studying Biology at any further stage.

Business

Why take this course?

Businesses play an important role in society – we rely on business to create health and well-being, prosperity, jobs and choices.

The main purpose of this course is to develop enterprise and employability skills. Work undertaken in the S3 Business course will prepare you for N4 or N5 Business/Business Management courses which are available in S4.

To succeed in this course, you need...

This course will suit you if you have an interest in the world of business or if you want to find out how and why people set up their own businesses.

Course Content

- Why businesses start up
- Sectors of industry
- Objectives of firms
- Creation of business plans
- Sources of finance for firms
- Stakeholders
- Cash flow
- Break even analysis

Course Assessment

Your teacher will mark your classwork and homework and will give you ongoing feedback on your progress. There will be occasional end-of-unit tests.

Where might this course take me?

By studying the Business course you will have a greater understanding of how people contribute to the success of firms and other organisations. As a result you will be better informed about business and be able to make effective contributions to society whether as a consumer, employee, employer or entrepreneur.

Chemistry

Why take this course?

Chemistry is the study of matter and its interactions. Chemistry research and development is essential for the introduction of new products and the chemical industry is a major contributor to the economy of the country. The scientific literacy, verbal and written communication, numeracy and analytical skills developed during this course are transferable across subjects and will be invaluable for life, learning and work.

To succeed in this course, you need...

The purpose of the S3 course is to develop learners' curiosity, interest and enthusiasm for Chemistry, whilst developing the analytical and investigative skills needed in the senior phase. The S3 course provides opportunities for learners to study the application of Chemistry in everyday contexts, recognising the impact Chemistry makes on the environment and on society.

Course Content

The units in the S3 course are

1. Chemical Changes and Structure
2. Acids and Metals
3. Fuels and Hydrocarbons

Course Assessment

Pupils should expect regular homework and there will be assessments at the end of each unit of work. Research projects are carried out in each unit to develop the skills required for completing assignments in the senior phase. It is essential that pupils are self-motivated and can work independently.

Where might this course take me?

The S3 course further develops the skills and knowledge base from S1/2 and is a stepping stone to studying Chemistry at any further stage.

Computing Science

Why take this course?

Computation is a fundamental part of our world and computational thinking is changing our view of it. We all use apps and websites every day but we need people to design and build them. Computing Science provides an understanding of the digital world and brings together elements of technology and science. You will learn some of the skills needed by programmers and web designers and be more informed about the IT industry.

To succeed in this course, you need...

This course includes theoretical content and practical activities; to succeed you should:

- Be interested in learning more about computers and technology
- Work autonomously during the tasks
- Have a good level in mathematics: when coding you will have to break down problems into small steps and use arithmetic operators

Course Content

During this course you will learn:

- to design and program in Python
- to use vector graphics, bit-mapped graphics and to create key-frame animations
- to design and create websites
- to design and make databases
- to share data online and be secure
- to research on-line about computing technology
- to understand how computers work: binary, text, graphics, file formats and computer systems

Course Assessment

The different aspects of the course are assessed through practical tasks and written assessments.

Essentials

No specific equipment is required; however, having access to a computer at home would be beneficial.

Where might this course take me?

Computing skills are required in hundreds of today's jobs. Not only will you acquire hardware knowledge and learn software skills, Computing will improve your ability to problem solve – an excellent attribute that all employers look for. This will be useful to you whatever direction you choose later.

This option prepares the way for the skills needed for National 4/5 Computing Science and during the course you will have to opportunity to build up a folio of work.

Design & Technology

Why take this course?

This course is a broad-based qualification for learners with an interest in design and in practical technology. It provides sufficient breadth, flexibility and choice to meet the needs of all learners. The course is also suitable for any learner who wants to progress to higher levels of study in Graphic Communication and/or Engineering Science. Course activities also provide opportunities to build self-confidence, generic and transferable skills in numeracy, employability skills, thinking skills, and skills in planning and organising of work tasks, working independently and in collaboration with others, as well as skills in communication and self and peer-evaluation, in a technological design context.

