

Firrhill High School



S3 Course Booklet Personalisation and Choice

This booklet describes the S3 curriculum, including each pupil's opportunities to personalise the subjects studied.

Table of Contents

Foreward from Headteacher	4
Important Dates	5
Overview	6
Introduction	6
Subject Choice Is Important	6
Preparing for the world of work	6
The Structure of the Curriculum S1 to S6	8
S1 to S3: -	8
S4 to S6 (The Senior Phase):	9
Structure, Personalisation and Specialisation in S3	11
Structure and choice in S4	12
Language & Literacy	13
English	13
Media	14
French, German and Spanish	14
Mathematics	18
Maths	18
Expressive Arts	21
Art & Design	21
Fashion & Costume	22
Drama	23
Music	24
Music Technology	25
Photography	27
Hairdressing	27
Science	30
Biology	30
Chemistry	31
Engineering	34
Physics	36
Social Subjects: Geography, History, Modern Studies & RMPS	39
Geography	39
History	41
Modern Studies	43
Level 5 NPA Criminology	45

Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies	47
Health & Wellbeing	50
Physical Education	50
Sport and Recreation: Skills for Work Course	51
Sports Studies	52
Personal and Social Education	53
Vocational Education (selected pupils only)	54
Technologies	56
Accounting and Finance	56
Administration and IT	57
Business Studies	58
Computing	60
Economics	61
Design & Technology	62
Graphic Communication	62
Design & Manufacture	63
Food & Consumer Technology	65
Skills Section	66
Introduction	66
Classical Studies	67
Dance	68
Digital Games Design	68
Drama Skills	68
Enterprise in the Technologies	69
Fashion & Textile Tech.	69
Italian for Life and Work	70
Manufacturing Skills:	71
Outdoor Learning (Duke of Edinburgh)	71
PC Passport	72
Philosophy Skills Course	73
Photography	73
Science - Crest Award	74
Sports Leadership	75
Travel and Tourism	75
S3 – Course Choice Input	77

Foreword from Headteacher

Dear Parent/Carer

In February, all S2 pupils will have the chance to personalise learning in S3 by making choices within some curricular areas. This allows pupils to study some subjects in more depth during S1 – S3 while continuing to develop the 4 capacities (successful learners, effective contributors, responsible citizens and confident individuals)

This is an important time for pupils and we spend time in Social Education classes and during Tutor time helping them to understand the choices available and what should be considered as they reach decisions.

As parents and carers you have a vital role in discussing personalisation and career aspirations with your son/daughter. This booklet is provided to assist you by giving details of all the courses running in the 3rd year together with a copy of the personalisation & specialisation form.

Yours sincerely,

Graham Hamilton
Headteacher

Important Dates

- 10th February 2026: S2 Parents Evening
- 13th February 2026: S2 pupils return date for completed course choice forms

Important



Read carefully, each faculty/subject area



Think carefully before you complete the course choice form.



The Skills section is the opportunity to explore your interests.



Only select a subject once.



There is the opportunity to select 2 or 3 Sciences, 2 Languages, 2 Social Subjects, 2 or 3 Technologies

Overview

Introduction

Firrhill High School is committed to providing learning opportunities of the highest quality.

Firrhill High School has implemented Curriculum for Excellence, including:

- Improved methods of learning & teaching, including increased use of IT, active and co-operative learning.
- The provision of experiences designed to fully develop pupils' motivation and potential.
- Modernisation and improvement of all programmes of study throughout S1-S6.
- Improved opportunity through the recognition of achievement both within, through the development of the S3 profile, and beyond school.
- Stronger links between schools, the business community and further and higher education.

The purpose of the following pages is to describe briefly the nature of these developments and how they can provide greater opportunity for your child.

Subject Choice Is Important

When making choices within curricular areas it is important that pupils consider their strengths, interests and the importance of certain subjects to particular careers. At the end of S3 pupils will make choices that lead to qualifications in S4, S5 and S6.

Pupil Support staff in school will supply information and advice. They have important links with the Career Service, Local Business and Industry, Further and Higher Education. Our Careers Officer, Caroline Graham, can also offer individual advice.

Preparing for the world of work

In later years pupils will be given the opportunity to take part in a variety of activities which will prepare them for Employment or Further/Higher Education. These include: -

- Work Experience, which can begin in S4 for pupils intending to leave in S4, but which can also take place in S5 or S6.
- College links – as pupils progress through the school they can take part in courses run partly (exceptionally wholly) at one of the local colleges.
- Education/Industry links. In a variety of the courses run from S3 to S6 the following education/industry links have been made: -
 - Use of firms to provide visiting speakers
 - Provision of curriculum support materials
 - Working visits to industry
 - Work simulation for students
 - S6 students participate in Young Enterprise Scheme
 - Use of business games
 - Firrhill Business Partnership S5/6 Work Shadowing placement
- Enterprise in Education – S3 pupils have the opportunity to experience the world of work by taking part in a placement in a local business as part of our Business Partnership with local organisations.
- Competitions, challenges, workplace visits and conferences linked to the curriculum.
- Fieldwork and investigations.
- Visits by University/College staff.

The Structure of the Curriculum S1 to S6

Our curriculum, is defined in terms of 8 curricular areas: -

- Expressive Arts
- Health & Wellbeing
- Languages (English & Modern) & Literacy
- Mathematics & Numeracy
- Religious & Moral
- Sciences
- Social Studies
- Technologies

Each curricular area is subdivided into experiences and outcomes which are defined at 4 levels, with most pupils experiencing levels 1 and 2 during Primary and levels 3 and 4 during S1 to S3.

The curriculum as a whole is designed to ensure that all learners develop the four capacities, which are successful learners; effective contributors; responsible citizens and confident individuals.

In the secondary stage the curriculum is divided into two parts: -

S1 to S3: -

Pupils have an entitlement to develop the four capacities through their study of the experiences and outcomes in all curriculum areas, at least up to the end of level 3 and with the majority of pupils experiencing some or all of the experiences and outcomes at level 4. Pupils will have structured opportunities for interdisciplinary learning and the development of skills for life, work and learning across all curriculum areas. The emphasis will be on a broad general education but there will be increasing opportunities for personalisation within and between curricular areas from S2 onwards. Health & wellbeing, literacy, numeracy and information technology are also taught across all curricular areas.

S4 to S6 (The Senior Phase):

In the senior phase there are 5 learner entitlements: -

1. A coherent curriculum.
2. The opportunity to obtain qualifications to the highest possible level, as well as continuing to develop the 4 capacities.
3. Opportunities to continue to develop skills (learning/life/work) with a continuing focus on literacy, numeracy and health & wellbeing.
4. Personal support.
5. Support in moving into positive and sustained destinations beyond school.

There will be more focus on progression, depth and personalisation & choice than on breadth. Challenge & enjoyment, coherence and relevance retain their importance.

Structure, Personalisation and Specialisation in S3

In S1 and S2 all pupils study within the curricular areas (through individual subjects) and there is personalisation through choice only within the S2 Enhanced Curriculum. In S3 pupils will still study within all curricular areas but will be able to personalise their learning through choice in some curricular areas, as well as being able to choose to specialise in some curricular areas. The arrangements for this are as follows:

Learning continues in:

- Mathematics & Numeracy – pupils will study Maths (3 periods/week)
- Languages (English) & Literacy – pupils will study English (3 periods/week)
- Health & Wellbeing – pupils will study this through the core subjects of Physical Education (2 periods/week) and Personal & Social Education (1 periods/week).
- Religious & Moral – pupils will study RME (1 periods/week)

In total 10 periods per week are compulsory. Pupils who want to study PE or RME in more depth have a chance to choose an extra choice in one or other of these subjects.

Pupils personalise their learning in the following curricular areas (in each case for 3 periods/week):

- Expressive Arts – pupils will choose one of **Art & Design, Drama, Fashion, Music, Music Tech, Photography**
- Languages (Modern) – pupils will choose one of **French, German, Spanish**.
- Sciences – pupils will choose one of **Biology, Chemistry, Engineering, Physics**.
- Social Studies – pupils will choose one of **Geography, History, Modern Studies, RMPS**.
- Technologies – pupils will choose one of **Business, Business Administration, Computing, Graphic Communication, Design & Manufacture, Engineering, Home Economics, Music Tech, Fashion & Textile Tech**.
- 2 further choices will then be made from the subjects in bold above, along with **Religion and Morality in the Modern World, Sport & Recreation** and **Sports Studies** to allow for specialisation in a particular curricular area.
- Skills options – pupils will choose one from the list of skills options which are described more fully later in this booklet.

All of the courses studied are part of the broad general education with content based on the experiences and outcomes at level 3 and 4. However, S3 is also in many ways a “bridge” year,

designed to prepare pupils for the subjects that they will take qualifications in during the senior phase. The experiences and outcomes in the S3 courses will also cover content and skills which are part of qualifications at National 3, National 4 and National 5 (see below).

