



Personalisation and choice within the Broad General Education

A Guide for S2 Pupils



Moving on within the Broad General Education

As you progress through S2, you will make choices for S3 as you personalise your curriculum for S3, which is the final year of the **Broad General Education**. You will continue to study courses across all of the Curriculum Areas but you have the opportunity to **personalise** your curriculum to reflect your interests and future plans. You have some important **choices** to make about courses you would like to specialise in, and this booklet contains essential advice and information to help you. You should look at the information about all of the courses before making your decisions.

The courses you take in S3 will complete the broad general education part of your schooling, and lead into courses in S4 where you will study for National Qualification.

In S3 you can personalise your curriculum, but you are still working within the Broad General Education. Whilst you can make choices to continue with some subjects, and not others, you are required to choose courses to ensure all curricular areas are covered.

- You will continue to study Mathematics, English, French, PE, PSE and RE.
- You must choose one Science subject, one Social subject, one Expressive Arts subject, and one Technological subject.
- You can then choose two more elective subjects, to add further breadth to your curriculum.

The **Personalisation and Choice Planner** issued with this booklet will show you what is available and explain how to select your subjects.

Your Guidance teacher is well placed to offer advice on this when you are interviewed, and so are your current subject teachers. Try also to include as many of your favourite subjects as you can, since you will do better if you enjoy the subject.

You will be supported through the process of personalising your curriculum for S3, through the PSE lessons and support from your Guidance teachers. You should discuss your choices with your parents as they are required to sign your form.



THINK ABOUT

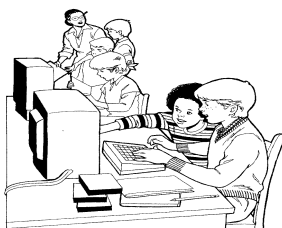
- Your strongest subjects in S1/S2
- The subjects you enjoy
- What you would like to do when you leave school

Get HELP from

- Your GUIDANCE Teacher
- Your SUBJECT Teachers
- Your PARENTS / CARERS
- Your CAREERS ADVISER



Progression from the Broad General Education to Senior Phase



In S3, you are likely to work within the third and the fourth levels of Curriculum for Excellence. Some skills and knowledge from National courses may be blended into this work to provide **challenge** and **depth**. At the end of S3 you will have completed the broad general education phase of your education and you will progress into the Senior Phase. Throughout S3, your participation in course work will be monitored and assessed carefully. You will be assessed, in a variety of ways, and this will give you and your teachers an overall view of your progress.

Towards the end of S3, a recommendation will be made about your likely progression into National qualifications (National 4 or 5) in S4, in each of the subjects you have been studying in S3. These decisions will be based upon your progress through the Broad General Education, most notably through S3. Beyond S3 you will move into the Senior Phase (S4 - S6) of your education, and you will reduce the number of subjects you study to 7. For most pupils, we would recommend continuing with 7 of the 9 subjects selected for S3, dropping 2 subjects. It may be possible to choose a subject for S4 that you have not studied in S3, but you should think very carefully before doing so and speak to your Guidance teacher before making a new subject choice.

Senior Phase: Assessing National 4 and National 5

National 4 is an internally assessed award and this means that the school will collect the evidence from your course work throughout S4 and compare it to national standards determined by SQA. This is a **pass/fail** award.

At National 5 your course work will contribute to your final award, however, there will be an external exam at the end of the course. Your award will be **graded A-D**.

Thinking ahead.....

When you personalise your curriculum for S3, you should think carefully about the subjects you are likely to want to study in S4 to obtain National Qualifications. Personalise your curriculum with care as the subjects you choose will be the basis for your course in S4, S5 and S6

Progress and attainment in S4 will determine the options available to you for S5.

- If you have attained National 4 in S4, you will progress to National 5 in S5.
- If you have attained National 5 (A-C) in S4 you may progress to Higher in S5

Possible Progression Pathways

S4	S5	S6
National 4 →	National 5 →	Higher
National 5 →	Higher →	Advanced Higher



What About University?

If you have a particular career route in mind you are advised to check which subjects are required.

For example:

For **medicine, dentistry and vet medicine** the key Higher subjects are Biology and Chemistry, although some courses also require Physics at National 5. For all para-medical courses, Chemistry is the most commonly required subject.

Law courses accept a wide range of Higher subjects, often including English, both arts and sciences, and a good pass in French is valued by law graduate employers. The wide range of **Engineering** courses all have Higher Maths as a key subject, along with Physics and/or Engineering Science at Higher.

Maths is important for **Business and Management Studies** and **Science** courses and is useful in courses like **Psychology**. It is not required beyond National 5 or equivalent for a wide range of **Arts and Social Science** degrees, for which Higher English is the standard requirement, as it is for **Teaching** courses.

You should also be aware that the particular Highers and grades required will vary from course to course, and from university to university. In addition, some subjects at Higher may not be accepted for entry to particular degree courses or universities.

