



### **Accessibility options**

If you would like this document read aloud or in another language please head over to your year group TEAMs page, open the document and follow these steps:

Click “view” at the top of the page

Then click “Reading View”

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Press the play button for it to read the text aloud

Press the dictionary icon on the top right if you want to change the language

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## Introduction

This booklet provides an overview of the option choices available and you should take plenty of time and care to read over it carefully before making your final choices.

In addition to this booklet other supports will be made available to you during the decision making including:


- S2 Curricular Parent Information Evening
- Discussions around curricular pathways through PSE
- A meeting with your Guidance Teacher to discuss your proposed option choices
- Information sharing through Year Group assemblies
- A list of useful websites can be found below to allow young people and adults to read about National Qualifications, course outlines and assessment structures.

## SCQF LEVELS

The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework has 12 levels. The different levels indicate the level of difficulty of a particular qualification. The table below allows broad comparisons to be made between qualifications and learning, and allow learners to understand the range of skills and learning that should be achieved at each level.

**THE SCOTTISH CREDIT AND QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK**

This Framework diagram has been produced to show the mainstream Scottish qualifications already credit rated by SQA and HEIs. However, there are a diverse number of learning programmes on the Framework, which, due to the limitations of this format, cannot be represented here. For more information, please visit the SCQF website at [www.scqf.org.uk](http://www.scqf.org.uk) to view the Interactive version of the Framework or search the Database.



SCQF Levels	SQA Qualifications		Qualifications of Higher Education Institutions	Apprenticeships & SVQs
12			Doctoral Degree	Professional Apprenticeship
11			Masters Degree, Integrated Masters Degree, Post Graduate Diploma, Post Graduate Certificate	Graduate Apprenticeship Professional Apprenticeship SVQ
10			Honours Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate	Graduate Apprenticeship Professional Apprenticeship
9		Professional Development Award	Bachelors / Ordinary Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate	Graduate Apprenticeship Technical Apprenticeship SVQ
8		Higher National Diploma	Diploma Of Higher Education	Higher Apprenticeship Technical Apprenticeship SVQ
7	Advanced Higher, Awards, Scottish Baccalaureate	Higher National Certificate	Certificate Of Higher Education	Modern Apprenticeship SVQ
6	Higher, Awards, Skills for Work Higher			Modern Apprenticeship Foundation Apprenticeship SVQ
5	National 5, Awards, Skills for Work National 5			Modern Apprenticeship SVQ
4	National 4, Awards, Skills for Work National 4	National Certificate	National Progression Award	SVQ
3	National 3, Awards, Skills for Work National 3			
2	National 2, Awards			
1	National 1, Awards			

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J5vJ\\_1AfZg0&t=11s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J5vJ_1AfZg0&t=11s)

### ***Useful external links***

- The National Parent Forum of Scotland:

<https://www.npfs.org.uk/downloads/category/in-a-nutshell-series/highers-in-a-nutshell/>

This is a useful website which provides an overview of course content and assessment criteria.

- Scottish Qualifications Authority

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45777.html>

Provides detailed overview of course specification, coursework, past papers etc

### **Completion of the final online option form**

A link to the Microsoft form will be shared on Satchel and TEAMS, you will click on the link and be redirected to the form.

**The instructions at the top of each form must be read carefully** before you make and submits your choices.

Other important points to note:

- The link will **only work when logged in through your GLOW account**, this is to ensure the link cannot be used from people outside of Bishopbriggs Academy.
- **The form can only be submitted once** so it is vital that you take care to read over the instructions and speak with an adult at home before submitting your form
- You will have at least a week to complete your online form so please take time to:
  - Read over the instructions at the top of the Microsoft Form carefully.
  - Speak with your Guidance Teacher if they have any questions or require further clarity
  - Speak with an adult about your proposed choices
  - Visit the websites listed previously if you would like more information on any of the subject below
  - Read the subject specific content carefully so that you are aware of both the course content and assessments for each of your selected subjects.

Finally, the submission of option forms to collation and creation of classes does take time and staff will be working hard to complete this process in a timely fashion. If there is an issue with a young person's option choices then the school will be in touch with pupil/parents/guardians. However, if you did have a question in the interim then as always, please contact your Guidance Teacher.

**Course title:** Accounting

**Level:** S3 BGE

**Course description:**

As anyone who has researched the profession knows, accountants are in high demand, have a high degree of job stability, and are top tier salary earners. After entering the profession, hard-working accountants enjoy good prospects for upward mobility, and many eventually go on to establish their lucrative private practices. Unlike many jobs that are at the mercy of the market, accountancy remains in demand even when the economy takes a tumble. Studying Accounting will enable you to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary for understanding and taking part in the world of business. Even if you are not planning a career in accounting, this subject helps to improve your ability to think logically, work accurately, make decisions and solve problems.

The Accounting Course enables learners to understand and use financial information, so that they can prepare accounting statements and analyse, interpret and report on an organisation's financial performance. It develops learners' knowledge and understanding of the relevant accounting concepts and techniques used to prepare financial information.

**Units taught:**

- Financial Accounting (Including preparation of the Final Accounts of a Sole Trader and Business Documents)
- Management Accounting (Including Job Costing, Labour Costing and Inventory Costing)

**Course assessment:**

- Class tests, regular homework, group activities.