Structure and choice in S4

During S4 pupils will continue to study the compulsory subjects, Maths, English, Physical Education, PSE and RME. They will also choose to continue with up to 5 of the subjects chosen for study during S3. These are the subjects in which pupils will take assessments leading to qualifications at the end of S4, S5 or S6.

Language & Literacy

In this curricular area the courses are English, Media, French and German.

English

Communication skills are vital in today's society. They can help you talk yourself out of a difficult situation, write a convincing, cogent argument and even propose! The English course will give you the chance to develop your communications skills both writing and talking. You will study a variety of novels, plays, poetry and texts, introducing you to both new and familiar worlds.

What will I learn?

The course has three broad areas:

- Talk and Listening – you will have the chance to give solo talks and participate in group discussions.
- Reading – you will study at least two units per year on texts that match your skills.
- Writing – you will develop skills in writing in a number of styles: discussion essays, poetic, dramatic and narration.

Can I move classes?

You will be set in S3 according to your work in S2 and potential in the subject. Regular monitoring takes place in these groups so that students can move if the work is too easy or too demanding.

English



Enjoy the discovery of reading.

Media



Find out about film.

French, German & Spanish



Languages are an asset globally and in all areas of employment.

Homework

Homework is given on a regular basis to reinforce the skills taught in class. The amount of time spent on formal homework will depend on the level your set, varying from half an hour to an hour a week.

Watching documentaries, going to the cinema and theatre, discussing issues and ideas will help you progress in this subject. Reading broadsheet newspapers and quality fiction will also help you gain the results that you want.

Media

Media is an S3 experiential course that offers pupils the chance to both analyse and create media texts. Over the course of the year, pupils will examine representations and stereotypes in commercial and public service advertising; create their own video adverts; analyse a feature film and documentaries; create film trailers and finally, create their own short films. The course will be of interest to anyone who wishes to gain a deeper understanding of the world of media or anyone who wishes to work creatively in unfamiliar contexts. Additionally, there is the opportunity for pupils to gain National 4 credit for this course, and any pupil who wishes to take National 5 Media in S4 would find this course helpful.

French, German and Spanish

In S3, pupils may continue with their studies in as many of the languages they have studied so far in S1 and S2 choosing from French, German or Spanish. They must continue studying at least 1 language in S3.

They can also choose to learn Italian through “Italian for Life and Work” (see Skills Options section).

Why study a Modern Language?

Opportunities for study and employment are no longer confined to our country of origin and more and more people are travelling to, living in and working in different countries.

Learning a language can open the door to different opportunities such as foreign travel, working abroad and employment. It opens students’ minds to other ways of life and

cultures. In today's workplace, the ability to speak another language is hugely valued by employers and institutions of further and higher education, and the associated skills are highly transferrable.

Learning other languages also enables young people to make connections with different people and their cultures, and to play a fuller part in their role as global citizens.

During their language studies, students develop skills in:

- **communication** – the ability to communicate their thoughts, ideas and feelings and respond confidently and articulately to others
- **literacy** – which is essential for learning, work and life
- **problem solving, analysing & investigating** – making links between languages, enabling them to develop a better understanding of their mother tongue as well as the modern language
- **ICT** – using different media to enhance learning
- **critical and creative thinking** – developing cognitive skills and the ability to plan, organise and lead their own learning

Course outline

S3 French, Spanish or German will offer pupils the opportunity to build on the skills developed and knowledge gained in S1-S2. Contexts covered include Family and Friends, Personal Relationships, Lifestyles, Global Languages, Citizenship and Planning a trip and incorporate several interdisciplinary opportunities.

Homework

There will be regular activities to complete at home as well as revision and consolidation of vocabulary/classwork.

Progression Pathways

S3 Modern Languages provides progression routes through National 4 and National 5 qualifications, which in turn can lead to Higher and Advanced Higher qualifications.

Preparing for the World of Work

Modern Linguists go on to a wide variety of courses in further education, higher education and careers in sectors such as:

Business	Banking & Finance	Economics	Translation & Interpreting
STEM	Teaching & Education	Journalism	Law
Politics	Sales & Marketing	Travel & Tourism	Hospitality
Publishing	Retail	Manufacturing	International Development
Film & TV	Creative Arts & Design	Media & Internet	Environment & Agriculture
Property	Human Resources	Sport	Charity & Voluntary Sector

Mathematics

In this curricular area all pupils will study Maths.

Maths

Mathematics is the study of measurement, properties and relationships using numbers and symbols.

It is important in our everyday life. Following a recipe, decorating your room, buying a car or house, receiving correct change, understanding bank statements all require maths. Later on in life you could be building bridges/motorways, calculating risk for insurance companies or developing new medicines all of which use mathematical principles.

Mathematics can help you now and in the future by developing your ability to calculate, reason and to solve problems.

What topics will be covered in S3?

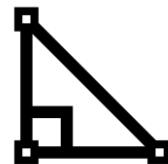
You will be continuing with your Curriculum for Excellence course covering the following areas:

- Estimation and Rounding
- Number and Number Processes
- Powers and Roots
- Fractions, Decimal Fractions and Percentages
- Money
- Patterns and Relationships
- Expressions and Equations
- Properties of 2D Shapes and 3D Objects

Maths



Maths is important.



It is used in many occupations e.g building, decorating, science, medicine, finance, hairdressing etc

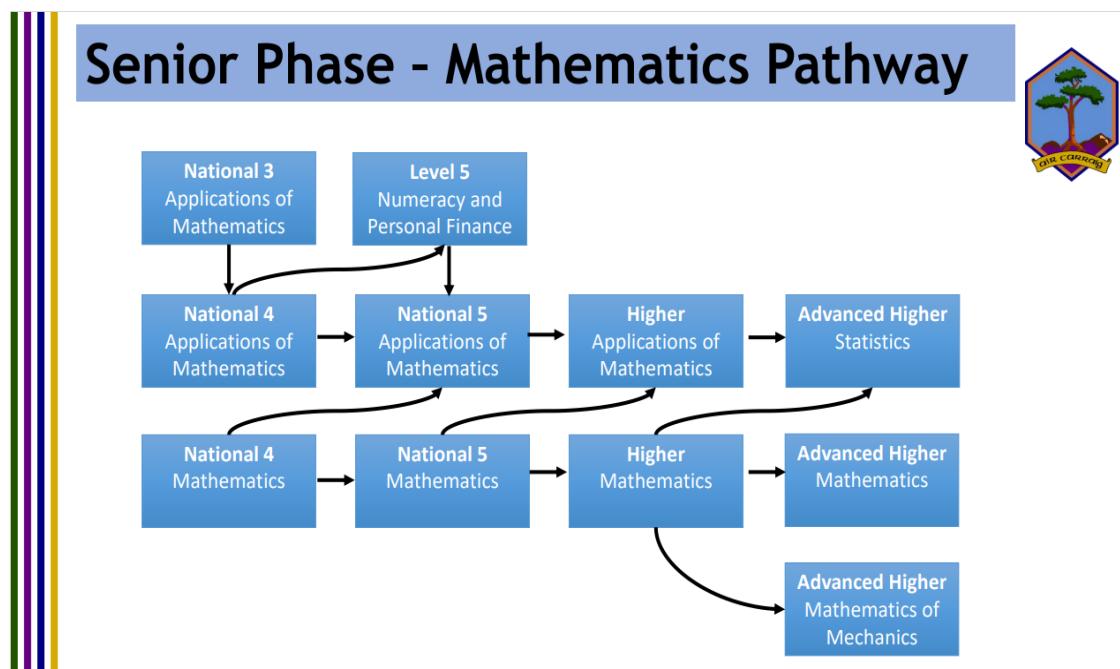


Money you spend, money you owe.

- Data and Analysis
- Ideas of Chance and Uncertainty

Progression in further years:

You can progress from the experiences and outcomes from your course into the new qualifications at National 3, National 4 or National 5 level, which can lead to Higher Mathematics and Advanced Higher Mathematics.



Mathematics can be applied to a wide range of careers from an accountant, architect, biologist, chemist, physicist, computer programmer, engineer, doctor / nurse, electrician, mechanic, plumber or even a pilot.

Expressive Arts

In this curricular area the courses are Art and Design, Drama, Music, Music Tech, Fashion & Textile Tech and Photography

Art & Design

The S3 Course has an integrated approach to learning, and includes a mix of practical learning and knowledge and understanding of art and design practice. In the Course learners will draw upon their understanding of the main factors influencing artists' and designers' work and practice. Learners will experiment with and use a range of art and design materials, techniques and/or technology to develop their own creative art and design work. Learners will use problem solving skills and self-reflect on their creative choices and decisions when developing their creative ideas.