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ART AND DESIGN



Why study Art and Design?

Art and Design is all around you, from the pictures on your walls to the buildings you move through. It is the content you watch online, the clothes you wear and the products you buy. Art and Design allows you to express yourself, to imagine and create.

What will I learn about in Art and Design?

For three periods each week you will explore art and design through a broad range of units.

You will be amazed how your skills and confidence build as we look in more depth at Still Life, Landscape and Portraiture. For each of these, you choose your subject matter – the objects, locations and people that mean the most to you. You will explore capturing your subject through photography and learn how to take the most interesting shots. You will then develop your understanding of representing your subject using a broad variety of media and techniques in 2D and 3D.

You will also develop your understanding of design and get to explore furniture design or architecture, and body adornment (bold jewellery to be worn on the head, neck or shoulder). You will pick your inspiration for these; maybe it'll be birds, fish or lizards, or anything else you think would be interesting! You will use a wide variety of media to experiment with over the process and make a model or full size piece.

Over the course of each unit, we will explore, both individually and in groups, the amazing world of art and design; learning how different artists and designers express themselves, getting ideas and tips to use in our own work.

What homework should I expect?

Our homework is designed to help you in your classwork and you will have the opportunity to draw, research and discuss.

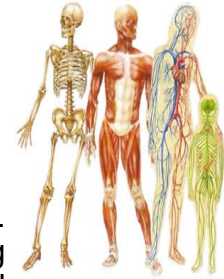
How will I be assessed?

Over the course of the year you will have many opportunities to evaluate your work, celebrate your success and identify your next steps. You will evaluate your own work and that of your classmates through personal reflection and through discussion with your classmates and teacher. You will also have the opportunity to display your favourite work in your classroom and around the school.

What Senior Phase course in S4 does this lead into?

In S4, you will undertake either the National 4 or National 5 Art and Design course.

BIOLOGY



Why study Biology?

Biology is the study of Life. It 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. Biology affects everyone, and aims to find solutions for many of the world's problems such as global warming, famine and disease. The latest research in Biology has enabled us to produce new drugs, new fertility treatments and cures for genetic diseases.

What will I learn about in Biology?



In the BGE Biology course, pupils continue to study Biological Systems with a more detailed study of the body systems. Pupils will learn about the brain and the nervous system, transport systems in animals and plants and causes and cures for diseases such as Diabetes.

A detailed study into the structure of cells, the process of cell division, DNA and proteins are used to develop a real understanding of the complexities of life. Throughout the course, learning is enhanced by many interesting experiments and activities.



What homework should I expect?

Homework is issued on a regular basis (weekly) and is used to consolidate learning and to identify areas in which pupils require support. It takes many forms ranging from Investigative research, problem solving and the production of materials for Debate and discussion.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is ongoing, and there will be short assessments at the end of each small unit of work as it is completed.

What Senior Phase course in S4 does this lead into?

Success in this course can lead into either National 4 Biology or National 5 Biology.

BUSINESS DYNAMICS

Why Study Business Dynamics?

A Dynamic Business puts people at the heart of the business. It is forward looking. It reacts to changes in its environment whether they are Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Environmental or Competitive.

Studying Business Dynamics in S3 allows you to engage in creative, practical and work-related experiences and outcomes to help you understand the role business plays in society, including:

- use technologies now and in the future, at home, at work and in the wider community
- making reasoned choices relating to the environment, sustainable development and ethical, economic and cultural issues
- engage in activities which encourage enterprising attitudes to achieve three SQA Units

What will I learn about Business Dynamics?

You will be able to develop the following skills:

- Skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work
- Approach familiar and new situations with confidence when
- selecting and using appropriate software
- Use ICT effectively to access, select and present relevant information in a range of tasks
- Make effective use of a computer system to process and organise information.



What homework should I expect?

Homework activities will take a variety of forms in order to develop the research, decision making, communication and entrepreneurial skills of the course as well as breadth and application of subject specific knowledge. Homework will be posted on the OneNote system to be completed online.

How will I be assessed?

Evidence of understanding will be generated naturally during class and also under exam conditions. These assessments will be designed in line with Level 4 experiences and outcomes. Assessments may include a combination of practical work, case studies, examinations and projects.

What Senior Phase course in S4 does this lead into?

At the end of S3, pupils who have studied Business Dynamics can progress by:

- Studying Business at N4 level
- Studying Business Management at N5 level

CHEMISTRY

Why study Chemistry?

Modern medicines, digital technology, molecular gastronomy and innovations in 'green' energy all demonstrate the power of chemistry to make our lives better. Chemistry is fundamental to many careers. Vets, doctors, pharmacists, environmental monitors, radiographers, forensic scientists and many engineers will have chemistry backgrounds.



