S3 Course Choice

English

Analysis and Evaluation: Reading and Listening
Pupils will be given an opportunity to study a variety of both print and media texts. They will be given practice in how to analyse and evaluate straightforward written and spoken texts demonstrating an understanding of purpose, audience, main ideas, supporting details and literary techniques, including critical terminology.

Creation and Production: Writing and Talking
Pupils will produce straightforward written and spoken texts in different genres. Candidates will be expected to experiment across a variety of styles, including creative and discursive writing, meeting the requirements of each genre as appropriate.

Milestone assessments in Reading, Writing, Talking and Listening will be undertaken.
Learning at home is an integral and ongoing component of English, and candidates will be expected to show some level of personal initiative and motivation. This may take a variety of forms: revisiting class notes; improving vocabulary; reading quality fiction and non-fiction; specific exercises issued by the class teacher… as appropriate.

Mathematics

The basic aim of a mathematical education is to help you to learn how to describe, tackle and eventually solve problems which require the use of mathematical knowledge, techniques and technology. This includes the use of mental skills, written methods and those which require the sensible use of calculators and other technology.

Learning mathematics develops logical reasoning, analysis, problem-solving skills, creativity, and the ability to think in abstract ways. It uses a universal language of numbers and symbols, which allows us to communicate ideas in a concise, unambiguous and rigorous way.
Mathematics equips us with many of the skills required for life, learning and work. Understanding the part that mathematics plays in almost all aspects of life is crucial.

This Course allows learners to acquire and develop the attributes and capabilities of the four capacities. For example: success in mathematical learning and activity leads to increased confidence as an individual; being able to think logically helps towards being a responsible citizen; and being able to understand, use and communicate mathematical ideas will help in becoming an effective contributor. Consequently much of what you will do involves learning how to deal with a wide variety of different problems.

N4 Assessment - The National 4 Mathematics Course enables learners to select and apply mathematical techniques in a variety of mathematical and real-life situations. Learners interpret, communicate and manage information in mathematical form.
We offer three N4 Units: N4 Numeracy, N4 Expressions & Formulae and N4 Relationships.

N5 Assessment - The National 5 Mathematics Course enables learners to select and apply mathematical techniques in a variety of mathematical and real-life situations. Learners interpret, communicate and manage information in mathematical form. We offer three N5 Units provided N4 Numeracy and N4 Added Value have been achieved: N5 Expressions & Formulae, N5 Relationships and N5 Applications.

Full details of the coverage of the courses can be found on the SQA website at Mathematics
The final exam includes a non-calculator paper and paper in which a calculator may be used.

Administration and IT

The course is comprised of three main units – Communication in Administration, Administrative Practices and IT Solutions in Administration. Pupils will be taught through both theory and practical tasks using software packages such as presentation, spread sheet, databases and word processing. They will also complete a unit of work which will bring all these software features together in order to give pupils a true understanding of the tasks undertaken by an administrative assistant.

Art & Design

The course leads on from the skills learned in S1 and 2. The course is divided into two sections Expressive and Design, each has a written element to cover and prepare the young people for the written content in senior school courses. The learning is over two periods a week and each section lasts two terms, two before December and two terms from January.
The practical skills taught are based on skills expected at senior school award levels and so prepare them for their possible s4 course choice.

Assessment of on-going work and one to one conversations will take place regularly throughout the year. There is no set homework but learning at home may be expected to strengthen skills, reinforce a concept taught or as catch-up with expected work.
There will be an opportunity to complete a stand-alone Design with a Scottish context unit.

Biology

The S3 Biology course is comprised of a range of different units. Some of the units covered are:

- Lifecycles – You will study the different life cycles followed by a variety of organisms, with the opportunity to develop research and summarising skills. What's the most obscure life cycle you can think of?
- Respiration – You will find out how the body obtains the energy it needs for survival, how this can be measured and factors that can affect this. Do you know how exercise affects respiration? Let's run the 100m track and find out!
- Biotechnology – Ever wondered how cheese is made? Or what makes "biological washing powder" the best at removing stains? This topic explores the use of microorganisms in different industries and how we can use them to benefit us.
- Body systems (senses) – eyes, muscles, joints etc.: how do they work? Get ready for some hands on practical's to investigate what makes our body function!