The S3 course is split into Expressive and Design Activities, with integrated studies of artists and designers.

Expressive Activity:

This activity helps learners to develop their personal thoughts and ideas in visual form. Learners will develop critical understanding of artists' working practices and the social and cultural influences affecting their work. They will select stimuli and produce analytical drawings and studies. They will develop and refine their expressive ideas and artwork, experimenting with and using a range of materials, techniques and/or technology in 2D and/or 3D formats when responding to stimuli.

Art



Discover your artistic talents

Drama



Act, direct, stage design

Fashion & Textile



Music



Enjoy, learn an instrument, music technology



Photography

Design Activity:

In this activity learners will plan, research and develop creative design work in response to a design brief. They will develop their creativity, problem solving and critical thinking skills as they consider design opportunities, and work to resolve design issues and constraints.

Learners will develop critical understanding of designers' working practices and the main social and cultural influences affecting their work. They will experiment with, develop and refine their design ideas, using a range of materials, techniques and/or technology in 2D and/or 3D formats.

Homework:

Students will be expected to regularly carry out research and complete written work at home.

Course Assessment:

Students are continually assessed in the S3 course using the Curriculum for Excellence levels and are encouraged to be reflective, identifying strengths in their own work and that of others.

Fashion & Costume

Studying Fashion & Costume introduces learners to techniques that are important in the fashion and costume design sectors

It develops practical, creative, technical and transferable skills and gives the opportunity to build skills and portfolios for progression to next level courses.

It also gives learners the opportunity to learn a range of construction techniques using the sewing machine, how to read, use and draft patterns and how to use a range of embellishment techniques to enhance their fashion or costume designs. Students also get the opportunity to work on their own self led clothing alterations and small textile projects using the skills they are learning in the course.

Fun and useful life skills for everyone!

Homework:

Students are asked to regularly undertake research and planning activities to supplement and develop their practical work.

Course Assessment:

The emphasis in S3 is on formative assessment with regular feedback on their practical skills. Students will complete the first unit of the NPA Costume level 5 group Award: Introductory Sewing Machine Skills.

Progression:

The Group Award is awarded at the end of S4 on the successful completion of the following units:

- Introductory Sewing Machine Skills
- Introduction to Garment Pattern Construction
- Art and Design: Introduction to Surface Decoration

This course is excellent preparation for Advanced Higher: Design - Fashion in S5 or S6.

Drama

The Course uses an integrated approach to learning which develops practical skills as well as knowledge and understanding of drama. As learners develop their creating skills, they will also learn how to use a range of drama skills. They will experiment with presenting through portrayal of character and by using a range of production skills.

Through creating and presenting drama, evaluation skills will also be developed as learners evaluate their own skills and progress, and that of other learners. Learners will also consider cultural values, identities and ideas which influence drama.

The Course structure is as follows:

Drama Skills:

Learners will explore and develop a range of drama skills and ways of communicating thoughts and ideas to an audience. They will develop a range of skills as an actor. They will learn how to respond to stimuli, including text. They will also learn how to develop portrayal of character in a range of ways and develop knowledge and understanding of form, structure, genre and style when creating and presenting drama.

Learners will develop knowledge and understanding of social and cultural influences on drama. They will also learn how to evaluate their own progress and that of other learners.

Drama: Production Skills:

Learners will develop a range of production skills. They will use these skills to enhance drama when presenting. Learners will use problem-solving skills in order to generate ideas for presenting drama.

Homework:

Students will be asked to participate in home study activities which may include written tasks, research, learning lines and theatre visits.

Course Assessment:

Students are continually assessed in the S3 course using the Curriculum for Excellence levels and are encouraged to be reflective, identifying strengths in their own work and that of others.

Music

The Course has an integrated approach to learning and includes a mixture of practical learning and understanding of music. In the Course, learners will draw upon their understanding of music styles and concepts as they experiment with using these in creative ways when performing and creating music. The course is structured as follows:

Music: Performing Skills

Learners will develop performing skills on two selected instruments, or on one selected instrument and voice. They will perform level-specific music with sufficient accuracy and will

maintain the musical flow. Learners will, through regular practice and self- reflection, develop technical and musical performing skills.

Music: Composing Skills

Learners will experiment with a range of compositional methods and music concepts to realise their intentions when creating original music. Learners will self-reflect on the impact and effectiveness of their creative choices and decisions and develop understanding of how composers create music in different ways and the things that influence their work.

Understanding Music

Through listening, learners will develop knowledge and understanding of a variety of level-specific music concepts, and music literacy. They will identify and recognise specific music styles and concepts, and music signs and symbols used in music notation.

Homework:

Students are expected to do 30 minutes listening revision each week as homework. This should be revising concepts taught in class. Instrumental practise is essential, and students should aim for 20 – 30 minutes 5 times a week on each instrument.

Course Assessment:

Students are continually assessed in the S3 course using the Curriculum for Excellence levels and are encouraged to be reflective, identifying strengths in their own work and that of others.

Music Technology

The course has three main elements:

1. Music Technology Skills

Learners will develop a range of skills and techniques relating to the creative use of music technology hardware and software to capture and manipulate audio. Learners will explore a range of uses of this technology through practical activities.

2. Understanding 20th and 21st Century Music

Learners will develop knowledge and understanding of 20th/21st century musical styles and genres, and an understanding of how music technology has influenced and been influenced by 20th/21st century musical developments.
Learners will develop a broad understanding of the music industry, including a basic awareness of the implications of intellectual property

3. Music Technology in Context

Learners will use music technology skills in a range of contexts such as live performance, radio broadcast, composing and/or sound design for film, TV themes, adverts and computer gaming.

The courses aim to enable candidates to:

- develop skills in the analysis of music in the context of a range of 20th and 21st century musical styles and genres
- develop an understanding of aspects of the music industry, including a basic awareness of implications of intellectual property rights
- develop skills in the use of music technology hardware and software to capture and manipulate audio
- use music technology creatively in sound production in a range of contexts  critically reflect on their own work and that of others

Homework:

Students will be asked to participate in home study activities which may include written tasks, research, further development of classwork.

Course Assessment:

The course is assessed formatively, and also uses Listening Question papers and Practical assignments as assessment tools.

Progression:

Taking this course is excellent preparation for National 5 Music Tech in S4 and Higher in S5/6

Photography

- 1) Those who would like to take up Photography at Higher in the senior Phase
- 2) Those with an interest in photography as a hobby
- 3) Those who would like to use photography to supplement their Art & Design work.

Students undertake an introduction to photography by choosing to focus on either:

- Photographing people

OR

- Photographing places

They will learn by: -

- Understanding how to use a digital SLR camera
- Taking inspiration from the work of leading photographers
- Identifying and developing a personal theme using subjects of their own choice
- Planning their own photographic sessions considering style, composition and technical issues
- Critically evaluating their photographs and identifying how to improve them
- Presenting a folio of 5 finished photos

Progression Pathways:

- Students will be in a very good position to undertake the Higher photography course in S5/6

Hairdressing

Develop skills in styling and dressing hair for everyday, special events and performances such as fashion shows and dance shows.

Students will have the opportunity to apply their skills with real clients in the salon.

Progression Pathways:

The skills pupils will gain will enhance their ability to take the following course in the Senior

Phase: -

- Skills for Work Hairdressing – National 4/National 5

Science

In this curricular area the courses are Biology, Chemistry, Engineering and Physics

Biology

What is Biology?

Biology is the study of the living world around us. Biology aims to find explanations and answer many questions in the world today. Biology explores the world of living things through the study of animals, plants and microbes. The use of genetic modification to produce new plants and drugs, devising fertility treatments, curing genetic diseases and developing new sources of food are all important reasons for studying Biology. We need to better understand the impact of humans on the living world.

The Biology course will develop knowledge and understanding of biological issues and aims to build learners' interest and enthusiasm for the subject.

Progression

The Biology course builds on prior learning from S1 and S2. After completing the S3 Biology course pupils will be able to progress to a qualification at National 3, National 4 or National 5 in S4. Progression is available for pupils to continue their study of Biology in S5.

What will I learn?

All courses involve the study of 3 main areas – Cell Biology, Multicellular Organisms and Life on Earth.

Biology



Nature, cells, plants

Chemistry



Experiments

Engineering



Experiments

Physics



Laws of the universe

Cell Biology -Students will learn about the structure of cells and important processes that take place. The importance of DNA, proteins and biotechnology will be studied alongside the importance of cells.

Multicellular organisms - Students will investigate systems in organisms through biological processes including defence mechanisms and reproduction. Learners will also consider ethical and topical issues within this unit.

Life on Earth - In this unit students will investigate ecosystems and biodiversity. Through investigating interdependence students will learn about adaptations for survival alongside factors that affect population growth. Biodiversity and animal behaviour along with energy and nutrient cycles will also be a focus in this unit. There will also be consideration of ethical, topical and environmental issues.