Chemists' understanding of the world at an atomic level could provide solutions to problems facing our society. They have helped us understand the role of greenhouse gases in climate change and their knowledge will be key if we are to combat it. Clinical research chemists have helped develop drugs for previously untreatable diseases and continue to work towards improving the wellbeing of us all.

All our Chemistry courses include understanding of key concepts, solving chemical problems and developing practical skills. We also explore how literacy and numeracy play a part in the study and application of chemistry and will develop skills for the world of work. Successful chemists think creatively, collaborate with others, think critically and communicate effectively.

What will I learn about in Chemistry?



You will continue to progress through BGE curricular organisers 'Planet Earth', 'Materials' and 'Topical Science'. You will learn how to control reaction rates, understand how atoms combine, find out which materials are extracted from the Earth, what chemists turn them into and the impact this could have on the environment.

What homework should I expect?

Homework will normally be issued every 2 weeks and is a combination of formal exercises, research tasks or creative projects. Students experiencing difficulties have at least one week to seek help from their teacher out with class.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment follows the same model as S2 BGE Chemistry. You will complete workbooks, have opportunities to use digital 'tests', carry out investigative/practical work and complete formal written assessments. After assessments you will evaluate your progress with your teacher and make targets for the next body of work.

What Senior Phase course in S4 does this lead into?

At the end of S3, pupils could progress to a course leading onto a SQA qualification: National 4 or National 5 Chemistry or Laboratory Science in S4.

COMPUTING SCIENCE

Why study Computing Science?

Computing Science is a technological subject that focuses on learning how to do amazing things with computers. Computer programmers, computer games developers and cyber security experts are all in demand within the UK and around the world, and starting to learn about Computing Science in S3 is a big step towards success in the world of tech.

For other areas of study, Computing Science is an essential complimentary subject – from biomedical research to mathematical modelling, sports analysis to engineering tools, Computing is at the core of many industries, and is a recommended subject for 17 degree courses at Russell Group universities, including medicine.

What will I learn about in Computing Science?

The Computing Science course will provide you with the opportunity to develop problem solving and analytical skills through learning to code. Coding is an important tool in today's world and through thinking like a computer (Computational Thinking) problems can become easier to solve.

We also learn about creating and storing information using graphics and web sites. You will create a website by coding in HTML, the language of the web.

We will also discover how data is stored about us using database programs, and investigate networking, computer cyber security and hardware.

What homework should I expect?

Computing homework is a variety of tasks that test your understanding of concepts covered in class. Some will be problem solving tasks like code analysis.

How will I be assessed?

In S3 all assessment is based on your work throughout a unit. Each unit will have a set of tasks that you should complete, and a unit assessment that will consist of a practical task and report. Your ability is judged on the evidence you produce. Computer work is favoured over written tests.

What Senior Phase course in S4 does this lead into?

The S4 Computing Science course builds upon the work we have carried out in S3. New programming languages are tried, and tasks involving web sites and databases are completed. Theory units on web design, databases and computer systems are also undertaken. A coursework task or Added Value Unit will be completed and contribute to a final pass for National 4 or 31% of grade at National 5.

DRAMA



“Drama is like life with the dull bits cut out!”

Alfred Hitchcock (famous director)

Why Study Drama?

Drama isn't just about acting: it is so much more than that!

Drama develops skills and knowledge that are extremely useful in the wider contexts of both school life and beyond in your career. Can you think of **any** job that does not involve communication with other people? Nope, neither can we! Consequently, Universities (and not just those that offer Drama/theatre courses) also see the real benefits of studying Drama at school. If you want to develop your abilities in communication, creativity, team-work and leadership then Drama is the course for you! Drama will also help you to increase your overall confidence too; so, it's a win-win!

What will I learn about in Drama?

The S3 Drama course is really exciting, challenging and fun! The course provides you with rich opportunities to be creative and to experience inspiration and enjoyment from both performing on stage and practically exploring technical theatre. Creating and presenting are prominent activities: your performance, presenting and production skills are developed through participating in scripted and/or improvised drama work whilst exploring real and imaginary situations. Alongside this, you will learn to implement and evaluate aspects of technical theatre such as lighting, sound, costume, props, set and hair and make-up.



What homework should I expect?

Homework is given for two reasons: to support your understanding and for you to develop your independent learning skills. Sometimes, you create your own homework which might be an additional rehearsal of a class project for example. Homework in Drama can also be any of the following: learn lines, read texts, research production roles and answer exam-type questions, reading, drawings, and research. It will always compliment what you are doing in class.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed throughout the session by your teacher in the same way you were assessed in S1 and S2. Some assessments may include a combination of practical work, tests and projects. There is a major final Theatre Arts project that occurs towards the end of the S3 course. This is a culmination of all you have learned in your time in Drama to date.