**Possible progression and career links:**

Many of our students continue with the subject at National 5/Higher level, Further Education or the workplace.

**Course title:**

Administration and IT

**Level:**

S3 BGE

**Course description:**

Administration is a growing sector which cuts across the entire economy and offers wide-ranging employment opportunities. The Course introduces learners to administration and enables them to embrace and use IT in everyday administration-related contexts, laying foundations for lifelong learning and a successful working life. The skills developed through this Course can be seen as important life skills, which will enhance learners' personal effectiveness.

Administration has **a large practical component** which involves hands on learning and uses real-life contexts which make it relevant to the world of work. It is unique in that it will allow you to work towards industry standards in IT in an administration-related context. Throughout the course you will develop skills in oral and written communication as you research, process and communicate business information in response to challenges set for you.

**Units taught:**

- to use functions of word processing, spreadsheets and databases to carry out administrative tasks
- using basic functions of desktop publishing and presentation software in familiar administration-related contexts
- using appropriate current technologies to communicate

**Course assessment:**

Practical activities and class tests

**Possible progression and carer links:**

Many of our students continue with the subject at National 5/Higher level, Further Education or the workplace.

**Course title:**

Art & Design

**Level:**

S3 BGE

**Course description:**

Through art and design, learners have rich opportunities to be creative and to experience inspiration and enjoyment. They explore a range of two- and three-dimensional media and technologies through practical activities, and create, express, and communicate ideas. Their studies of the works of artists and designers enhance their enjoyment and deepen their knowledge and understanding.

**Units taught:**

Expressive Practical  
Design Practical  
Critical Activity

**Course assessment:**

Practical Activity will be created through generation of projects.  
Critical Activity will be assessed through class based written tasks.

**Possible progression and career links:**

Through completion of the course pupils will employ the following skills for life and work; Health & Wellbeing, Personal Learning, Thinking Skills, Analysing & Evaluating and Creating. Pupils will be gaining practical skills for future career paths within the Creative Industries.

**Course title:**

Biology

**Level:**

S3 BGE

**Course description:**

The course covers major areas of biology ranging from cellular to whole organism and includes the study of ecosystems. The focus on cellular level processes leads to an understanding of the importance and roles of the cell. By comparing the processes in multicellular plants and animals, candidates investigate increasing levels of complexity. The key areas of biodiversity and interdependence are covered.

**Units taught:**

Biological systems - Body systems and cells, Inheritance  
Planet Earth - Biodiversity and interdependence

**Course assessment:**

Individual Class Tests, homeworks, practical activities

**Possible progression and careers links:**

The National 5 Biology course is suitable for candidates as a progression pathway.



**Course title:** Business Management

**Level:** S3 BGE

**Course description:**

Business plays a vital role in our society. This course will enable you to understand and make use of business information to interpret and report on overall business performance in a range of contexts and will develop your enterprise and employability skills.

This course will allow you to develop:

- knowledge and understanding of the way society relies on business to satisfy our needs
- an insight into the systems organisations use to ensure customers' needs are met
- enterprising skills and enterprising attributes by participating in activities in realistic business situations, and an understanding of financial awareness through a business context
- an insight into how organisations organise their resources for maximum efficiency
- an understanding of the steps taken by organisations to improve their overall performance

**Units taught:**

- Role of business in society
- Customer satisfaction
- Types of business organisations
- Objectives
- Business Influences
- Marketing

**Course assessment:**

- Class tests, regular homework, group activities.

**Possible progression and career links:**

Many of our students continue with the subject at Higher level, Further Education or the workplace.

**Course title:** Chemistry

**Level:** S3 BGE

**Course description:** Pupils who study chemistry will build on their knowledge of chemistry gained in S1 and S2. The S3 course matches the level 4 CFE outcomes and allows the pupils a more in depth approach as we develop knowledge towards the National 5 qualification in S4.

The S3 course covers 5 topics: Rates of Reactions, Atoms and Compounds, Bonding, Structure and Properties, Hydrocarbons and Plastics, finishing with Fuels.

Pupils will use personal learning planner work books as well as applying their knowledge to questions on the topics both in their workbooks and in their homework.

Lessons incorporate both knowledge, problem solving and practical activities. Pupils will work individually and in groups to complete their tasks. The teacher will incorporate many different teaching activities such as direct lessons, research based, informative film clips and investigative practical work to deliver the key facts to pupils.

**Units taught:**

**Course assessment:**

Pupils will be assessed informally with quizzes and homework and formally with topic tests.

**Possible progression and careers links:**

To National 5 chemistry in S4. A pass at National 5 level in S4 allows progression to Higher in fifth year.

Many degrees at university require chemistry, for example, medicine, dentistry, chemical engineering, pharmacy, veterinarian medicine, environmental science and pharmacology. Many careers require chemistry such as food science, forensic science, technician, dieticians, sports nutritionist, nursing and health-related jobs.

**Course title:**

Computing Science

**Level:**

S3 BGE

**Course description:**

Computing Science is vital for everyday life, it shapes the world in which we live and its future. Computer scientists play key roles in meeting the needs of society today and for the future, in fields that include science, communications, entertainment, education, business and industry.

This course aims to help you develop a range of computing and computational thinking skills. You will learn how to analyse and solve problems. And, you will develop skills in design and modelling, developing, implementing and testing digital solutions across a range of contemporary contexts. You will also look at the legal and environmental impact of computing technologies.