How will I learn?

The course will use a variety of approaches to develop knowledge and understanding alongside development of important scientific skills. Investigations, active learning, teamwork and IT skills will be further developed in learners. Numeracy and literacy skills are also developed alongside knowledge of health and wellbeing.

The coursework includes:

- Building knowledge and understanding
- Taking part in practical work
- Investigations
- Opportunities to present ideas using IT and multimedia

Chemistry

What is Chemistry?

Chemistry is finding out about the world around us by experimenting. Chemists devise experiments to see how different chemicals interact. They carefully record what they have learned and try to put the information to good use.

Studying Chemistry gives you a wide range of transferable skills which are highly sought after by employers.

Chemists are excellent problem solvers and investigators. They have strong communication and numerical skills and a broad scientific knowledge which helps in scientific, engineering and many other careers.

If you are curious about the world around you, then chemistry is the subject for you!

Progression

The Chemistry course builds on prior learning from S1 and S2. After completing the S3 Chemistry course, pupils will be able to progress to a qualification at National 3, National 4 or National 5 in S4. Progression is available for pupils to continue their study of Chemistry in S5 at National 5 and Higher levels.

What will I learn?

The majority of pupils will follow a course involving the following units:

Chemical Changes and Structure- Students will find out about basic atomic structure: what atoms are made of and why they react. They will find out about different chemical reactions involving acids and alkalis. The importance of acids in food and drink, and their impact on health will be studied.

Topics include

- Rates of Reaction
- Atomic structure and bonding related to properties of materials
- Formulae and reacting quantities

- Acids and bases

Nature's Chemistry- Students will study how chemistry relates to our everyday energy needs on both an individual level (food and drink) as well as society as a whole. They will also study how chemistry impacts the resources we use from planet earth and the global issues related to overuse of these products.

Topics include

- Homologous series
- Everyday consumer products
- Energy from fuels

Chemistry in Society- This unit will focus on the earth's limited resources, including the use of metals, plastics, fertilisers, and nuclear chemistry. Environmental and economic issues are considered throughout this unit.

Topics include

- Metals
- Plastics
- Fertilisers
- Nuclear Chemistry

How will I Learn?

There are a range of different strategies and activities that will be used throughout the course: these are too numerous to mention them all. The list below includes a flavour of what students will experience throughout the course:

- Practical work by following instructions
- Investigative work by developing their own experiments
- Presentations/power points/demonstrations
- Homework/project work
- Individualised learning plans

- Debate and discussion
- Digital learning
- Range of different assessment strategies

Engineering

What is Engineering?

Engineering is the application of mathematics, science, economics, and social knowledge to invent, innovate, design, build, maintain, research, and improve structures, machines, tools, systems, components, materials, processes, solutions, and organizations. Put simply, engineering uses science to solve real world problems and to make useful things. Engineers are responsible for everything from bridges and roads, to water systems, to the electronics in your phone. There are many different types of engineers. This course focuses on seven main areas of engineering, namely Environmental, Civil, Structural, Mechanical, Chemical, Electrical, and Electronic.

Progression

The Engineering course builds on prior learning from S1 and S2. After completing the S3 Engineering course pupils will be able to progress to a qualification at National 4 or National 5 in S4. Progression is available for pupils to continue their enjoyment of Engineering in S5 at Higher level.

What will I Learn?

Pupils will follow a course that will cover a broad range of Engineering topics at an appropriate level. The course will consist of the following 4 units of work.

Engineering context and Challenges

- Engineering roles and disciplines
- The systems approach / sub-systems
- Work Done and Electrical Energy

Energy

- Power and Efficiency
- Sankey diagrams

Analogue & Digital Electronics

- Circuits
- Voltage, Current and Resistance
- Voltage Dividers
- Logic Gates / Flow Charts

Drive Systems

- Belt drives and pulleys
- Gear trains and velocity ratios
- Changing types of motion
- British symbols.

Mechanisms and Structures

- Effects of a Force
- Free body diagrams
- Triangle forces and moments
- Materials properties

How will I Learn?

You will learn using

- Numeracy skills to solve problems
- Computer simulations / programs to solve real world problems.
- Visits to engineering firms and other sites of interest, such as the Forth Bridges and Falkirk Wheel.
- Teams to access homework notes and other on line resources.
- Through individual tasks and through paired and group collaboration.

Physics

What is Physics?

Physics is the study of the laws of nature that govern the behaviour of the universe, from the very smallest scales of sub-atomic particles to the very largest in the universe. By taking Physics you will learn the skills and knowledge needed to apply these laws to solve practical problems. You will also increase your knowledge and understanding of theory and technologies which are at the forefront of cutting-edge science. Physicists engage a broad range of skills to undertake this work.

Progression

The Physics course builds on prior learning from S1 and S2. After completing the S3 Physics course pupils will be able to progress to a qualification at National 3, National 4 or National 5 in S4. Progression is available for pupils to continue their enjoyment of Physics in S5 at Higher level and further into Advanced Higher Physics as well.

What will I Learn?

Pupils will follow a course that will cover a broad range of Physics topics at an appropriate level. The course will consist of the following 4 units of work.

Waves

- Measuring the pitch and volume of sound
- Sonar and diffraction
- Electromagnetic Spectrum
- Refraction
- Wave calculations

Energy

- Energy forms and Work Done
- Electrical, Potential and Kinetic energy
- Conservation of Energy and efficiency
- Practical Applications

Space

- Space exploration
- Satellites
- Cosmology – Big Bang Theory, continuous and line spectra.

Dynamics

- Measuring speed and acceleration
- Scalars and vectors
- Speed-time and velocity-time graphs
- Newton's Laws
- Projectile motion

How will I Learn?

You will learn using

- A range of experiments involving a variety of equipment.
- A virtual Learning Environment (Teams) to access homework notes and other on line resources.
- Through individual tasks and through paired and group collaboration.
- Computer simulations, animations and games.

Social Subjects: Geography, History, Modern Studies & RMPS

In this curricular area the courses are Geography and History.

You can also choose Classical Studies (Roman Britain and Classical Greece) in the S3 Skills section.

Geography

Why study geography?

Geography helps you make sense of the world. It even helps you understand some of the other subjects that you are studying too.

Geography starts with you and extends to the furthest parts of the earth. Geography takes you to places and helps you to understand them and how they are connected. It promotes awareness of environmental issues, sustainability and global citizenship.

Geography is current and topical. Where else would you expect to discuss the impact of a changing climate, the problems of living in a favela in Brazil, flooding in Bangladesh, the importance of choosing what to buy in a supermarket and planning a new ski run in the Cairngorms?

Geography makes use of the latest technology. GIS (Geographical Information Systems), Google Earth and other mapping tools, combined with digital video and images brings the world into the classroom.

Geography



Geography provides you with opportunities for practical activities, including fieldwork, so that you can interact with your environment.

What topics are covered in the course?

- Edinburgh – create a virtual tour of Edinburgh using Google Earth
- Brazil – contrast the Amazon rainforest with the urbanised South-East
- Rivers – investigate how we make use of our river systems
- Food: Local and Global – visit an organic, dairy farm
- The Arctic – find out how people have adapted to live in the frozen north

What are the opportunities for progress?

Geography provides progression routes through the new qualifications, National 4 and National 5, which lead to Higher and Advanced Higher.

Geographers end up in a wide variety of careers, such as:

Census data specialist	Coastal software designer	Cycle route consultant
Diplomat	Environmental consultant	Foreign Correspondent
Geologist	Hydrographic surveyor	International aid worker
Journalist	Land surveyor	Marketing executive
Merchant banker	Retail location analyst	Town planner
Travel agent	TV researcher	Weather forecaster

History

Why study History?

History helps you understand both your past and present. As well as learning about people in the past, History gives you invaluable skills that you can use in many other subjects and even once you have left school, at university or in work.

- History helps you discover how your world developed and how the modern world works.
- History teaches you how to think, process information, ask questions and express your own opinions.
- History helps you understand the origins of modern political and social problems.
- History helps you understand how and why people behaved as they did, whether they were soldiers in World War One, Adolf Hitler or suffragettes who campaigned to win the vote for women.
- History provides you with opportunities for practical activities, including fieldwork, and researching your local historic environment.
- History provides you with the skills employers are looking for.

History



What topics are covered in the course?

We will investigate the ideas and topics that are developed at National 4 and National 5 to ensure you are well prepared and are developing relevant skills prior to starting your national examination courses.

- Scotland and the Era of the Great War, 1910-1928:
- Experience of Scots on the Western Front, including case studies of McCrae's Battalion, the Battle of Loos and the Battle of the Somme.
- Domestic impact of war on Scottish society and culture; industry and economy; politics.
- Germany at the end of WW1.