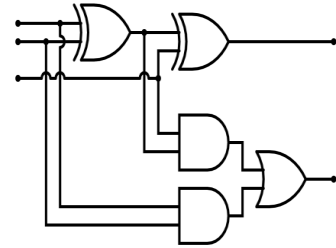
What Senior Phase course in S4 does this lead into?

At the end of S3, pupils could progress to a course leading onto a SQA qualification: National 4 or National 5 Drama in S4.

ENGINEERING SCIENCE

Why study Engineering Science?

Over the next few years, there is likely to be a shortage of suitably qualified engineers. With increasing emphasis on areas such as renewable energy and major construction projects, opportunities for Engineers may never be better.



What will I learn about in Engineering Science?

In S3 pupils to develop a range of technological skills, including skills in analysis and problem solving, design skills, skills in the use of equipment and materials, and skills in evaluation products and systems. These skills, knowledge and awareness are developed through a range of contexts within the broad discipline of engineering, including mechanical, structural, pneumatic and electronic systems.

In S3 Engineering Science pupils will study the following topics:

- Mechanical drive systems
- Analogue Electronics
- Renewable Energy
- Engineering Contexts
- Systems Approach
- Structures & Materials



What homework should I expect?

A Homework booklet will be issued at the start of the year covering all the topics covered in S3. You may need a calculator to help you with some of the problem solving questions. Pupils will also be expected to be working on projects related to class topics throughout the year.

How will I be assessed?

All worked is internally assessed and will be based on course work, computer programs and built electronic devices. Pupils will be asked to complete a challenges and context extended text based on knowledge of the role of engineers.

What Senior Phase course in S4 does this lead into?

Our S3 course will prepare pupils for National 4/5 Engineering Science in S4.

ENGLISH

Why study English?

The study of English is highly important in encouraging creativity in our young people. Within this course, the skills of listening and talking, reading and writing overlap and thus are all developed together.

The texts to which learners are introduced have a significance that goes far beyond the classroom, stimulating ideas about real-life issues, values and relationships. These in turn support learners' own creativity. Whether they are listened to, watched or read, texts studied allow young people to analyse and evaluate styles and techniques which provide models for their own talking and writing. Above all, English encourages the appreciation of literature and media, and provides an engaging and motivating experience for students.

What will I learn about in English?

The experiences and outcomes of literacy across learning involve skills which will be learned in English as well as in all curricular areas. In English, however, there are particular skills which are of focus: features of spoken language, media techniques, and the ability to understand and to create characterisation, setting, structure and appropriate style. Learners will also have opportunities to write/ talk imaginatively and to explore personal and reflective ideas.

What homework should I expect?

Students will be asked to complete homework for English on a regular basis. The length of time required to complete homework assignments may naturally vary from task to task and from week to week. Reading widely is a core element of the homework programme.

How will I be assessed?

Students are assessed through a variety of methods: formative assessment, guided peer/self-assessment, comment-only marking, summative assessment - and target setting. Much assessment is planned as part of pupils' day-to-day learning and much assessment evidence will occur naturally in the course of their work. Teachers take account, not only of the outcomes and experiences related to the English Department, but also consider Literacy, Numeracy, Health and Well-Being and Digital Skills.

What Senior Phase course in S4 does this lead into?

The S3 Broad General Education English course leads to a progression pathway through National 4 and National 5. Both courses may include elements of Media.



FRENCH

“ The limits of my language are the limits of my world. ”
–Ludwig Wittgenstein



Why Study French?

More tourists (75 million) visit France than any other country in the world. French is the only language other than English spoken on five continents. French and English are the only two global languages. French will give you the numerous choices later on in your studies or your career. The French economy is one of the strongest in the world and is increasingly a leader in technological innovation. France is a major world leader in medical research, electronics manufacturing, telecommunications and aircraft and automobile production. It has been proven by a substantial body of research that the benefits of learning French include better understanding of different cultures, improved self confidence, enhanced ability to build new relationships, improved literacy skills, enhanced problem solving, interpersonal and communication skills and increased employability.

What will I learn about in French?

In S3 you will study the following topics in French:

Family and Friends - You will learn how to describe your relationships with your family and friends

Media - You will learn how to talk about TV, books, cinema and music

Lifestyles - You will learn how to talk about sports and leisure as well as healthy and unhealthy lifestyles

Citizenship - You will learn how to talk about your home town as well as other places around the world, in particular, French speaking countries.

You will have the opportunity to study many aspects of French culture such as films, music and poetry.

What homework should I expect?

You will learn vocabulary and practise grammar points. You will complete short Listening and Reading Tasks.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment evidence will be gathered from daily activities and planned assessment tasks, including tests and homework. Pupils will engage in self and peer assessment, they will also have pieces of work formally assessed by the teacher. There will be a balance of assessments in the skills of Reading, Talking, Listening and Writing.

What Senior Phase course in S4 does this lead into?

At the end of S3, pupils will be recommended to go on to follow a National 4 or National 5 course in French in S4.