**Units taught:**

Software Design and Development

Database Design and Development

Computer Systems

**Course assessment:**

Class tests, regular homework, practical activities.

**Possible progression and career links:**

Many of our students continue with the subject at National 5/Higher level, Further Education or the workplace.

**Course title:** S3 Dance

**Level:**

**Course description:**

The practical element of the National course in S3 enables pupils to develop a range of dance and choreographic skills. Pupils develop and reflect on technical and creative skills through practical learning. They gain an understanding of the origins of dance and the impact of theatre arts.

The theoretical aspect of the course aims to enable students to understand technical dance and performance and choreographic skills.

**Units taught:**

Practical Performance and choreographic skills.

**Course assessment:**

Internal assessment

**Possible progression and carer links:**

National 5 Dance.

**Department:**

Design and Technology

**Course title:**

Design and Manufacture

**Level:**

S3 BGE

**Course description:**

Design and Manufacture allows for a unique combination of designing as well as developing practical skills in a workshop. Throughout the course, you will develop your problem solving skills to create unique designs for each of the given briefs. You will work your way through the design process, starting with research and sketching through to producing a final model from wood, plastic and/or metal. Projects include Clock Designs, Tea Light Holders, and a Coat Rack.

Here you will develop the skills that you learned while designing the coat hook in S1 and the Phone Holder in S2.

**Units taught:**

Design and Manufacture explores a wide range of different areas and incorporates all elements of the Design and Technology Department. Throughout this course, you will explore each step of the Design Process. Starting with sketching techniques, researching and generating possible ideas, using CAD and other technologies to aid your designs through to manufacturing your design in the workshop with a range of tools and materials.

**Course assessment:**

Ongoing assessment of projects.  
End of Year Examination.

**Possible progression and careers links:**

Progress continues into S4 at National 5, where there will be a stronger focus on Design Theories and Manufacturing Techniques. After school, careers include Product Designer, Interior Designer, CAD Technician and various Engineering Roles. Skills learned through this course, such as problem solving and computational thinking are used in many other industries as well.

**Course title:** Drama

**Level:** S3 BGE

**Course description:**

The S3 Drama course encourages candidates to exercise imagination and creativity. They develop important skills, attitudes and attributes, including creativity and adaptability, learning independently and as part of a group, critical thinking, enthusiasm, and confidence. These are all crucial to any career!

The course allows candidates to develop practical skills in creating, presenting and producing drama. It provides scope for personalisation and choice by encouraging candidates to be creative and to express themselves in different ways. Learning through drama helps candidates to appreciate cultural values, identities and ideas.

Students will explore some of the design and directing elements offered if they pick it in the years to come. This allows them to develop critical-thinking skills as they investigate, develop and apply a range of drama skills and production skills.

**Course assessment:**

You will be assessed informally throughout the year when it comes to checking in with your practical and written skills as both components are part of the National 5 exam. We mainly focus on assessing your Acting skills.

**Possible progression and career links:**

The skills you learn at S3 level will prepare you to continue into National 5 Drama. Drama is valuable in many career areas including theatre industry, film industry, law and teaching. But it is important to remember that most careers need the key skills that this subject fosters: independent thinking, creative and critical thinking, team work, problem solving and an ability to confidently present information.

**Course title:**

Early Learning and Childcare

**Level:**

S3 BGE

**Course description:**

This is an introductory unit which allows pupils to develop a basic understanding of a variety of types of play and how play contributes to the development of the child.

It should allow pupils to explore a variety of play types and describe a range of play experiences within different types of play.

Pupils should demonstrate an understanding of the appropriateness and value of play opportunities for the learning and development of children and they will have the opportunity to plan for practical play experiences.

**Units taught:**

Play in Early Learning and Childcare

**Course assessment:**

Play unit assessment (open book)

**Possible progression and career links:**

National 5 Skills for Work: Early Learning and Childcare

**Course title:** Engineering Science

**Level:** S3 BGE

**Course description:**

Engineering shapes the world in which we live and its future. Engineers play key roles in meeting the needs of society in fields that include climate change, medicine, IT and transportation.

Engineering Science is designed to give pupils a detailed understanding of the central role of engineers as designers and problem solvers and will help them understand the wider impact of engineering on our society and the environment.

Within the classroom, pupils will explore varied engineering systems through simulation, practical work and investigative tasks in a range of contexts.

This course will suit candidates who have an interest in engineering, mathematics and science. The course will provide pupils with the opportunity to develop a greater understanding of the role and impact of engineering in changing and influencing our environment and society.

**Units taught:**

- **Electronics and Control**  
Units of work include: Digital Electronics, Component Electronics, Microcontrollers and Programming.
- **Mechanisms and Structures:**  
Units of work include: Pneumatics.

**Course assessment:**

A short unit assessment is given at the end of each unit of work.

**Possible progression and careers links:**

- National 4/5 Engineering Science in S4.
- The skills you learn in Engineering Science are valuable in many career areas, including the following sectors of engineering: Electronic, Electrical, Mechanical, Structural, Civil, Materials and Renewable Energy.



**Course title:**

English

**Level:**

S3 BGE

**Course description:**

The study of English helps pupils to develop many of the skills that are essential to success, both in school and beyond. Through the study of language and literature, learners develop their reading, writing, talking and listening skills, and enhance their ability to communicate effectively in a range of contexts.