To succeed in this course, you need...

Participants in this course need to be confident working with numbers, so that they are able to apply mathematical skills to practical problems. Typically your reports would show that you are working at level 3 or above in Maths; please speak with your Technical and/or Maths teachers if you have any concerns about this.

Course Content

To enable learners to

- develop skills in graphic communication techniques, including the use of equipment, materials and software
- understand the relationship between engineering, mathematics and science
- develop skills in designing and modelling, including the use of tools, machines and materials
- develop skills in modelling, including the use of tools, machines, materials and software
- apply knowledge and understanding of basic engineering facts and ideas
- apply skills in analysis, design, construction and evaluation to a range of straightforward engineering problems.
- develop an understanding of the impact of technologies on our environment and society

The main skills covered will be:

- Graphics for Design
- Analysis and problem solving
- Number processes and Information handling
- Engineering designing and Modelling
- Constructing and Testing
- Evaluating

Assessment

Pupils' work will be assessed continuously. There will be no final examination.

Essentials

There is a fee for this course for the materials supplied; typically this has been less than £10. If you have concerns about being able to pay for materials, please see page 4.

Where might this course take me?

- National 4/ 5 in Graphic Communication, Engineering Science or another Technical Subject
- Further Education, training or employment

Careers for which Design & Technology would be beneficial include: design industry, engineering, architecture, advertising, marketing, animation, product design and building management.

Drama

Why take this course?

Learning Drama gives you a chance to work together closely and co-operatively with others, learn key communication skills, take some risks, think carefully about other people, work to deadlines, and organise complex activities. These are all the skills and capabilities which employers value most highly, and they will be beneficial to you in all your studies and in life.

To succeed in this course you need:

- imagination
- negotiation and decision-making skills
- a willingness to try new things
- a willingness to listen to the ideas contributed by others
- a willingness to engage with an audience
- an open mind

Course content:

In S3 you will build on the Drama work done in your English classes during S1 and S2, in the following key areas:

- portraying character
- presenting work to an audience
- devising and/or rehearsing scripts
- using lighting and sound to create mood
- analysing scripts and performances

Course Assessment

You will be continuously assessed by your teacher, through a mixture of observation, conversation, performance and formal assessment submissions. You will receive regular feedback and advice on how to improve your work, which you should act upon.

Fashion & Textile Technology

Why take this course?

This course is suitable for pupils who have enjoyed the textile elements of Home Economics in S1 and S2 and/or working on fabric projects in their own time. This course is focused on developing practical textile skills and finding out about the world of fashion and textiles.

To succeed in this course, you need...

Excellent attendance is vital to progress and succeed in on-going textile projects. To do well in this course, you may be required to work hard in your own time to complete project work. This course is suitable for you if you are creative and enjoy making textile items.

Course Content

The S3 course is primarily practical however you will also carry out small research projects. You will:

- Create a range of fashion/textile items using commercial patterns
- Develop hand sewing and machine sewing skills
- Investigate: Fashion over the ages
- Find out about how fabric is made/where it comes from
- Embellish garments using surface decorations e.g. beads, sequins etc
- Look at fashion and textile trends and how they develop

Course Assessment

Each practical project completed will be assessed and feedback given and discussed.

Essentials

There is a fee for this course for the materials supplied; typically this has been around £15, although some pupils choose to buy/bring in their own fabric. If you have concerns about being able to pay for materials, please see page 4.

Where might this course take me?

This course would progress naturally on to National 4/5 Fashion & Textile Technology.

Food Technology

Why take this course?

This course is suitable for pupils who have enjoyed the practical and theory aspects of Home Economics in second year and would like to progress their knowledge. The aim of this course is to offer pupils a broad range of topics from within Home Economics in order to equip them with skills and knowledge for courses available in the senior phase.

To succeed in this course, you need...

Excellent attendance is essential for students to progress and meet their potential.