GEOGRAPHY

Why Study Geography?

Geography can take you down a number of career pathways. Geography students are very employable because of their broad skills base and understanding of the world that we live in.

By studying Geography, you are learning about issues that impact on our world on a daily basis. You will gain a greater understanding of the people and the world that we live in as well as what can be done to control major global issues such as Climate Change

Many universities and colleges recognise Geography as both an Art and a Science. Studying Geography can link to several modern careers in urban planning, environmental work, civil engineering, conservation and tourism.

Geography students can easily enter other careers including journalism, business, law, accountancy and banking.

What will I learn about in Geography?

Geography provides learners with an understanding of the physical environment around them, and the ways in which people interact with this environment. In the 21st century, learners will appreciate and develop a growing awareness of major global issues and the impact of human activity upon the environment.

Throughout S3 you will examine Physical Geography topics such as weather in the UK and the formation of landscapes during the ice age. You will also study the impact of people on our world, Human Geography, using case studies of developed and developing world cities. In terms of Global Issues, you will have the opportunity to focus on events that affect the wider world such as Climate Change.

What homework should I expect?

Homework is an integral part of the course and the department will focus homework on a variety of tasks to develop your individual skills including literacy, numeracy and knowledge. Completing exam style questions is an important and very useful way of preparing you for external exams and the department will build this into your learning.

How will I be assessed?

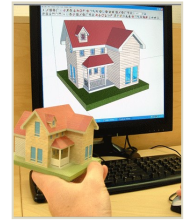
Assessment will take a variety of forms from topic assessments to project based work which will assess a wide range of skills that you possess.

What Senior Phase course in S4 does this lead into?

At the end of this course progression will be to National 4 or National 5 Geography.



GRAPHIC DESIGN AND MANUFACTURE



Why study Graphic Design and Manufacture?

The aims of the Course are to enable learners to develop:

- skills in design and manufacturing models, prototypes and products
- knowledge and understanding of manufacturing processes and materials
- skills in graphic communication techniques, including the use of equipment, materials and software

What will I learn about in Graphic Design and Manufacture?

The S3 CfE course in Graphic Design and Manufacture will introduce learners to diverse and every increasing variety of presentation methods. Everything from Desk Top publishing to working prototypes and from hand done planning visuals to technical drawing on a drawing board. A good mixture of practical projects will provide the opportunities for pupils to showcase their graphic ability, design skills as well as skills in making prototypes and products.

In S3 Design and Manufacture pupils will study the following topics:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Design Concepts | 2D/3D Manual Graphics |
| • Investigate materials | 2D/3D CAD |
| • Manufacturing techniques | Pencil rendering |
| • CAD/CAM | Computer renderings |
| • Design Folios | Model Manufacture |

What homework should I expect?

A homework booklet will be given out at the start of the year covering all the topics in S3 Graphic Design and Manufacture. Homework will be a combination of sketching and theory based questions.

How will I be assessed?

Pupil's assessment will be based on

- Quality of graphic design based folios
- Graphic Design theory class tests
- Quality of manufactured artefacts.



What Senior Phase course in S4 does this lead into?

Our S3 course will prepare pupils for National 4/5 Design and Manufacture **or** National 4/5 Graphic Communication.

HISTORY

Why Study History?

Employers and universities are often looking for the skills you will develop through studying History - research, careful thought, questioning of evidence, clear and precise reporting, and balanced judgements. History also encourages independent, critical and imaginative thinking.



These skills are highly valued in a number of careers e.g. journalism and the media, law, politics and the civil service, scientific research, the entertainment, leisure, heritage and tourism industries, teaching and many others. History is a well respected subject for university entrance and develops skills useful in any course.

History is a well respected subject for university entrance and develops skills useful in any course.

History helps us to understand ourselves and our society, nationally and internationally. It helps us look at evidence, respect different points of view, think critically and reach balanced conclusions.

What will I learn about in History?

This course covers the First World War and the impact it had on Scotland. It looks at the Causes of WW1; Soldiers' Experience (recruitment, life in the trenches, new technology of WW1, battles); The Home Front (rationing, changing role of women, Suffragettes, conscription and conscientious objectors); Industry and Politics (women's fight for the vote, Red Clydeside, changes in industry). The S3 course will also cover a unit on infamous murders from history, as well as the chance to study a topic of your choice.

What homework should I expect?

Homework will be given regularly. This will include ICT projects, written tasks and research tasks.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is ongoing and will include participation in class activities, written work, ICT projects, source skills, creating reports, and presentations.

What Senior Phase course in S4 does this lead into?

The S3 course leads onto National 4 History and National 5 History courses in S4.



HOME ECONOMICS

Why study Home Economics?