In their study of texts, learners develop their comprehension, analysis and evaluation skills, focusing on the craft of writers and also on the relevance of texts to our own lives. Learners are given opportunities to create their own texts, both written and spoken, where they develop their language skills through producing critical, creative and functional responses.

Learners engage in a wide variety of individual, group and whole class activities and study a range of genres and forms of text, including novels, poetry, drama, film and media.

**Units taught:**

- Reading
- Writing
- Talking
- Listening

**Course assessment:**

As pupils in S3 English are following the Broad General Education (BGE), no external assessment takes place. BGE assessment takes place in the classroom, is on a continuous basis and draws on a wide range of naturally occurring evidence.

Examples of tasks that generate assessment evidence:

- Critical essays on literature
- Creative writing (*such as poems, imaginative stories or personal pieces*)
- Functional writing (*such as informative, discursive or persuasive pieces*)
- Reading comprehension tasks
- Group presentations, individual presentations and group discussions

**Possible progression and career links:**

- Upon successful completion of the S3 English course, pupils often progress to National 4 English or National 5 English.
- The skills developed through S3 English are relevant to all career paths.

**Course title:**

French

**Level:**

S3 BGE

**Course description:**

The course adopts a, topic-based approach and the content covered helps to form the essential foundations of the knowledge that pupils require to achieve success at National 5. The three main topics covered in S3 French are holidays, town & country and family & friends. Through the study of these topics, pupils develop and enhance their four language skills (Listening, Talking, Reading and Writing).

**Course assessment:**

Assessment in the BGE is ongoing and pupils receive regular, short vocabulary tests on material covered in class. Unit assessments are also completed at the end of each unit of learning and usually cover one productive (Talking or Writing) and one receptive (Listening or Reading) language skill. By the end of S3, pupils will have been assessed in all four language skills.

**Possible progression and career links:**

National 5 French may be chosen in S4, followed by Higher French in S5, and Advanced Higher French in S6. The ability to speak French is a great advantage on the international job market because it opens doors to French companies like L'Oréal, Renault, Auchan, Chanel, Cartier and many more. There are significant career opportunities for those who can combine marketing, secretarial, journalistic, political, engineering and science qualifications with French.

**Course title:**

Gàidhlig

**Level:**

S3 BGE

**Course description:**

In S3, you will continue to add to your Gaelic language skills through studying Gaelic in different contexts. We will study literature that reveal topics and themes that we will discuss in depth in class. You will be equipped with skills to analyse and evaluate literature and to discuss these fluently both in speaking and writing.

You will be asked to research topics that are of interest to you, current affairs and global issues to discuss and debate these with peers. You will be challenged to expand your vocabulary and understanding of grammar to achieve a higher level of fluency.

Within the classroom, there will be lots of opportunities to use your spoken language through group work and whole class discussions. We will use a variety of digital resources to support your learning and understanding.

This course is relevant for all pupils who have gone through Gaelic Medium Education.

**Units taught:**

Reading

Writing

Listening

Speaking

**Course assessment:**

Use of spoken language throughout the year

Group work and presentations

Continuous assessment of reading, listening, writing and speaking

**Possible progression and careers links:**

Bilingualism is desirable in many careers. There are direct links to the media, teaching and translation.

**Course title:**

Geography

**Level:**

S3 BGE

**Course description:**

The study of geography will introduce you to our changing world, its human interactions and physical processes. You develop the knowledge and skills to enable you to contribute to your local communities and wider society. The study of geography fosters positive life-long attitudes of environmental stewardship, sustainability and global citizenship. It also involves practical activities, including fieldwork which provides you with the opportunities to interact with the environment.

Within the classroom, you will take part in in-depth class and group discussions, group work, digital quizzes, creative opportunities and retrieval tasks.

**Units taught:**

Introductory Skills  
Introductory Map Skills  
Rural  
Health  
Urban

**Course assessment:**

Unit tests

**Possible progression and career links:**

The knowledge and skills you will learn in Geography will be valuable in many careers as it is recognised as both a science and literacy based subject. Some of the career opportunities include town planner, cartographer, journalist, meteorologist (weather), teacher, environmentalist, government advisor, civil service and many more.

**Course title:**

German

**Level:**

S3 BGE

**Course description:**

The course adopts a, topic-based approach and the content covered helps to form the essential foundations of the knowledge that pupils require to achieve success at National 5. The three main topics covered in S3 German are holidays, media and family & friends. Through the study of these topics, pupils develop and enhance their four language skills (Listening, Talking, Reading and Writing). Pupils studying German in S3 also have the opportunity to participate in our longstanding school exchange with the Alexander von Humboldt Gymnasium in Konstanz.

**Course assessment:**

Assessment in the BGE is ongoing and pupils receive regular, short vocabulary tests on material covered in class. Unit assessments are also completed at the end of each unit of learning and usually cover one productive (Talking or Writing) and one receptive (Listening or Reading) language skill. By the end of S3, pupils will have been assessed in all four language skills.

**Possible progression and career links:**

National 5 German may be chosen in S4, followed by Higher German in S5, and Advanced Higher German in S6. German is one of the most widely used languages in the world in the fields of science and technology and it is common to find it studied at a higher level with these other subjects. There are significant career opportunities for those who can combine marketing, secretarial, journalistic, political, engineering and science qualifications with German.

