

Our Ref. DL/SG -
Your Ref.
Contact D Samson
Email dsamson@aberdeencity.gov.uk
Direct Dial 01224 523817
Direct Fax 01224 522022



ABERDEEN
CITY COUNCIL

19 January 2012

Education, Culture and Sport
Business Hub 13
Second Floor North
Marischal College
Broad Street
AB10 1AB

Tel 08456 08 09 10
Minicom 01224 522381
DX 529451, Aberdeen 9
www.aberdeencity.gov.uk

Dear Parent/Carer

Curriculum for Excellence Implementation

I write to provide important information on decisions which have been taken recently by the education service that may affect your child(ren)'s education.

As you will be aware, your school has been developing and implementing plans to deliver the new Scottish curriculum. This has involved engagement with parents/carers, staff, pupils and others on the number, type and organisation of courses at different stages in secondary schools.

The expectation nationally is that schools should provide a broad general education up to the end of a young person's third year in secondary school (S3). This should involve breadth and depth of learning which is appropriate to individual pupils and provide challenge and enjoyment.

Pupils will then enter the *Senior Phase* (S4-S6), which involves the majority of learners working towards presentation for examinations (National Qualifications) at the end of S4. Pupils may then decide to progress to the next level in certificated courses, undertake different courses of study or leave school for further or higher education or training or enter the world of work.

In order to maximise the opportunities for senior phase pupils, all the secondary schools have been working together with senior education officers to develop what we are calling the *City Campus* approach. This approach is a partnership between the secondary schools, colleges, universities, businesses and employers and aims to ensure that senior pupils can access a wide and meaningful range of learning opportunities appropriate to their interests and requirements. The *City Campus* project is at an early stage but we are confident it will deliver a new and innovative way for pupils to develop the necessary skills for life and work.

In order to develop this approach we do however require that all secondary schools work together with greater consistency and commonality. Accordingly the Secondary Head Teachers and senior education officers have agreed a set of

ANNETTE BRUTON
DIRECTOR

operating principles that will enable us to achieve these aims. Our operating principles are

- 1) All pupils will follow a broad general education to the end of S3, the format of which will be determined in each school.
- 2) Presentation for examinations will normally first take place when pupils reach the end of S4 and then at S5 and S6 for pupils who remain at school.
- 3) Pupils will undertake a course of study in a maximum of six subjects in S4 from session 2013-14 (i.e. pupils currently in S2). The range of subjects and courses available will be determined within each school.
- 4) All schools will enter into consortium arrangements with at least one other school. This will allow pupils to choose from a wider range of subjects and courses (both academic and vocational) than could be provided at each individual school.
- 5) Senior Phase pupils will continue to have access to a range of centrally delivered courses during travel afternoons in session 2012-13. The specific courses and arrangements are under review and any new developments will be notified directly to pupils and parents.
- 6) All secondary schools will attempt to offer pupils access to the courses of their choice. As this may involve pupils attending classes at more than one location, it is our intention to consult upon a common school week where all schools share a similar starting and finishing times and the number of teaching periods in all schools will be the same.

These arrangements are intended to provide pupils with appropriate learning opportunities and enable and motivate learners to develop to their fullest potential as well as prepare them for lifelong learning.

A fuller description of the City Campus approach will be made available shortly and we are keen to discuss the various strands and implications with pupils, parents and carers in the near future.

I hope you find this information helpful and in the meantime would encourage you to direct any initial questions to your child's school as they are fully aware of the proposals.

Yours sincerely



David Leng
Head of Schools and Education Establishments