Course Content:

This course has 3 sections:

Health & Food Technology:

This section of the course will allow pupils to gain a further understanding of the nutrition in food and how this relates to health.

Hospitality:

This part of the course will focus on practical cookery skills and preparation techniques.

Practical Cake Craft:

We look at the functions of ingredients in cake making and learn different techniques in sugar craft. Pupils will design and make their own Christmas cake.

Students who complete this course will be able to: -

- Build on their practical cookery skills
- Select and use ingredients to produce and garnish or decorate dishes.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the relationships between health, food and nutrition
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the functional properties of food
- Have the ability to design and develop food products

This will allow pupils to gain background knowledge in different subject areas within Home Economics and provide them with wider opportunities to progress into National 4 and 5 courses in the future.

Course Assessment

Students will be assessed through practical and/or written assessments based on each topic area as outlined above.

Essentials

Pupils will be expected to provide suitable dishes/containers for their cookery. There is a fee for this course for the ingredients supplied; typically this has been around £25. If you have concerns about being able to pay for ingredients, please see page 4.

Where might this course take me?

Students studying this course will be able to progress onto National 4/5 Hospitality: Practical Cookery, National 4/5 Health & Food Technology or National 5 Practical Cake Craft.

Geography

Why take this course?

By studying Geography you will learn about other places, peoples and cultures. You will study areas in Scotland and the UK as well as in other countries. Environmental and global issues such as renewable energy, conservation of the rainforests, marine pollution, climate change and natural hazards, form an integral part of the course. You will learn about sustainability, your responsibility as a global citizen and also how to improve your map interpretation, reading, writing and thinking skills.

Work covered in S3 will lead to the possibility of taking the National 4/ National 5 Geography courses, depending on your progress.

Course Content

1. Human Environments:

International issues such as population growth and its management; migration, refugees and asylum seekers; cities, changing city landscapes; shanty towns and their problems (e.g. in Brazil); agriculture and the countryside in the developed and developing world; changes affecting rural areas such as farm diversification, organic farming, biofuels and GM crops. In the Amazing Planet section of the course classes study topics such as the Himalaya Mountains, the Panama Canal, the Galapagos Islands and North America.

2. Physical Environments:

Natural landscapes and the scenery of glaciated areas (e.g. the Alps), coastal environments, rivers and their valleys; weather forecasting and the impact of weather systems affecting the British Isles; managing and protecting natural environments, tourism and conservation issues in areas such as UK National Parks (e.g. Cairngorms).

3. Global Issues:

Global climate change, its possible causes and effects; the impact of human activities on natural environments such as Brazil's tropical rainforests and the Arctic tundra; natural hazards and natural disasters; strategies used by national governments, the United Nations and aid organizations such as the Red Cross to manage these global environmental problems.

Essentials

A variety of resources including digital presentations, video clips, maps, DVDs, websites, modern text books and atlases are used. You will carry out a small amount of local fieldwork but sometimes there may be field trips to other areas. All pupils will undertake a research project.

Where might this course take me?

Geography is a popular subject for study in Senior Phase as well as in Higher Education. A Geography qualification is readily accepted as one of the entry requirements for a wide variety of other courses and careers and may be recognized as either an arts or as a science based subject by university admissions officers.

History

Why take this course?

By studying History you will develop a better understanding of your own community, your country and the wider world. Not only is history about you, your heritage and the past, but it is a subject which gives you considerable skills which are attractive to employers and will prove invaluable in whatever career is finally chosen.

To succeed in this course, you need to:

- Have an interest in history;
- Be motivated to learn
- Be flexible as you will be using a range of learning approaches including individual study and using digital media for paired work and group presentations.

Course Content

- **The First World War, 1914-1918**
- **Hitler and Nazi Germany, 1919 – 1939**
- **Health and Medicine since 1900**
- **Research project on Scottish History**

Course Assessment

There will be assessments throughout the course which will be an opportunity for you to show the knowledge and skills you have learned on each topic.