This will allow you to extend your skills and knowledge whilst also preparing you for progression into S4 courses at National 4 and 5.

What are the opportunities for progress?

S3 History provides progression routes through National 4 and National 5 qualifications, which in turn can lead to Higher, Advanced Higher and NPA qualifications.

Historians progress to a wide variety of careers, such as:

Archaeologist	Teacher	Insurance and Risk	Architecture
Archivist	Tour guide	Intelligence work	Local government
Historical researcher	Architecture	Law	Heritage/Site Management
Museum work	Civil Service	Library & Information Work	Town Planning
Publishing	Journalism	Social Work	Politics

Modern Studies

Why study Modern Studies?

Modern Studies helps you to understand important issues in Scotland and around the world today. This subject will challenge you to form your own opinion about the modern world and engage in informed debate with others. You will develop your understanding of social, political and economic life. You will also learn skills such as drawing conclusions, evaluating sources, identifying bias and decision-making. These skills will help you in other subjects, college, university and work by allowing you to make informed decisions and investigate research methods.

- Modern Studies teaches you about the views of political parties, their purpose, how laws are made and how you can use your democratic rights in the future.
- Modern Studies helps you to identify the causes, impacts and attempts to stop crime.
- Modern Studies allows you to compare social, political and economic life in Scotland to those in other countries.
- Modern Studies helps you to interpret source information and form your own opinions.
- Modern Studies allows you to develop informed opinions that you can use in debate in the future.

Modern Studies



People, society, government, politics.



International Issues



Debate

Find out more about Modern Studies progression pathways by scanning the QR code below:



Find out more about positive destinations from Firrhill's Modern Studies alumni by scanning the QR code below:



What topics are covered in the course?

The 3rd year Modern Studies course will focus on America as a world power. The following topics will be covered:

- America's role as a superpower.
- The causes and impacts of social issues such as crime, health, education and poverty.
- The successes and failures of Government attempts to eradicate inequality.
- The role of the President, Supreme Court, Congress, media and American people in shaping political decisions.
- The rights and responsibilities of American people.

The S3 course will also introduce how to answer a variety of source handling questions that allow pupils to exercise skills such as:-

- making and justifying decisions
- making conclusions
- Identifying bias

What are the opportunities for progress?

The S3 course will allow you to extend your skills and knowledge whilst preparing you for progression into courses at National 4 and 5, Higher and Advanced Higher level.

Those who study Modern Studies end up in a wide variety of careers such as:

Charity worker	International aid worker	Journalist or Reporter
Judge or Sheriff	Lawyer	Local Councillor
Member of Parliament	Police Officer	Political Researcher
Publishing	Social Worker	Teacher

Level 5 NPA Criminology

Why study Criminology?

This course will introduce you to the field of criminology, including the role of the media in reporting crime and how crime is investigated at a local level. You will also be introduced to the physical and psychological evidence available at a crime scene and will develop an understanding of how the criminal justice system operates, including crime prevention. Criminology is one of the fastest growing academic disciplines in the UK.

What is a NPA?

This is a National Progression Award. NPAs teach job specific skills and aim to increase knowledge in a specialist area. This NPA is assessed internally, pupils will complete a portfolio of assessments throughout the school year. Level 5 Criminology is worth 24 SCQF points. Level 5 NPA Criminology breaks down knowledge and understanding of the way crime and justice operates and provides bite-sized chunks of learning.

Career Progression (many and varied)

Court Reporter / Journalist	Lawyer	Crime Prevention Officer
Court roles (e.g. Paralegal, Court Clerk)	Police	Prison Officer
Forensic psychology	Crime Scene Investigator	Social Worker / Youth Worker

Criminology



ne in Edinburgh



ime in the media



me Scene
vestigation

Entrance requirements: Experience of Level 4 Modern Studies, Literacy, Numeracy or another Social Subject is preferable but not essential.

Structure of the Course:

There are three sections to the course that will be assessed:

1. **Crime in the Community** – Pupils will gain a broad understanding of the roles and powers of the police nationally and in the local area. They will also learn about the different categories of crime in Scotland as well as how police manage these categories of crime in the local area. They will also look at how crime is reported by the media in the local area and analyse the language used and how that shapes perceptions of crime in the community.
2. **Crime Scenes** – Pupils will be able to discuss the protocols active at a crime scene, as well as describe the different types of evidence present at a crime scene. They will also be able explain what psychological evidence is and discuss the differences between organised and disorganised criminals from psychological evidence left at crime scenes. Pupils will apply this knowledge and their skills to try and gather evidence from example crime scenes.
3. **National 5 Modern Studies 'Crime and the Law' unit** – A study of the causes, impacts and potential solutions to crime in the UK. Pupils will investigate the court system, custodial and non-custodial sentencing whilst considering alternative solutions.

Assessment:

No external SQA assessment, this means there is no final exam. Assessment will be a combination of practical and knowledge assessments under closed and open-book assessment conditions. Pupils will create a portfolio of assessment work that will be marked by their teachers and could also be looked at by the SQA.

Progression:

National 5 Modern Studies, Higher Modern Studies, National 5 or Higher in another Social Subject

Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies.

Why study RMPS?

Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies focuses on questions of meaning, value and purpose in life and is concerned with humankind's exploration of these questions. The aim of the department is to produce articulate, open-minded, tolerant pupils who are able to empathise with those who differ from themselves. The skills developed in RMPS are valued by employers and universities alike. You will learn to analyse and evaluate sources, beliefs, and viewpoints, form arguments and come to reasoned conclusions on a number of contemporary issues. These skills will help you in other subjects, college, university and work.

- RMPS will allow you to develop an understanding of society and the world in which we live by looking at different religious and non-religious responses to contemporary moral issues
- RMPS teaches you critical thinking skills and gives you the ability to interpret sources and analyse case studies
- RMPS teaches you how to form arguments and develop informed opinions that you can use in debate
- RMPS allows you to develop empathy and the ability to understand other perspectives
- RMPS allows you to learn about the causes of crime and why we punish
- RMPS allows you to learn about the Scottish justice system and compare it with those in other countries

RMPS



RMPS is a core subject until the end of S4 looking at a variety of religious, moral and philosophical issues once a week.

It can also be chosen as a separate subject (see below).

RMPS - Elective

This is a course available in both open choice options, leading to a National 4 or 5 qualification at the end of S4.

Find out more about RMPS progression pathways by scanning the QR code below:



What topics are covered in the course?

The 3rd year RMPS course will focus on a variety of topics from different areas of the course.

The following topics will be covered:

- What is Justice?
- The purposes of punishment
- Utilitarianism
- Christianity
- The problem of suffering and evil

Pupils will have the opportunity to attend trips relating to aspects of the course.

What are the opportunities for progression?

The S3 course will allow you to extend your skills and knowledge whilst preparing you for progression into courses at National 4 and 5, Higher and Advanced Higher level. The National 4/5 course will include topics on Buddhism, Justice and arguments about the Existence of God.

Those who study RMPS end up in a wide variety of careers such as:

Doctor	Nurse	Lawyer
Judge or Sheriff	Police Officer	Human Resources
International Aid Worker	Development Worker	Mediator
Community Development	Teacher	Politician
Social Worker	TV Researcher	Journalist/Reporter

Find out more about positive destinations from Firrhill's RMPS alumni by scanning the QR code:



Health & Wellbeing

Health & Wellbeing covers PE, PSE, Sport & Recreation, Sports Studies & Vocational Skills.

In this curricular area all pupils will study PE (2 periods per week) and PSE (0.5 period per week). Pupils may also opt for one of the sport options in Block 4 which are described below.

Some pupils will be invited to join the Vocational Education programme which is described in the section on PSE below. If you would like your child to be involved in this programme please contact your child's guidance teacher.

Physical Education

All pupils will participate in 2 lessons of Physical Education each week. Over the course of S3 pupils will be given the opportunity to develop their ability within a wide variety of activities. Pupils will be provided with a platform to build physical competencies, improve aspects of fitness and develop personal and interpersonal skills and attributes.

There will be a focus on developing 3 key strands:

- Movement skills, competencies and concepts
- Cooperation and competition
- Evaluating and appreciating

There will also be an introduction into an accreditation route for all pupils which can lead to qualifications in S4 in one of 3 areas

1. Level 3 and 4 Physical Education in preparation for National 3, 4 or 5 PE in S4
2. Sports Leadership
3. Performance units

PE



Core PE is taken by all

Sport & Recreation



Available in the all option choice selection

Sports Studies



Available in the all option choice selection

You can only choose one from Sport & Rec or Sports Studies

Pupils will have the option to complete an accreditation route in S4.

Pupils will be given the opportunity to select a pathway of 6 different activities that they will participate in over the course of the year. The course will be mainly practical in nature although there will be a requirement to complete some theoretical work over the course of the year.