Home Economics really does build your confidence in skills for learning, life and work. Home Economics will help develop your practical cookery skills and knowledge of human nutrition as well as wide range of food issues. As a technologies subject, you will learn many transferable skills such as planning and organisation whilst having opportunity to be creative. Our learners go on to have careers in health, sports science, hospitality, food technology and teaching.



What will I learn about in Home Economics?

Hygiene and Food Safety- You will learn about the principles and practices of food hygiene. This will develop your knowledge of the food hygiene industry, food poisoning bacteria and public health law. From this unit you will have the opportunity to pass your REHIS elementary food hygiene certificate which is highly valued by employers in the Hospitality industry and extremely useful for a part time job.

Food for Health – This unit develops an in depth knowledge of health, nutrition, dietary needs and advice, as well as lifestyle choices and their impact on health. Through experiential learning, it develops practical skills and knowledge of food preparation techniques. Pupils will be given the chance to design and prepare a two course meal of their choice to demonstrate knowledge gained.



Cookery Skills, Processes and Techniques – This unit aims to develop learners' cookery skills, food preparation techniques and the ability to follow cookery processes, in the context of producing dishes. Pupils will have opportunity to design and present their own recipes.

What homework should I expect?

Homework may take the form of reports, written questions, revision or research tasks. Pupils will be expected to practice practical skills at home.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment will be similar to S1 and S2 with a mixture of practical cookery and written assessment. For hygiene and food safety the REHIS examination will be counted as the final assessment for this unit.

What Senior Phase course in S4 does this lead into?

Pupils can choose between National 4 Hospitality or National 4/5 Health and Food Technology at the end of S3. Your teacher will advise you on the best course for you.



MATHEMATICS

Why study Mathematics?

Mathematics is important in everyday life, allowing us to make sense of the world around us and to manage our lives. Using mathematics enables us to model real-life situations and make connections and informed predictions. It equips us with the skills we need to interpret and analyse information, simplify and solve problems, assess risk and make informed decisions

S3 Pupils will continue a broad and general education in Mathematics, following Experiences and Outcomes (Es and Os) from second, third or fourth levels as appropriate. Throughout S3 pupils will develop knowledge and understanding of key facts and ideas in mathematics and numeracy. Pupils will continue to develop logical thinking, problems solving skills and the ability to think in different ways. Pupils will cover a range of topics, contributing to the various significant aspects of learning. Some of the topics covered in S3 are: Patterns in the Environment, Percentages, Volume & Surface Area of Prisms, Number Patterns & Relationships, Factorising, Information Handling, Angles in Circles & Triangles, Similarity and Proportion.

What homework should I expect?

Homework will be issued regularly. There will be a mixture of written exercises, completion of class work, worksheets, research task and online materials. Pupils are always advised to continually revise all previous learning throughout the session.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment will be ongoing and periodic. Assessment evidence will be gathered from daily activities and planned assessment tasks, including formal assessments and homework. The evidence will show that learners have understood a significant amount of knowledge and will have used a range of Mathematical skills. Pupils will be assessed how well they have coped with different, challenging experiences and how they have been able to apply what they have learned. Learner's progress will be judged on the work pupils say, write, make and do. Pupils will complete evaluation sheets for each assessment which will show strengths and areas for development after each assessment to ensure continual progression opportunities.

What Senior Phase course in S4 does this lead into?

At the end of S3, pupils will be recommended, in line with national advice, to go on to follow a National 3 Applications, National 4 Mathematics or National 5 Mathematics course in S4, depending on the level they have achieved.



MODERN STUDIES

Why study Modern Studies?

Modern Studies will challenge you to use your critical thinking skills to question and investigate social, economic and political issues which help to develop a sense of responsible citizenship. Careers using Modern Studies are many and varied; including law, business, civil service, medicine and politics.

What will I learn about?

The S3 curriculum is designed around the themes of social justice, participation and representation. In "Young People and the Law", you will examine issues of social justice such as the causes and consequences of crime through the context of knife crime. We visit HMP Low Moss and Dumbarton Sheriff Court, you will also have the opportunity to participate in workshops run by Police Scotland and the Law Society.

Whilst studying "The American Dream or Nightmare?" you will explore the opportunities people have in the USA to make money and how they deal with issues such as poverty, crime and ill-health. You will examine the role of pressure groups and politicians in bringing about change. We use the experiences of US citizens to explore how they can participate in the political system; using films, TV programmes and music as evidence.

What homework should I expect?

Homework is a key part of our learning and teaching. Some tasks will be investigative, requiring research and presentation of findings, other tasks will focus on evaluation of sources.

How will I be assessed?

You have been building a portfolio of your best work in Modern Studies during S1&2, this will continue as you move into S3 to complete your BGE. This portfolio is evidence of your progress from S1-3 and will help to inform your next steps.

What could you do next in S4 Senior Phase?

In S4 you can work towards a National Qualification in Modern Studies, either level 4 or 5 depending on your progress through S4. National 5 will provide a sound foundation for S5/6 with options that include Highers in Modern Studies, Politics and Sociology.