A large focus is on continuing to develop key skills to prepare for the type of assessments completed in N4/5/Higher. They include the ability to, analyse, evaluate and create, communicate, prioritise and work effectively in teams.

Bridge

Bridge is one of the world's most popular trick-taking card games and is played by four people in two competing partnerships. In addition to being great fun, bridge helps develop team-working skills and trains the mind to see patterns and consider options, enhancing general cognitive and thinking skills.

Business Management

This course allows pupils to build on outcomes delivered in S2 Financial Education and prepare themselves for the National courses if they choose this as their progression route later in school. The course covers a variety of topics such as "Business Basics" - An introduction into Business Management, Marketing, Operations and Finance

Chemistry

The S3 course comprises three main topics, namely Fuels, The Chemical Industry and Materials.
In Fuels, the pupils will discover what a fuel is and the importance of fossil fuels and renewable sources of energy.

The Chemical Industry allows the pupils to discover chemical reactions and the factors which affect the speed of chemical reactions as well as the importance of many chemical reactions in the chemical industry.

In Materials, the pupils will learn the difference between and the properties of both natural and synthetic materials and the uses of metals, plastics and ceramic materials.

Classics

Pupils will gain an overview of Roman Society, and the settlements in Britain. They will go on to study the mysteries of the ninth legion, Vindolanda, Hadrian's Wall and Caledonia. They will also learn some basics of Latin. Skills gained will include reading for information and analysis, report writing and creative writing.

Computing Science

S3 work through Level 4 ICT and Computing Experiences and Outcomes which allow pupils to build on knowledge gained in S2 Computing Science. It is also helps to build skills in analysis and report writing, as well as web design using HTML, Binary, Computer Systems, Graphics and Programming using Python which are required in the Senior Phase.

Creative Writing

For pupils who enjoy reading and writing fiction, this is the perfect elective to help develop their skills. Pupils will explore literary techniques, as well as a variety of extracts from novels, poems and plays. They will then have the time and space to practice their own writing. Discussion, sharing ideas, and constructive feedback will also be a key feature of this course, as well as finding audiences and outlets for their work, such as competitions and publishing.

Drama

The S3 Drama course looks to consolidate skills learnt in S1/2, while also preparing pupils for the practical and theoretical demands of National 5 Drama.

Each unit assesses acting and/or production skills, such as directing and lighting. Although each pupil is required to make an acting contribution in unit 1, pupils can then opt to specialise in a design or technical role for future performances/ assessments.

The course consists of 4 units, each focusing on key concepts, skills and vocabulary.

- Supernatural Drama (a devised ghost story, looking at drama conventions, lighting and sound pre show effects, transition scenes and structure)
- Storytelling (script based unit, exploring themes, creation of mood and conflict, characterisation, stylised movement, genre, set design, props and site specific theatre/venue and staging)
- Theatre in Education (Pupils write or devise a drama, aimed at a target audience, exploring a particular topic. Pupils each take on one of the following production roles: Acting, directing, lighting, sound or costume design)
- Drama Skills (assesses all above areas, as well as preparing pupils for the written demand and creativity required at National 5 level)

Each unit is assessed through a practical performance, done in class time. At the end of units 2 and 4 there is a written assessment.

Dance

Pupils will work through the National progression award for dance (NPA). They will develop their knowledge and experience of different dance styles and cultures from around the world and will learn to choreograph and perform their own dances.

Debating

Pupils will be expected to research and debate a range of issues with their peers in an encouraging setting. Pupils will learn how to structure and partake in formal debates. There may also be the opportunity to compete in local public speaking and debating competitions throughout the year.
This elective is an excellent way to develop public speaking, communication and critical thinking skills. Research and writing skills will also be enhanced as pupils will be expected to carry out research on discussion topics and write speeches which express their views on these.