**Department:**

Design and Technology

**Course title:**

Graphic Communication

**Level:**

S3 BGE

**Course description:**

With pictures speaking a thousand words, communicating through graphics is used everywhere from architecture, automotive design and civil engineering to web-design, advertising and graphic design. In this jam-packed courses, you will learn about 2D and 3D Computer Aided Design, 3D printing, engineering, rendering, desktop publishing, graphic design, printing, publishing and animation. This courses are designed to act as a spring-board to college and university and future career in a creative industry. Creating a stunning portfolio of work is at the heart of Graphic Communication.

**Units taught:**

Technical graphics are the backbone of our modern world. They are essential for any physical products that needs to be manufactured, any building constructed, or any complex instructions given. In S3 you will complete a range of orthographic sketches to demonstrate your understanding of technical graphics.

Computer Aided Design has entirely replaced the drawing-board in industry. In S3 you will produce a range of realistic CAD models of everyday objects. You will have the option to 3D print the models after you have made them in CAD.

Creating effective layouts is an important aspect of Graphic Communication and can be one of the most challenging aspects of the course. What precisely makes an effective layout? Some people think this is entirely subjective, but actually there are some basic ground rules for creating good graphics. In S3 you will learn about branding and you will create a brand or a coffee company.

**Course assessment:**

End of Year Examination

**Possible progression and careers links:**

Advertising and marketing, Architecture, Design: product, graphic and fashion design, film, TV, video, radio and photography, IT, Publishing, Music, performing and visual arts, Chemical engineering, Civil engineering, Electrical engineering, Mechanical engineering

**Course title:**

Health & Food Technology

**Level:**

S3 BGE

**Course description:**

In S3, pupils will attend the department 3 periods a week (2 x theory, 1 x practical). Pupils will develop knowledge and understanding of the relationship between food, health and nutrition. Throughout the year, pupils will consider dietary needs of individuals and groups at various life stages and link to current dietary advice. Pupils will review the functional properties of ingredients in food and their use in developing new food products. Through a problem-solving approach, pupils will understand the stages in food product development by producing a food product to meet specified needs, during which pupils will apply their knowledge of safe and hygienic food practices. Pupils will explore factors affecting food choices and the link to contemporary food issues, including seasonality, sustainability, organic food, Fairtrade and food miles. Pupils will consider technological developments in food and organisations which protect consumer interests. Pupils will also look at food labelling and how it helps consumers make informed food choices.

**Units taught:**

Food for Health, Food Product Development, Contemporary Food Issues

**Course assessment:**

Internal assessment consisting of:  
Contemporary Food Issues assessment (Open-book)  
Food Product Development Assignment  
Contemporary Food Issues assessment (Closed-book)  
S3 Transition Exam

**Possible progression and carer links:**

National 5 Health & Food Technology - SCQF Level 5 (24 credits)  
Strong link to careers in health, nutrition and food product development

**Course title:**

History

**Level:**

S3 BGE

**Course description:**

The course covers the topic of WWI looking at the reasons for the outbreak of the war and the lives of people in Scotland during the Era of the First World War and allows the class to analyse the events of the past. This is done through skills based questions and source work, which will help pupils to prepare for National 4 and 5 level work. The topic covers a broad range of themes, which are split into key areas: The Causes of the First World War, Scots on the Western Front, The Domestic Impact of War on Society and Culture, The impact on Industry and Economy and Politics. Within the classroom teachers will aim to use a mixture of teacher led discussions, group work, retrieval practice and up-to-date media materials to deliver lessons. The course is a popular topic amongst pupils and would be suitable for anyone who is interested in the social subjects, particularly learning about past events.

**Units taught:**

The causes of WWI  
Scotland in the Era of World War 1, 1900-1928

**Course assessment:**

In class tests, homework tasks  
S3 Exam. Consists of a mix of source and skills based questions.

**Possible progression and careers links:**

You can progress to study National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher History in school. The skills you learn in History are valuable in many career areas, including public administration, business management, law, teaching and journalism.



**Course title:** Laboratory Science

**Level:** S3 BGE

**Course description:**

This course focuses on developing generic employability skills needed for success in the workplace through a variety of practical experiences in the laboratory science area.

Science is an important discipline that has been identified by the Scottish Government and Scottish Enterprise as vital to the prosperity of the Scottish Economy.

You will gain practical experience in measuring and weighing quantities, basic laboratory skills such as handling chemicals, preparing solutions, and in calculating and presenting results of practical work.

Health, safety and security procedures are addressed to enable you to maintain health and safety while working in a laboratory environment.

There is no final exam for this course, evidence is based on pupils completing their work booklet and being assessed on certain key practical activities.

**Units taught:**

Working in a Laboratory

Practical Skills

Practical Investigation

**Course assessment:**

There are no formal assessments in this course but the evidence is gathered in a pupil work booklet and set criteria have to be passed both practically and through evidence of written work to pass the units.