MUSIC

'I live my daydreams in music. I see my life in terms of music... I get most joy in life out of music.' - Albert Einstein

Why study Music?

The Music course is an exciting, creative and practical based course. It is not just for the “gifted” musician but for anyone who has an interest in learning to play an instrument or sing. Music is an important and valued subject that will allow you to develop life skills such as creativity, communication, discipline, teamwork and the ability to overcome challenges whilst building confidence.

What will I learn about in Music?

In S3 you will follow an exciting and practical Music course which offers flexibility and choice. You will be challenged to learn new skills in performing, composing and understanding music based on your own musical interests. After choosing two instruments or instrument/voice to focus on, you will develop your skills both individually and as part of a group. You will learn about a variety of styles and cultures through listening and performing, and have opportunities to incorporate these influences into your compositions. The Music course is suitable for all levels of ability – not only the experienced performer, but for anyone with an interest in the subject.

What homework should I expect?

Homework will be a combination of instrumental practice and revision/research to support what you have covered in class.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed on an ongoing basis with more formal assessments towards the end of the year. During assessments we will look at your ability to work in a group as well as independently using your practical and creative skills.

What Senior Phase course in S4 does this lead into?

The S3 course leads onto the National 4 or National 5 Qualification in S4.



MUSIC TECHNOLOGY



Why study Music Technology?

Music Technology is an exciting and practical based course which aims to develop transferable skills required for many jobs within media, communications, advertising and sound engineering, both live and within the recording studio. The course develops skills in creativity, working co-operatively, problem solving and organisation. It also shows that you can demonstrate initiative, dependability, leadership and enterprise, fostering a work ethic and dedication to achieving the highest standards.

What will I learn about in Music Technology?

The Music Technology course will provide you with the opportunity to develop audio/visual skills along with those required for a career in the music industry. You will use hardware and software to edit/enhance both pre-recorded and invented sounds from a range of sources including live recordings. Working in groups and individually you will explore a variety of recording, mixing and editing techniques. Your projects will include; creating a dance track, an audio book and computer game sound design. Emphasis is placed on creativity and pupil centred learning where you will be given opportunities for personalisation and choice within each project. As the course is technology based, no instrumental skills are necessary, however you may choose to incorporate live performance into your projects.

What homework should I expect?

Homework will be very practical and will include listening to the construction of dance tracks and identifying the importance of edited music in films and gaming (PC/consoles).

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed on an ongoing basis with more formal assessments taking place at the end of each project. During assessments we will look at your ability to work in a group as well as independently using your practical knowledge and creative/problem solving skills.

What Senior Phase course in S4 does this lead into?

At the end of S3 pupils can choose to continue the subject which will lead onto a National 4 or National 5 Qualification in S4. The National Music Technology Course continues to be a very practical course with pupils working on their own personalised projects.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Why study Physical Education?

This course is for all students who have an interest in and enthusiasm for developing their physical performance, either to pursue study or to broaden their learning experience in practical contexts. If you choose elective Physical Education (PE) not only will you gain the knowledge basis for our National Qualifications but you'll gain many valuable skills which will help you in other subjects as well as ANY future career. Some of the skills that you will develop include: communication skills, problem solving, and analysis, working with others, leadership and many more.

What will I learn about in Physical Education?

The course has two areas of study. In Performance, pupils will be working through practical skills in a variety of activities. Activities are negotiated by all pupils and the member of staff leading for personalisation and choice.

For the theoretical part of the course, you will be introduced to the Cycle of Analysis. The main themes are Investigate, Analyse, Develop and Evaluate to improve performance. You will be introduced to the four factors and how they contribute to activities. These are Mental, Emotional, Social and Physical factors. Understanding of SQA command words will also be introduced, such as Describing and Explaining which will support learning for progression and for other subjects.

What homework should I expect?

Homework can be an important part of the course to consolidate the learning within the practical activities. Each activity will have homework units and will be Homework will be issued with a frequency of every 3-4 weeks when necessary.

How will I be assessed?

Pupils will be assessed on a continuous basis in the practical activities. Activities are usually in a set block of eight weeks. Throughout each block we will assess the pupil's ability to demonstrate a comprehensive range of movement and performance skills in the activity. For the theoretical aspects of the course, pupils will be formatively assessed throughout the year using short written tasks.

What Senior Phase course in S4 does this lead into?

The S3 PE Studies course will prepare pupils for National 4 or 5 level courses in S4 for Physical Education and or Dance. For the last two years all pupils have been presented at National 5 level'.

PHYSICS



Why study Physics?

Physics is the study of energy and matter. Physics tries to explain the world around us; why things fall when they are dropped, why you can walk on ice but not on water, how sound can be produced and manipulated, how information can be beamed around the world in an instant, how we get power to our homes, how CT scanners work, what everything is made of and even how the Universe began.