Pupils who select a dance pathway will have the opportunity to gain an SQA National Progression Award in dance at level 4. This will enable them to progress on to study National 5/Higher Dance in the senior phase if they wish.

Sport and Recreation: Skills for Work Course.

This is a skills for work course which will be offered at National 4 and 5 level in S4. Pupils wishing to follow this course in S4 must select the S3 introductory course.

The Sport and Recreation course is mainly a practical course assessed at pass or fail level through internal NABS. The course covers the following modules:

- Skills for Employment
- Assist with Activity Sessions
- Dealing with Facilities and Equipment
- Dealing with Accidents and Emergencies
- Personal Fitness

These are covered through a variety of activities including: softball, football, basketball, fitness, volleyball, table tennis and badminton. Pupils will be required to undertake a week's work experience within the sport and leisure setting in S4. The aim of the course is to give pupils a practical insight into Sport and Recreation employment opportunities. It

also helps to develop a wide range of transferable skills such as leadership, planning and organisational skills.

This course is suitable for pupils who have an interest in sport and recreation and the potential of pursuing a career in this area. Those who complete N4 in S4 have an opportunity to progress on to N5 in S5/6.

This course is suitable for pupils who have an interest in sport and recreation but find the academic side of school quite challenging. It gives these pupils a pathway to success within the Physical Education department.

Sports Studies

This is an additional opportunity to study an introductory course in order to progress onto National 5 physical education in S4. Pupils will be given more time to increase their level of knowledge within the subject.

This course is made up of 7 activities: athletics, hockey, football, fitness, badminton basketball and softball. Within these activities pupils will study the four factors (mental, emotional, social and physical) and also develop their knowledge of Sports Leadership.

The Course aims to enable pupils to:

- Develop and demonstrate understanding of the principles and factors underpinning and impacting on physical performance
- Explain factors which impact positively and negatively on sports participation
- Develop the ability and knowledge to improve performance
- Examine and analyse performance to assist personal improvement

This Course is suitable for all pupils who have an interest in and enthusiasm for developing their physical and performance skills, either to pursue study and career options related to Physical Education or to broaden their learning experience. Pupils can continue their study in S4-6 with National 5/ Higher Physical Education.

Some possible career routes from courses offered within the Physical Education department are:

Physiotherapist	Sports Scientist	Health Promotion Officer
PE Teacher	Dance Teacher	Active Schools Coordinator
Professional Athlete	Sports Journalist	Sports Development Officer
Sports Coach	Personal Trainer	Outdoor Adventure Leader
Nutritionist	Gym Instructor	Leisure Centre Manager
Lifeguard	Referee	College/University Lecturer
Sports Psychologist		

Personal and Social Education

Personal and Social Education (PSE) is a fundamental aspect of the education of the whole child. It is essentially concerned with the development of life skills. All aspects of a child's experience at home, in school and out with school contribute to personal and social development.

Personal and Social Education aims to assist the individual to develop qualities of self-esteem, respect, and care for others, positive attitudes, a commitment to learning for life, a sense of belonging to society and confidence in coping with life in a changing world.

The key elements of PSE are as follows:

- Task management skills - including planning, organising and completing tasks.
- Interpersonal and group skills, including relationships and expectations.
- Self awareness, self reliance and self confidence, including rights and responsibilities.
- Evaluating skills, including reviewing, concluding and target-setting.
- The acquisition and application of appropriate knowledge and understanding.
- Development of a sense of identity related to self, school and community.
- Development of an understanding and commitment to the school values.

In S3, pupils will develop these key elements through the study of:

- Sexual Health and Relationships Education (SHARE Programme).
- Parenting
- Emergency Life Support (Heartstart Programme).
- Emotional Health and Resilience
- Keeping Myself Safe
- Drugs Education
- Study Skills

Vocational Education (selected pupils only)

Each year the following course is offered to a limited number of pupils, with the pupils selected by Support for Pupils staff.

The S3 Vocational Education course is focused on the strengthening of core skills and experiential learning.

These skills are valued extremely highly by employers and institutions of further and higher education, and help prepare students for the S4 Work Experience placement, College visits and to make the most of further employment and training. In addition, the skills underpin more successful attainment in other subject areas.

The course is based around a 12 week Forest School project, based in The Pentland Hills, where pupils carry out Conservation tasks and learn Outdoor education skills such as map reading, hiking, safe tool use and fire / cooking skills.

Due to the vocational aspect of the course and staffing / pupil ratios, a limited number of spaces will be available. Your child's Pupil Support Leader (Guidance) teacher will be happy to discuss your child's suitability for Vocational Education with you.

Technologies

In this curricular area the courses are Accounting and Finance, Business Studies, Administration & IT, Computing, Economics, Graphic Communication, Design and Manufacture, Engineering, Food and Consumer Technology.

Accounting and Finance

Why Study Accounting and Finance?

Studying accounting and finance equips students with practical, in demand skills that opens doors to a variety of career paths. It fosters financial literacy for both personal and professional success. The course covers basic accounting and finance which helps pupils to understand how money works.

It can develop skills in communicating essential financial information to various stakeholders and organisations. It combines the practical and theoretical aspects of learning relating to accounting allowing pupils to use ICT to complete tasks.

This course will encourage pupils to think logically and apply accounting principles in their lives. So will help them to make more informed decisions about their own financial future

Who is the course for?

All learners with an interest in finance and budgeting

Accounting and Finance



Develop your understanding of how to track, analyse and report financial data.

Admin & IT



Develop your ICT skills and learn about the role of administration in business planning.

Business



Learn how businesses operate and add value to generate a profit.

Computing



Learn how computer systems can store and process data using programs, databases and websites.

Economics



Learn about supply, demand, production, consumption and the transfer of wealth.

What topics are covered in the S3 course?

- Introduction to ledger accounts
- Business documents
- Financial statements
- Sources of finance
- Break-even
- Personal finance

What are the opportunities for progression?

In S4 you can progress to National 5 Accounting or National 5 Business Management. Higher Accounting will be offered in S5.

Administration and IT

What is Administration and IT

Administration and IT is a practical course which will help you develop skills for life and work. Administration and IT gives access to many careers in many different fields – from support staff in a small office to working in travel and tourism or even working in event management. People who have good administrative skills are very good at meeting deadlines for project work, they have an eye for detail and they are great communicators. Effective IT use is at the core of every business - when you ask for an appointment at the hairdressers or the price of a tyre, someone will access a computer to tell you the answer! Administration and IT will help you to develop these skills.

Progression

Administration and IT builds on prior learning from ICT in S1 and Business in S2. After completing the S3 course, you will be able to progress to National 3, 4 or 5 in S4. Progression is available for you to continue studying Administration and IT up to Higher in S5.

What will I Learn?

You will follow a course involving the following units:

Administrative Practices – this is the theory part of the course and covers elements important to employers such as Customer Service, Security of People, Property and Information and Health and Safety as well as the role the Administrative Assistant plays in the organisation and support of the business.

IT Solutions for Administrators – this unit will develop your IT skills and focus on word processing, spreadsheets and databases and their practical use in the world of work. Problem solving is an important part of this unit as is attention to detail.

Communication in Administration – this unit will enable you to use IT to gather and share information. You will develop an understanding of what constitutes a reliable source of information and you will use a variety of software such as PowerPoint, Publisher and Outlook to communicate with others.

How will I Learn?

Administration and IT is, at its core, a practical course so the majority of your learning will use the PC's. You will carry out investigations, complete PowerPoint presentations to share your learning with others, undertake homework to consolidate your learning and challenge yourself by using the different software packages available. As in the world of work, attention to detail is key!

Business Studies

Why Study Business?

Business is an integral part of society – we all rely on businesses and entrepreneurs to create wealth, prosperity and jobs. This course builds on the social studies and technologies outcomes and is designed to encourage entrepreneurial attitudes, and develop learners' understanding of businesses and how they operate.

Through taking part in activities relating to enterprise, it provides you with the opportunity to develop a range of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work. You will also benefit

in your personal life from the skills and knowledge you gain, for example, increased awareness of financial matters.

Who is this course for? All learners with an interest in business

What topics are covered in the S3 course?

- the role of business
- what businesses do to remain successful
- how businesses meet customer needs
- marketing and advertising
- how internal and external factors affect business survival and success
- the importance of financial planning in business
- IT in business

What are the opportunities for progress?

In S4 you can progress to National 4 or 5 in Admin & IT, Business, or National 5 in Economics. Higher will be offered in S5 and Advanced Higher in S6.

Business Studies leads directly to careers in:

Advertising	Customer service	Financial Services
Management	Reception	Insurance
Marketing	Business Administration	...and many more

Computing

The development of Computing over the last few decades has been spectacular in speed and scope. Computing provides us with many increasingly powerful hardware and software tools. Our society requires more and more individuals who have the skills to use those tools, who understand how they work and who have the ability to develop new and improved tools.