**Possible progression and careers links:**

Pupils gain vital employability skills:

- self-evaluation skills with confidence to set goals, reflect and learn from experience
- flexible approach to problem solving
- time management skills
- communication and presentation skills
- numeracy skills
- working co-operatively with others but also have the capability to work independently
- confidence to seek feedback

**Course title:** Mathematics

**Level:** S3 BGE

**Course description:**

Just as languages provide the building blocks and rules we need to communicate, maths uses its own language, made up of numbers, symbols and formulae, to explore the rules we need to measure or identify essential problems like distance, speed, time, space, change, force and quantities. Studying maths helps us to find patterns and structure in our lives. Practically, maths helps us put a price on things, create graphics, build websites, build skyscrapers and generally understand how things work or predict how they might change over time and under different conditions.

Mathematics is an exciting and varied subject that can open up a lot of opportunities for students. The study of mathematics makes you better at solving problems. It gives you skills that you can use across other subjects and apply in many different job roles.

Students will be covering the following topics in S3:

- Distance, Speed, Time
- Statistics
- Integers
- Pythagoras' Theorem
- Algebraic Expressions
- Trigonometry
- Surds and Indices
- Percentages with Money
- Circle Properties
- Straight Line
- Area and Volume
- Simultaneous Equations

Every student will have access to Mathematics booklets, textbooks, a notes jotter and homework booklets. All students are members of the mathematics digital team which contains a wealth of resources such as, course outlines, video tutorials, mathematics notes, homework, and revision materials.

**Course assessment:**

Pupils will be assessed on both their non-calculator and calculator skills in October, February and in June. The results of these assessments will help us plan their progression pathway in S4.

**Possible progression and careers links:**

Maths is so much more than just a compulsory subject – the career possibilities can be endless. Maths is a "facilitating" subject, which means that it will help you to study lots of other subjects and pursue lots of different careers. Maths helps support the study of subjects like physics, chemistry, engineering, computing, economics, business and biology.

**Course title:**

Media

**Level:**

S3 BGE

**Course description:**

This course gives pupils the opportunity to learn more about the world of media and the complexity of media texts. The course covers pre-production, production and post-production stages and a range of media texts, including advertisements, print media, film and social media.

In their study of Media, learners develop their skills in analysis and evaluation, by studying how texts have been created and also by considering the potential impact on those who receive them. Learners develop their creativity, through planning and creating their own texts. They also enhance their communication skills, as discussion of ideas is central to the course.

**Units taught:**

- Analysing Media Content
- Creating Media Content

**Course assessment:**

As pupils in S3 Media are following the Broad General Education (BGE), no external assessment takes place. BGE assessment takes place in the classroom, is on a continuous basis and draws on a wide range of naturally occurring evidence.

Examples of tasks that generate assessment evidence:

- Presentations
- Group discussions
- Class tests
- Essays
- Products (*such as planning and creating an advert*)

**Possible progression and career links:**

- Upon successful completion of the S3 Media course, pupils often progress to National 5 Media in S4.
- The skills developed through S3 Media are relevant to many career paths, particularly those related to marketing, film production and other creative industries.

**Course title:**

Modern Studies

**Level:**

S3 BGE

**Course description:**

The S3 Modern Studies course is designed to encourage pupils to develop a greater understanding of the contemporary world and their place in it. You will have opportunities to develop important attitudes such as respect for the values, beliefs and cultures of others; openness to new thinking and ideas; and a sense of responsibility and global citizenship. The course emphasises the development and application of skills. The focus on evaluating sources and making decisions will develop your thinking skills, as well as skills in literacy and numeracy.

Within the classroom teachers will aim to use a mixture of individual tasks, collaborative group work, retrieval practice and up-to-date media materials including news and documentaries to deliver lessons.

**Units taught:**

Social Inequality in the UK  
Democracy in Scotland  
Social issues in the UK: Crime and the Law

**Course assessment:**

A range of approaches will be used to assess progress, including a range of questioning strategies, group work, self and peer assessment tasks, individual projects and completing formal end of unit assessments.

**Possible progression and careers links:**

This course will suit those who have an interest in Politics, Sociology (the study of society) and English. By continuing with the subject you can go on to achieve a National 3, 4 or 5 Modern Studies Qualification by the end of S4. The skills you learn in Modern Studies are valuable in many career areas, including public administration, business management, law, teaching and journalism.

**Course title:** Music

**Level:** S3 BGE

**Course description:**

Throughout the S3 Music course, candidates develop a breadth of knowledge and understanding of music concepts and musical literacy. They learn to recognise music concepts, signs and symbols as they perform, create and listen to music.

The course allows candidates to develop practical skills in music and knowledge and understanding of music styles and concepts. It encourages them to self-reflect and explore their creative ideas. Understanding music through listening enables candidates to build on and extend their knowledge and understanding of music and influences on music.

The course provides opportunities for candidates to perform a range of music in solo and/or group settings.

**Course assessment:**

You will be assessed informally throughout the year when it comes to checking in with your practical skills on two different instruments. Your knowledge of music listening and literacy will also be tested throughout the course as this will help prepare you if you move forward into National 5.

**Possible progression and careers links:**

S3 Music will prepare you well for continuing into National 5 Music. This subject is valuable if you want to progress in performing arts, but also in careers like law, business and medicine.

**Course title:**

S3 National PE

**Level:**

S3 BGE

**Course description:**

The practical element of the National course in S3 covers four activities. The activities we will be covering this year are Football, Table Tennis, Trampolining and Badminton, but this changes every year to suit the pupils involved. This aims to develop the ability of the students to perform a range of movement and performance skills. The theoretical aspect of the course aims to enable students to understand factors that impact on performance. This will allow them to use their knowledge learned to complete their portfolio in S4.