If you want to understand the answer to any of these questions (or many others) then Physics is the subject for you.

An understanding of Physics is important in careers varying from astrophysics to archaeology, from radiography to telecommunications as well as ophthalmology, medicine, engineering and aviation (to name but a few).

What will I learn about in Physics?



In this course you will develop a scientific understanding of physics issues, as well as knowledge and understanding of physics concepts. There will be the opportunity to develop problem solving, and analytical and critical thinking skills, through a range of activities, including experimental work and working cooperatively with others. In S3 Physics the topics covered include sound, waves, light, the electromagnetic spectrum, radioactivity and electricity.

What homework should I expect?

Homework in Physics is issued on a regular basis and may take a variety of forms, including formal written tasks, completion of classwork, revision for assessments, research and preparation of presentations.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment evidence will be gathered from day-to-day class activities as well as homework and set tasks. This will include self and peer assessment, as well as formal assessment by the class teacher. Assessment evidence will sample both knowledge and problem solving skills as well as pupils' ability to communicate scientific ideas.

What Senior Phase course in S4 does this lead into?

Success in this course can lead into either National 4 or National 5 Physics in S4.



RELIGIOUS, MORAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL STUDIES (RMPS)

Why study RMPS?

RMPS gives us the opportunity to study some of the most challenging and fascinating aspects of modern society. The major Scottish universities highlight RMPS as being a rigorous academic subject that provides learners with the **'most desirable qualities sought by universities and employers'**. We live in an increasingly diverse nation and in a world where people hold a variety of beliefs; from religious extremists to liberal movements to atheists. RMPS is now more important than ever. Anyone considering a career in Law, Journalism, Medicine, Politics and more would benefit significantly from studying RMPS.

'The substantive content of RMPS and Philosophy and the development of students' critical faculties, are amongst the most desirable qualities sought by universities and by employers' University of Strathclyde

What will I learn about in RMPS?

World Religion – Islam

In this unit, learners will study the beliefs and practices of Islam. We will look at the major festivals, history, worship, culture and Islamic art using a variety of resources and approaches. Pupils will also be given the opportunity to investigate contentious issues of religion within an increasingly secular world.



Modern Medical Ethics – Genetic Engineering

Why are we obsessed with making the 'perfect' human being? How much research on Embryos is too much research? Should we clone humans? Should laws on embryo research be relaxed or tightened? All these questions and more will be studied in depth.

Philosophical Enquiry – Does God Exist?

How can people believe in God when such awful things happen? If God exists, who or what caused God? Do we exist by pure chance? This engaging course allows us to research the answers to questions which cause many a headache.



Investigation – Learners will undertake an investigation on a religious, moral or philosophical topic of their choice. E.g. Should we test medicines on animals? Is there an afterlife? Should we ever use our nuclear weapons? How can Jews believe in God after the Holocaust?

What homework should I expect?

Meaningful homework which reinforces learning and develops analysis and evaluation skills will be given out every two weeks.

How will I be assessed?

A variety of assessment methods will be used throughout the course of the year, ranging from written assessments, presentations, creative work and a learning log.

What Senior Phase course in S4 does this lead into?

This S3 course will prepare pupils for National 4/5 RMPS.

SPANISH



Why Study Spanish?

Around 400 million people in the world speak Spanish as their first language. Spanish is the official language in 21 countries. Approximately another 150 million people speak Spanish as a second language. Spanish is expected to be the first language of 50% of the population of the United States within 40 years. Today Spanish is an official language of the UN and its institutions, the European Union and other international organisations. Latin American countries are experiencing constant economic growth and because of that, are becoming more important as trading partners. It has been proven by a substantial body of research that the benefits of learning Spanish include better understanding of different cultures, improved self confidence, enhanced ability to build new relationships, improved literacy skills, enhanced problem solving, interpersonal and communication skills and increased employability.

What will I learn about in Spanish?

In S3 you will study the following topics in Spanish:

Introduction - You will learn about greetings, numbers, alphabet and time.

Family and Home - You will learn how to talk about your family, your home and your town.

Daily routine - You will learn how to talk about the activities you do and the food you eat.

Shopping and Leisure - You will learn how to talk about shopping, clothes, sports and other free time activities.

You will have the opportunity to study many aspects of Hispanic culture such as films, music and poetry.

What homework should I expect?

You will learn vocabulary and practise grammar points. You will complete short Listening and Reading Tasks.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment evidence will be gathered from daily activities and planned assessment tasks, including tests and homework. Pupils will engage in self and peer assessment, they will also have pieces of work formally assessed by the teacher. There will be a balance of assessments in the skills of Reading, Talking, Listening and Writing.

What Senior Phase course in S4 does this lead into?

At the end of S3, pupils will be recommended to go on to follow a National 4 or National 5 course in Spanish in S4.