Computing is not only about learning to use current hardware and software. It is designed to provide candidates with both the necessary *knowledge and understanding* and the practical problem solving skills to enable them to be the ICT tool designers of the future.

What topics are covered in the S3 course?

Some of the main areas covered include:

- Computational Thinking
- Basic programming
- Computer graphics
- Multimedia
- Web design and HTML

Career Choices and Further Study

Computers are used in business, industry, the media, engineering, science and the arts so qualifications in Computing can lead to a wide range of exciting careers. In S4 you can progress onto courses at National 3, 4 or 5. In S5/6 you can progress onto National 5 or Higher Computing.

Homework

Homework is given on a regular basis to reinforce and support the theoretical aspects of the course as appropriate.

Progression

Computing builds on prior learning from Digital Literacy in S1 and Computing in S2. After completing the S3 course, you will be able to progress to National 3, 4 or 5 Computing in S4. Progression is available for you to continue studying Computing up to AH level in S6, as well as National Progression Awards in Cyber Security and Computer Games Development from S5.

Economics

Study of this course will give learners an appreciation of how markets and governments work as well as the importance of international trade to our economy. Every day some economic problem is mentioned in the news, on the radio and on television and by studying economics students will become better-informed and more responsible citizens.

A main feature of the course is the development of numeracy, problem-solving and decision-making all of which are essential in enhancing employment opportunities. The course will enable learners to understand and make use of economic information to explain the actions of individuals, businesses and governments.

What topics are covered in the S3 course?

The topics cover in S3 Economics are:

- Scarcity, choice and opportunity cost
- Factors of production
- Consumer behaviour
- Markets
- Supply and demand
- Personal finance
- Global trade

Progression

Economics builds on prior learning from Business in S2. After completing the S3 course, you will be able to progress to National 5 Economics and/or National 4 or 5 Business Management in S4. Progression is available for you to continue studying Economics up to AH level in S6.

Design & Technology

Building on the foundations of Broad General Education in S1&2, Design & Technology in S3 begins to specialise and prepare our students for the demands of National Qualifications. With that said, two course choices we'll be on offer in our curricular area: Graphic Communication and Design & Manufacture.

Graphic Communication

The course is structured to build student confidence in their interpretation of 2D and 3D graphic presentation. From Computer Aided Design (Inventor) to manual graphics (freehand & drawing boards), candidates experience elements that will prepare them for progression pathways in:

- Animation
- Architecture
- Cartography
- Engineering
- Game Design
- Graphic Design
- Surveying

With the addition of our Computer Aided Manufacture (CAM) hardware- laser cutters, 3D printers and CNC routers, we are able to create products which have been designed entirely on the computer and made a reality using our CAM resources.

Design & Manufacture



Learn about how to design and create amazing products. Design in the classroom, make in the workshop.

Graphic Communication



Learn how to use computer aided design (CAD) to model 3D objects. Learn graphic design to make impactful use of graphics.

Woodworking



Hone your manufacturing skills in the workshop. A good choice for those not wanting to design their own products.

Food and Consumer



Develop your practical cookery skills in the kitchen following recipes and good practice. Learn the theory behind safe practice and food choices.

Design & Manufacture

The course is designed to unearth student confidence in communicating their ideas to manufacture effective products. From sketching to rendering; from modelling to practical craft; pupils will grow appreciate the skill-set and mind-set needed for careers in:

- Architecture
- Furniture Design
- Game Design
- Interior Design
- Product Design & Engineering

Food & Consumer Technology

Course content:

The course will offer the pupils the opportunity to build on their skills and knowledge from the Health and Wellbeing and Technologies experiences and outcomes covered in S2 Food & Consumer Technology

Main areas covered will be:

- Practical Food Skills
- Current Dietary Advice and Nutrition
- Food Safety
- Consumer Choice
- Individual Needs

The course will involve an emphasis on practical activities where knowledge from theory lessons will be applied to real life situations.

Progression Pathways:

In the Senior Phase pupils can choose from the following list of courses:

- Health and Food Technology – National 4/National 5/Higher
- Practical Hospitality – National 4/National 5
- Practical Cake Baking and Finishing – National 5
- Practical Fashion and Textile Technologies – National 4/National 5
- Skills for Work: Early Education and Childcare – National 4/National 5
- Skills for Work: Food & Drink Manufacture N5

Skills Section

Introduction

The courses described in this section are designed to ensure that pupils have the opportunity to build on employability skills and Pupils: -

- Are ambitious and better prepared for the world of work
- Experience progressive learning that connects more directly to employment, in which creativity, entrepreneurship and innovation are increasingly embedded
- Are supported to develop an international mind-set, equipped for rapidly changing and increasingly globalised world
- Understand the importance of key skills to future lives.

The career management skills framework includes employability, communication, problem solving, working with others and self-awareness skills and these are covered to some extent in each of these courses.

You need to select your first and second choice. Which one he/she is allocated will depend on staffing/timetabling constraints and course viability. These courses will run for 1 period per week throughout S3.

Skills



Choose 2 options – your first and second choice.

Wide range of options including:



Science



Fashion



Outdoor Learning – DoE



Enterprise in Technology,



Hairdressing



Photography



PC Passport



Spanish



Manufacturing



Travel & Tourism



Dance

Classical Studies

As part of the S3 Skills Rotation, we are very pleased to offer a N4 in Classical Studies. Pupils will study Roman Britain, Classical Greece and will study a piece of classical literature before undertaking a project of their choosing. As well as further honing the pupils' History skills, this provides an excellent context for our Advanced Higher History course when pupils are in S6.

Roman Britain:

- How the Romans conquered Southern Britain
- Why the Romans failed to conquer Northern Britain
- Roman Frontiers
- Life in Roman Britain
- Roman technology

Life in Roman Britain



Classical Greece

- Early history of Greece
- Forms of government
- Alexander the Great
- Aristotle's philosophy
- Slavery

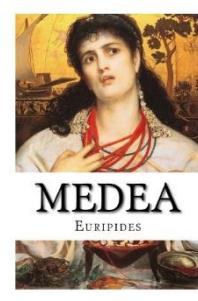
Life in Classical Greece



Classical Literature - A study of the play *Medea* by Euripides

- Jason and the Argonauts
- Moral decisions and consequences
- Relevance to the modern world

Classical Literature



Dance

The opportunity to develop skills across a range of dance genres such as jazz, contemporary and hip hop. There may also be an opportunity to gain an NPA in Dance dependent on what happens with the S3 choice in CFE PE.

Digital Games Design

This introduction to Games Design will allow pupils to acquire an understanding of underlying concepts and fundamental principals involved in digital gaming. They will learn how to recognise and distinguish differences in numerous gaming platforms, environments and genres. Pupils will be introduced to methods used to evaluate different gaming genres through active game play. This serves as an introduction to the content covered in the NPA in Computer Games Development in the senior school.

Drama Skills

S3 Drama Production Skills

This introduction to Drama Production Skills course is delivered in the Expressive Arts Faculty, with an agenda to familiarise pupils with the production skills that they could develop and study at National 4/5 level. Learners will be introduced to sound design, basic lighting design, costume design and construction, make up design and application, set design and construction and prop sourcing and creation. This course is delivered for a **period per week** in order to have enough time to work on small scale projects, with a production skill outlined every 6 weeks.

This course would be suitable for:

- 1) Pupils who have an interest in the technical side of Drama and are not solely interested in the practical acting side of the subject
- 2) Those who are interested in taking Drama as a subject in fourth year, and interested to take on a production role

Learners will develop an understanding of the technical industry and have the ability to practically explore the production areas, whilst working alongside texts to develop their analytical and creative skills.

Alongside this, it allows for pupils to upskill in these areas, giving the school the ability to develop crews for productions and assemblies that are put on throughout the year e.g. Sound & Light Crew, Costume and Make Up Crew and Set & Props Crew. This is a valuable asset that could be added onto learners skills profiles, and would be an excellent area for leadership and creative independence.

Progression Pathways:

The skills pupils will gain will enhance their ability to take the following courses in the Senior Phase: -

- Drama – National 4/National 5

Enterprise in the Technologies

Food and Consumer Technology, Design and Technology, Business Studies and Computing Science will jointly deliver a course which will focus on an enterprising activity.

Skills delivered in S1 Food and Consumer Technology and Design Technology and in S2 Computing Science, Food and Consumer Technology and Design and Technology will be developed with a new range of skills being introduced.

Fashion & Textile Tech.

This introductory course is delivered in the Expressive Arts Faculty, with a focus on creative and sustainable use of materials.

Pupils will take part in the international catwalk fashion design competition “Junk Kouture” and will work individually or in small groups to design and make a catwalk outfit entirely from recycled materials.

