

The Course Choice Process

All pupils will be provided with a course choice sheet and subject information.

All pupils will be attending assemblies which explains the course choice procedure.

All pupils will be working with their Guidance teacher to discuss and plan their time in S3.

All pupils will be engaging with parents/carers to come to decisions about their course choices in S3.

Parents/Carers have the opportunity to meet with teachers at Parents' Evening
Careers evening planned which allows pupils & parents/carers to speak to businesses and organisations about career pathways and planning

All choices are submitted by the deadline after which the pupils are allocated into classes.

Courses may change (not run) due to staffing constraints, accommodation or a shortage of pupils opting for it. We will do our best to accommodate the pupils' choices BUT they may be required to take their reserve choice. Therefore careful consideration has to be given to final choices.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 5 February —Course Choice Assembly

Wednesday 27 February —S2 Parents' Evening

W/b Monday 4 February—Course Choice Sheet
handed out

Friday 1 March—Course Choice Deadline

Tuesday 19 February—Careers Evening

Personalisation through Choice

S2 Course Choice



The story so far S1 and S2...

All pupils have studied common courses

Setting in English and maths with mixed ability for the top 70%

This all ensures breadth & depth across the curriculum in preparation for moving into senior school in S4.

Pupils begin to think about Pathways Planning—what will their learner journey look like throughout and beyond school?

S3—what happens next?

More specialisation : going from 15 subjects in S2 to 9 subjects in S3 which allows deeper learning and therefore better preparation for study in S4.

Maintaining Breadth: all continue with Maths, English , Physical Education, Religious Moral & Philosophical Studies and Personal/Social Education. MPS, and PSE.

Choice: also maintains breadth: choose at least one from each of the following areas - Science, Social studies, Expressive Arts, Technologies, Health & Wellbeing

What is a 'Free Choice' Column?

We very much want to ensure that we keep a balance across curriculum areas for Broad General Education which allows for breadth, depth, personalisation and choice.

Choosing from all of the curricular areas allows pupils to get the experience of all outcomes and the Free Choice also allows pupils to specialise in areas they feel they are good at or want to progress with in S4/5/6

We are recommending to pupils that the courses that they chose in S4 will come from the subjects you choose in S3.

How do they choose?

The support we give to pupils encourages them to choose carefully and for the right reasons.

Do not choose subjects because your best friend is doing it , because you like the teacher, or because you have heard that it is an “easy” subject!

Think about instead:

- What are my best subjects just now?
- Are there any new subjects I would like to try?
- What subjects do I enjoy?

Demands of S4 and beyond

There is an increase in pace and challenge as young people move into the senior school. Our expectations are made clear in assemblies and PSE lessons. There will be:

- An expectation that young people will become increasingly independent .
- Increased pace and level of challenge quality and quantity of work expected
- More frequent homework

Thinking beyond S4

During S4 pupils will focus more on possible careers with support from guidance staff as well as staff from Skills |Development Scotland.

The right option for them might be:

- Further study at college perhaps leading to university or employment.
- Employment/Apprenticeship
- Further study in school - S5

Support in Making Choices

Who can help your child make decisions?

- PSE programme
- S3 choice form and booklet
- Guidance Teacher
- S2 Parents' Evening
- Subject teacher information
- My World of Work and other Web Sites/programmes