**Units taught:**

Practical Performance and Factors Impacting on Performance

**Course assessment:**

Internal assessment

**Possible progression and carer links:**

National 5 P.E.

**Course title:**

Physics

**Level:**

S3 BGE

**Course description:**

Physics gives candidates an insight into the underlying nature of our world and its place in the universe. Learners develop their understanding of the properties of light and other forms of electromagnetic radiations. They explore how different waves relate to the environment and how we make use of them in health, medicine and communications. Learners develop their understanding of series and parallel circuits and of electrical and electronic components and apply their knowledge to the process of designing, constructing, testing and modifying.

Within the classroom teachers will aim to use a mixture of teacher led discussions, group work, retrieval practice and experimental work to deliver lessons.

This course will suit candidates who have an interest in Science, Engineering, Technology and Mathematics.

**Units taught:**

Waves  
Electromagnetic Spectrum  
Light  
Nuclear Radiation  
Electrical Circuits

**Course assessment:**

Waves and Radiation level 5 UASP completed in S3

S4 Exam, consisting on two exam papers.

Paper 1: Multiple Choice

Paper 2: Written

Internal Assignment – Currently removed as part of SQA modifications

**Possible progression and carer links:**

The skills you learn in Physics are valuable in many career areas, including engineering, optometry, medical physics, electrician and meteorology.

**Course title:**

Psychology

**Level:**

S3 BGE

**Course description:**

The BGE Psychology course develops candidates' knowledge and understanding of psychological explanations for individual and social behaviour. Studying psychology enables them to find out some of the ways that thoughts and the environment can affect how we feel and behave. Candidates use psychological concepts, theories, research methods and evidence to investigate and explain human behaviour. Psychological knowledge of individual and social behaviour can support candidates in personal and professional relationships and enable them to understand some of the factors that influence behaviour. As candidates develop research skills in psychology, they learn about the ethical implications of research. Explanations for behaviour promote thinking, reasoning and communication skills. Candidates also develop numeracy skills, which are important to research.

Within the classroom there will be a mix of teacher led discussions, group work, individual work, retrieval practice and digital technology to deliver lessons. The department also shares all resources, lessons etc. on TEAMS.

This course will suit candidates who have an interest in Politics, Sociology, English, Science, or Social Sciences.

**Units taught:**

Individual Behaviour Unit – Sleep and Dreams, Social Behaviour Unit – Conformity. We also study research methods in Psychology. We study Phobias and Non Verbal Communication within the S4 course.

**Course assessment:**

- Class tests assessing knowledge and understanding of units/topics.
- We will complete a psychological report based on a research proposal.

**Possible progression and careers links:**

Psychology, medicine, criminology, law, business, policing, politics, marketing and teaching.



**Course title:**

Practical Cookery

**Level:**

S3 BGE

**Course description:**

In S3, pupils will attend the department 3 periods a week (2 x practical 1 x theory).

Pupils will learn:

- How to work safely and hygienically
- How to select and use appropriate equipment to make a wide range of recipes
- A variety of food preparation techniques to prepare a wide range of recipes
- How to control the stages of cookery processes and how to test for readiness
- Skills in presentation, garnishing and decorating a variety of different dishes
- How to Identify ingredients and the categories to which they belong
- Safe and appropriate storage methods for ingredients
- Current dietary advice relating to the use of ingredients
- The reasons for sourcing locally produced and seasonal ingredients

**Units taught:**

Understanding and using ingredients and Cookery skills techniques and processes

**Course assessment:**

Internal assessment consisting of:

Hygiene and safety question paper assessment

Current dietary advice question paper assessment

Practical assessment – cookery skills techniques and processes

**Possible progression and career links:**

National 4 Practical Cookery - SCQF Level 4

**Department:** Design and Technology

**Course title:** Practical Woodworking

**Level:** S3 BGE

**Course description:**

Design is important, but so is the knowledge, skill and experience of actually making things. Any good designer should experience what it is like to actually make something. In Practical woodworking you will spend your time in the workshop making a variety of interesting models. Practical skills are always in demand by industry and in these courses you will learn what you need to start a modern apprenticeship or make the most of college or university

**Units taught:**

In S3, you will further develop the skills you learned in S1 with the Boat Project as well as the S2 Box Project. You will have access to many new tools and machines to create a range of different projects.

**FLAT FRAME:** There are a huge range of wood joints that can be used to create a flat frame. Manufacturing flat frames is an essential for any crafts-person using wood. Creating flat frames that do not rack, rock or move takes real skill. In S3 you will make a range of flat frame projects including a clock and chalkboard.

**CARCASE:** There are a huge range of wood joints that can be used to create a carcass. Manufacturing carcasses is an essential for any crafts-person using wood. Creating carcasses that are square, rock or move takes real skill. In S3 you will make a range of carcass projects including a plant pot and condiment holder

**MACHINING AND TURNING:** Machine tools open up a whole world of different woodwork and craft options beyond mere hand tools. In this course you will use a range of machinery including wood turning lathes, power drills and mortise machines.