Where might this course take me?

The knowledge and skills acquired during S3 may lead to National 4/National 5 History courses in S4.

Modern Language 2nd Choice French or German

Why take this course?

Do you enjoy learning your first Modern Language? Would you like to have the opportunity to take both French and German in Senior Phase? If you can answer 'Yes' to at least one of these questions, then this could be the course for you.

To succeed in this course, you need...

This course will build on the skills you have developed through your learning of your first foreign language, while you move at an accelerated pace through the topics. You will need to work hard in your own time as well as in class to ensure that you can progress at the pace required.

Course Content

You will find that you are covering similar topics to the ones you covered whilst learning French or German in S1 and S2, for example: Personal Details, Leisure, Home Area and School.

Course Assessment

You will be assessed in a variety of ways which will include speaking assessments (one to one interviews and group presentations) as well as those in listening, reading and writing.

Where might this course take me?

You will be able to take an appropriate level course in this subject in Senior Phase and then even beyond school. Language skills are seen as a shortage area amongst the workforce and those who have skills and abilities in more than one additional language will be seen as desirable by many employers.

Music

Why take this course?

This course is aimed at developing a wide range of skills in music. You will continue to improve your performing skills as well as learning to write, record and better understand music.

To succeed in this course, you need...

To improve on any musical instrument you need to practise, practise and then practise. You will be given weekly instrumental lessons together with new and varied pieces of music to help you improve throughout the year. If you love listening to music and have an open mind to trying different types of music you will get a lot from this course.

Course Content

You will continue to study all areas of music with a particular focus on developing your skills on two instruments. In S1 and S2 the main performing focus was working in groups, throughout S3 we will look at how to perform as soloists. You will learn how to write your own compositions and enjoy listening to various types of music.

If you enjoy recording and editing there will be various music technology projects throughout the year.

Course Assessment

Music is a practical subject and the majority of assessments will be based on playing your chosen instruments. As we complete various musical topics there will be short listening tests to check you have been paying attention.

Essentials

A desire to improve.

Where might this course take me?

Progression from S3 music will be to N4/5 Music or N4/5 Music Technology. Both these courses provide steps to studying Music and Music Technology at Higher, Advanced Higher and University levels.

Physical Education S3 Elective

Why take this course?

This course is for you if you have an enthusiasm for and interest in developing your performance in a variety of sporting activities. In addition to this Physical Education also helps you to develop other skills which are required both in and out of school; skills such as communication, fair play, cooperation when playing team games, resilience and trust in gymnastics and decision making, problem solving and creativity, used in all activities.

To succeed in this course, you need...

To be successful in this course you need to be hard working and enthusiastic and to be playing as much sport as possible; you can do this during lunchtime and extra-curricular activities. Although this is a mainly practical course you will be asked to complete a written mini investigative piece of work each term – some of this will be given as homework so you will have to meet deadlines to complete this on time.

Course Content

You will be given the opportunity to develop your performance in badminton, basketball, gymnastics, volleyball, football and netball and to investigate factors (mental, social, emotional and physical) which can impact on your performance. In order to do this you will investigate performance and learn about skill development and fitness training and how to apply this to your performance by carrying out a cycle of analysis; this is when you investigate to find out your strengths and weaknesses, train to improve your weaknesses and then evaluate your performance to see if you have improved.

Course Assessment

Your practical performance will be assessed in all activities (in line with National 4/5 assessment criteria).

Where might this course take me?

This course is aimed at pupils who are interested in studying Physical Education at a certificated level in the future, at either National 4 or National 5 level. In addition to this, throughout this course you will experience a range of roles and responsibilities. This will help you to develop social skills and manage your own learning; these skills are important in school, in further education and in life.

Physics

Why take this course?

In Physics learners will gain a deeper understanding of the world around us through an appreciation of the contribution that physics has made to improve the quality of our lives.