This course is delivered **just 1 period per week** and is therefore suitable for:

- 1) Those who would like an introduction to practical fashion skills and creative fashion design.
- 2) Those already choosing fashion & textile tech as a course choice, who are very keen on the subject and would like an additional period to increase their skill level and take part in the competition.

A new range of specific skills be delivered which include:

Machine and hand sewing, embellishing, pattern cutting and development.

Progression Pathways:

The skills pupils will gain will enhance their ability to take the following courses in the Senior Phase: -

Italian for Life and Work

Languages for Life and Work is an interdisciplinary course that combines Modern Languages with Business Studies. It is a Skills for Work course, which combines language learning with the practical skills needed to prepare and apply for employment.

Languages for Life and Work also introduces pupils to real-life employment situations in which languages are an important skill. It gives them the opportunity to experience languages in use in the workplace and will allow them to see the wide range of jobs available. This course will be delivered in Italian and English and is suitable for all levels. On successful completion at the end of S3, pupils who have studied the course will be awarded an SQA qualification in Languages for Life and Work at level 3 or 4.

Topics include:

- The language of business
- CV writing, interview skills, customer service and ICT skills
- Investigating an international business
- The importance of languages in your career choice

Manufacturing Skills:

Manufacturing skills will be developed in the workshop by using hand and machine tools. This course will consolidate their practical skills gained in S1 and S2 and develop a range of new skills.

Pupils will make real world products and small pieces of furniture.

Progression Pathways:

In S4/5/6 pupils can progress to N4/5 Practical Woodworking Skills.

Outdoor Learning (Duke of Edinburgh)

As well as the option of doing a Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award there will be other, more supported options for some pupils. It is important to remember that undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh Award involves a serious commitment to activities outside the normal school day, which must be organised by the pupil with the support of his/her parent. Volunteering, Physical and Skills (see below) are not covered during the time in school. Pupils should only opt for the Duke of Edinburgh Award if they understand this commitment. There is also a financial commitment (see below).

Doing a Duke of Edinburgh award is a real adventure from beginning to end – it doesn't matter who you are or where you're from. During S3 you complete your bronze award. The award has four sections: -

- Volunteering – This is a chance to make a real difference by helping someone, your community, the environment or an organisation. Past activities have included working with The Green Team in the Pentlands.
- Physical – You can choose any sport, dance or fitness activity to get fitter, keep fit and get better at it! Past activities have ranged from fencing to skiing.
- Skills – Is there something you've always wanted to try, or do you want to get better at your favourite hobby? Play the guitar or learn to paint, go karting or make honey.

- Expedition – Highs, lows, great laughs, amazing memories – you'll experience it all as you plan, train for and complete an adventurous journey in the hills of Scotland. At Bronze level a two days, one night expedition of six hours per day at least three of which must be spent journeying.

The best bit is, because you get to choose what you do, your programme can be full of activities and projects that get you buzzing with anticipation. Along the way you'll pick up experiences, friends and talents that will stay with you for the rest of your life.

Successful completion of a Bronze award gives you a great foundation to progress to Silver and Gold awards in years to come.

Pupils interested in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme should note that it is also available through a number of other organisations/activities, including Scouts, Guides, Boy's Brigade and Cadets.

Please note that there is a cost involved in this course. It will include £21 for the logbook as well as transport/food for the practice and final expeditions and some other activities. This cost should not prevent participation – instalments can be negotiated and families facing financial difficulty can get assistance from the school or from the Duke of Edinburgh organisation itself. If you would like to discuss the cost then please contact your child's guidance teacher or Mr McClellan in the first instance.

More information on the award can be found at www.dofe.org

PC Passport

This course is suitable for students who intend to take up employment after leaving school rather than enrolling in Higher Education. The course will cover elements of the PC Passport NPA and other practical office skills.

The aim of the course is to provide knowledge and skills in using contemporary application packages such as word processing, spreadsheets and presentation software in a collaborative, cloud-based environment. It seeks to deliver up-to-date skills in using a range of popular software, such as Office 365, to prepare learners for employment or further studies or to improve their productivity skills.

In addition, students will also be prepared for employment by developing their transferable presentation, critical thinking, communication, leadership and interpersonal skills.

Philosophy Skills Course

Learn how to think independently, argue clearly, and question confidently. This course builds your skills in critical thinking and creative problem-solving. You'll learn to spot weak arguments, challenge assumptions, understand different viewpoints and express your ideas with clarity and confidence. Philosophy helps you make sense of big questions — and make smarter decisions in everyday life. With the option to complete a National 4 Religious and Philosophical Questions unit as part of the course.

We will be introduced to questions such as:

What is philosophy?
How do we know what is real?
What makes a good argument?
What makes something right or wrong?
Do we have free will?
What makes life meaningful?
Why do people suffer?

Photography

This course is delivered **just 1 period per week** and is therefore suitable for:

- 1) Those who would like to take up Photography at Higher in the senior Phase
- 2) Those with an interest in photography as a hobby
- 3) Those who would like to use photography to supplement their Art & Design work.

Students undertake an introduction to photography by choosing to focus on either:

- Photographing people

OR

- Photographing places

They will learn by: -

- Understanding how to use a digital SLR camera
- Taking inspiration from the work of leading photographers
- Identifying and developing a personal theme using subjects of their own choice
- Planning their own photographic sessions considering style, composition and technical issues
- Critically evaluating their photographs and identifying how to improve them
- Presenting a folio of 5 finished photos

Progression Pathways:

- Students will be in a very good position to undertake the Higher photography course in S5/6

Science - Crest Award

The CREST Awards scheme is the British Science Association's flagship programme for young people, providing science enrichment activities to inspire and engage pupils. It is the only nationally recognised accreditation scheme for project work in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects.

CREST gives pupils the chance to participate in hands-on science through investigations and enquiry-based learning. CREST Awards are well regarded, high quality and a tangible recognition of success.

Pupils will develop and lead a project and will gain experience of the scientific method and ways of working. They will need to consider the broader impact of their project and demonstrate an innovative approach. They will produce a project report, poster or portfolio of evidence to present to their CREST assessor.

Sports Leadership

An introduction into Sports leadership.

Travel and Tourism

Travel and Tourism is a Skills for Work course which, as well as providing you with a greater understanding of all the different sectors involved in travel and tourism, will allow you to see the wide range of jobs available in this growing industry, and to gain useful employability skills which are relevant in a wide range of jobs.

Travel and Tourism encourages investigative work within a local, national and global context. You may have to carry out fieldwork in the centre of Edinburgh or research eco-tourism in the Amazon using the internet.

Travel and Tourism will allow you to become knowledgeable about places near and far; understand sustainable development; gain an understanding of business practices, develop skills in using IT, maps and statistics.

Topics will include: -

- The business of travel and tourism – evaluate travel adverts, role play dealing with complaints, identify good customer service
- Tourist destinations – find out why tourists come to Scotland, compare Scotland as a holiday destination with a country of your choice
- Local investigation – investigate the impact of tourism on Edinburgh, carry out a study of the High Street
- The impact of tourism – compare the positive and negative effects of tourism, find out about green tourism and ecotourism.

What are the opportunities for progress?

Travel and Tourism provides progression routes through the new qualifications National 4 and National 5 in Geography, Economics or Business.

Travel and Tourism leads directly to careers in:

Advertising	Customer service	Event management
Holiday representatives	Hotel management	Hotel reception
Marketing	Travel consultancy	Travel writing
Tourist information	Tourist boards	Tour guides

S3 – Course Choice Input

Pupils need to select 8 subjects.

Do not select the same subject twice.

In the Skills Section column, you will need to select a 1st and 2nd choice.

The options will be input via Microsoft Forms

All do English & Maths, PSE, PE and RMPS

Science Choose 1	Expressive Arts Choose 1	Languages Choose 1	Social Subjects Choose 1	Technology Choose 1	Free Choice Choose 2 and a Reserve (R)	Skill Choose 1
Biology Chemistry Engineering Physics	Art & Design Drama Fashion Hairdressing Music Music Tech Photography	French German Spanish	History Geography Modern Studies RMPS	Accounts & Finance Administration & IT Business Studies Computing Design & Manufact Economics Food & Cons Graphic Comm. Media Woodwork	'Administration & IT' Art & Design Biology Business Studies Chemistry Computing Design & Manufact Drama Economics Engineering Fashion Food & Cons French German Geography Graphic Comm. Hairdressing History Media Modern Studies Music Music Tech Photography Physics RMPS Spanish Sport & Rec Sports Studies Woodwork	Classical Studies Dance 'Digital Games Design' Drama Skills Duke of Edin* Enterprise Tech Fashion Spanish Manufact Studies PC Passport Philosophy Photography Sports Leader Travel & Tourism

You will be provided with a link to TOOLS to enter your choices.

- Duke of Edin = Outdoor Learning