**Course assessment:**

Each project will be marked throughout the course. 70% of your mark comes from the practical work and 30% will come from your knowledge and understanding

**Possible progression and careers links:**

Woodworking allows for many great opportunities later in life, such as, [Cabinet Maker](#), [Sign writer](#), [Musical Instrument Maker Or Repairer](#), [French Polisher](#), [Carpenter Or Joiner](#), [Shop fitter](#), [Marine Craftsperson](#), [Painter and Decorator or Prop Maker](#).

**Course title:** Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies

**Level:** S3 BGE

**Course description:**

In RMPS, you will explore religious, moral and philosophical perspectives on issues that affect us. For example, in the morality unit you will study Crime and Punishment and consider why crimes happen, how crime is punished and its' effects. You will explore the treatment of young offenders and both custodial and non-custodial sentences and the related moral dilemmas these issues throw up. For example, should a person's upbringing influence their sentence? Does prison work? You will also explore and debate the justification and humaneness of capital punishment and life sentences. In the philosophy unit, you will investigate different theories about how and why the universe exists, drawing on scientific discoveries and theories as well as religious traditions and philosophical arguments. The quality of philosophical thinking in this Unit will really hone your critical thinking skills! In the world religion unit, you will study key beliefs and values of Hinduism, seeking to understand how Hindus view the nature of human beings and our universe. You will also consider the impact of the religion on Hindus across the world, discussing and debating the various advantages and challenges of Hinduism in the modern world. How does karma really work? Do we have duties? Is there such a thing as a soul?

This course develops a range of cognitive skills. It encourages active learning in the process of investigating religious, moral and philosophical issues. You will learn to express viewpoints and have the opportunity for personal reflection. You will develop a wide range of important and transferable skills including accurate recording of information, researching resources, analysing and evaluating beliefs and values, and expressing reasoned personal opinions in a variety of contexts.

**Units taught:**

World Religion: Hinduism

Morality and Belief: Morality and Justice

Religious and Philosophical Questions: Origins of the Universe and Life

**Course assessment:**

Class tests assessing knowledge and understanding of units/topics.

**Possible progression and career links:**

Employers value staff that are able to think critically, analyse complex information and solve problems. These abilities are all central to RMPS and will be developed throughout your time in the classroom. Relevant careers include law, international relations, medicine, business and economics, teaching and education, social work and politics.

**Course title:**

Spanish

**Level:**

S3 BGE

**Course description:**

The course adopts a topic-based approach and the content covered helps to form the essential foundations of the knowledge that pupils require to achieve success at National 5. The S3 course is a beginners course which introduces pupils to basic Spanish language and covers the topics of Greetings, Personal information, Days, Months, Weather, Numbers, Home Area, Family, Relationships with Others, and School. Pupils will also learn about Spanish culture and festivals. Through the study of these topics, pupils develop and enhance their four language skills (Listening, Talking, Reading and Writing).

**Course assessment:**

Assessment in the BGE is ongoing and pupils receive regular, short vocabulary and grammar tests on material covered in class. Unit assessments are also completed at the end of each unit of learning and usually cover one productive (Talking or Writing) and one receptive (Listening or Reading) language skill. By the end of S3, pupils will have been assessed in all four language skills.

**Possible progression and career links:**

National 4 or National 5 Spanish may be chosen in S4, followed by Higher Spanish in S5 or S6, with the potential for Advanced Higher Spanish in S6. Spanish is one of the most spoken languages in the world and is an enjoyable language to learn. It is the second most used language in international communication and is one of more than 20 official languages of the European Union, one of six official languages of the United Nations and the second most studied language in the world.

**Course title:** S3 Sport and Fitness

**Level:** SCQF Lv 4

**Course description:**

The practical element of the Sport & Fitness course in S3 covers four main activities. The activities we will be covering are Table Tennis, Volleyball, Football, and Fitness. The theoretical aspect of the course covers topics such as the principles of training, skills and techniques, rules and regulations, and performance evaluation and development.

**Units taught:** Practical Performance and Principles of Training

**Course assessment:** Internal assessment

**Possible progression and carer links:**

National 5 P.E.

**Course title:**

S3 STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) / Wider Achievement

**Level:**

SCQF Lv 5

**Course description:**

This class will complement whichever STEAM subjects you have chosen e.g. Physics, Engineering Science, Art + Design ... by joining up the learning between them. This will be done through project work, experiments, workshops and trips. You will develop STEAM skills like problem solving, creativity and research, in fun and exciting ways. Some of the previous projects have included Stop Motion Animation, flight theory with a trip to Glasgow Science Centre's flight simulator, and judging the best book in the science category for the Young People's Book Prize.

**Units taught:**

Young STEM Leader Award (YSL)

**Course assessment:**

Formal –

- Young STEM Leader booklet completion
- Leadership shown in one STEAM activity/event

Informal –

- Skills observation throughout the year
- Practical Activities
- Group Work

**Possible progression and career links:**

Progression –

The transferrable skills you will develop in this unit will help you in your STEAM subjects in S4 and beyond. The Young STEM Leader Award is delivered in S5 at level 6. The qualification can also be delivered at level 7, and will support you in becoming a STEM Ambassador as you move on to your next STEAM adventure after school.

Career links –

You will have the opportunity to network with the external STEAM companies we will be working with e.g GumDrop, Jacobs, The Royal Society which will result in you building up your STEAM contacts. These connections can be and have been used for work experience connections.