Physics is about finding out how the universe works. Over the centuries, by using Physics, scientists have gained some knowledge of the workings of the Universe and have used that knowledge to develop civilisation and give us the lifestyle we enjoy today. For example, different methods of electricity generation provide us with the energy needed for our TVs, microwaves, hairdryers, heating systems etc.

The scientific literacy, verbal and written communication, numeracy and analytical skills developed during this course are transferable across subjects and will be invaluable for life, learning and work.

To succeed in this course, you need...

- An interest in physics and the sciences
- The ability to work in a practical situation and follow instructions
- A willingness to adopt new learning methods including web based approaches.

Course Content

The following topics are covered:

- Electricity and Energy
- Waves and Radiation
- Dynamics and Space

Course Assessment

There are a number of topic based tests, assignments and investigations.

Where might this course take me?

This course is a continuation of topics covered in S1 and S2. It can lead to study of Physics at various SQA levels up to Advanced Higher. It also provides fundamental skills and knowledge which are transferrable to the world of apprenticeships and employment.

Practical Craft Skills

Why take this course?

This Course is a broad-based qualification for learners with an interest in practical and workshop based skills. It provides sufficient breadth, flexibility and choice to meet the needs of all learners. The Course is also suitable for any learner who wants to progress to higher levels of study in Practical Woodworking and Practical Metalworking. Course activities also provide opportunities to build self-confidence, generic and transferable skills in numeracy, employability skills, thinking skills, and skills in planning and organising of work tasks, working independently and in collaboration with others, as well as skills in communication and self and peer-evaluation, in a technological design context.

Course content

To enable learners to develop

- skills in woodworking and metalworking techniques
- skills in measuring and marking out timber and metal sections and sheet materials
- safe working practices in workshop environments
- practical creativity and problem solving skills
- an understanding of the impact of technologies on our environment and society

Assessment

Pupils' work will be assessed continuously. There will be no final examination.

Essentials

There is a fee for this course for the materials supplied; typically this has been less than £10. If you have concerns about being able to pay for materials, please see page 4.

Where might this course take me?

National 4/ 5 in Practical Woodworking, Practical Metalworking or another Technical Subject , Further Education , training or employment in a practical area. Careers for which Practical Craft Skills would be beneficial include: crafts, construction, manufacturing, engineering, theatre and visual arts.

Taking this course will also develop the following skills which are of benefit in a wide range of careers and further study:

- Thinking Skills
- Numeracy
- Employability
- Enterprise
- Citizenship



In S3 you will study eleven subjects as a curriculum for excellence allows for some specialisation within curriculum areas. When completing this form you need to make sure that you have **at least one subject** from each curriculum area. In the Languages areas you must tick the language you are currently studying; it is possible to study a second language by selecting the other language in the options section. You must not tick the same subject twice.

Tick 1 Subject in each section

Tick 4 of these subjects

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Literacy | |
| English | ✓ |
| Numeracy | |
| Mathematics | ✓ |
| Languages | |
| French | |
| German | |
| Social Subjects | |
| Business | |
| Geography | |
| History | |
| Sciences | |
| Biology | |
| Chemistry | |
| Physics | |
| Expressive Arts | |
| Art & Design | |
| Music | |
| Technologies | |
| Admin & IT | |
| Computing Science | |
| Design and Technology | |
| Food Technology | |
| Practical Craft Skills | |

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|------------------------------------|--|
| Admin & IT | |
| Art & Design | |
| Biology | |
| Chemistry | |
| Computing Science | |
| Design and Technology | |
| Drama | |
| Fashion and Textile Technology | |
| French as 2 nd Language | |
| Geography | |
| German as 2 nd Language | |
| History | |
| Music | |
| Physical Education | |
| Physics | |
| Practical Craft Skills | |

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| Reserve Subject (please state): |
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|----------------------|---|
| Core Subjects | |
| PE | ✓ |
| PSE | ✓ |
| RME | ✓ |
| Modern Studies | ✓ |

Pupil Signature

Parent Signature

Guidance Signature

Please return to school by Friday 20th March 2018