Design and Manufacture

S3 Design and Manufacture will allow pupils to develop knowledge and skills enabling them to appreciate, contribute and adapt to the diverse opportunities offered in manufacturing industries. Pupils will develop creative and practical skills by designing and making solutions to real problems. In addition, they will gain an understanding of the impact of design and manufacture on everyday life. The course will encourage pupils to take a broad view of design and manufacture, through making decisions and taking responsibility for their own actions, generating and developing ideas, applying knowledge, and justifying decisions. These transferrable skills place candidates in a strong position regardless of the career path they choose. The S3 course will link directly to N5 Design and Manufacture in S4.

This course provides a foundation for those considering further study or a career in design, manufacturing, engineering, science, marketing, and related disciplines. The course also offers a complementary practical experience for those studying subjects in the technologies and expressive arts.

Two units are studied.

Design: The general aim of this Unit is to develop the learner's skills and creativity in designing a product towards a manufacturing process. Learners will take a given design brief and develop it to a final concept, generating ideas by applying research, graphics and modelling techniques. Existing products will be examined and evaluated. The Unit is also designed to enable the learner to develop an understanding of the impact of design and manufacturing technologies on our environment and society.

Materials and Manufacturing: The general aim of this Unit is to develop the learner's skills and creativity in manufacturing a product or prototype based on a given a design concept. The aim includes developing an appreciation and application of the properties and uses of materials. Learners will manufacture models and prototypes, applying a range of practical skills. The Unit is designed to enable the learner to develop an understanding of the impact of materials and manufacturing on design and the environment.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

In this elective, pupils will complete all aspects of the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. Class time will consist of training sessions covering the skills which will allow them to safely participate in the expedition element of the award: navigation, camp craft, first aid, dealing with emergencies, planning and route preparation.

There is a significant additional cost to this course which in the current session is approximately £130. This includes costs related to the expedition component of the award.

Engineering Science

Engineering is a broad area of human endeavour which brings together elements of technology, science and mathematics, and applies these to real world challenges. The Course therefore provides an excellent opportunity to make links across learning in the senior phase.

The aims of the Course are to enable learners to:

- apply knowledge and understanding of basic engineering facts and ideas
- understand the relationships between engineering, mathematics and science
- apply skills in analysis, design, construction and evaluation to a range of straightforward engineering problems
- communicate engineering concepts clearly and concisely using appropriate terminology
- develop an understanding of the role and impact of engineering in changing and influencing our environment and society

This course leads directly into N5 Engineering Science in S4, and is an excellent opportunity to develop work which may be used in application for the Arkwright Scholarship

Fashion

Pupils will have the opportunity to design and create fashion/costumes using a variety of textile techniques and equipment. They will work as a business to plan, cost and event manage a Fashion show and will learn how to design and adapt a range of items of clothing to enhance the appearance whilst encouraging upcycling.

French

In S3, pupils will continue to develop their language ability across the four main skills areas; Reading, Listening, Talking and Writing. In S3 pupils will begin to explore the use of different tenses and will learn to manipulate the language more to their own needs; not just expressing ideas but backing them up with opinions and reasons. Topics covered include technology, holidays and travel, France as a holiday destination and other French speaking countries. Pupils will also look at employability, the importance of learning languages and how a second (or more) foreign languages can help create opportunities in future study, employment and career progression.

Geography

In S3 Geography pupils will study a variety of topics that will develop their Geographical skills. Pupils will analyse sources of information, write critically, create reports about current issues, draw diagrams, interpret numerical data, draw graphs and carry out calculations. Pupils will study the following topics;

Tourism - This unit will explore the impacts that tourism has on people and the environment with a focus on Kenya.

Climate Regions – This unit explores the adaptions that plants and animals make to living in the Tundra and Hot Deserts and looks at how people have also adapted to living in these extreme climate zones.

The Cairngorms - This unit looks at how glaciation has shaped the landscape we know today. It will also explore how people use the landscape, conflicts that arise between different groups of people and our weather.

Settlement - The unit explores the growth of Dundee and the different land use zones within it. This leads in to a project about Dundee which will allow pupils to gain a national qualification in Scottish Studies, working collaboratively across Social Subjects and English.

German

Learning a new language enables pupils to make connections with different people and their cultures and to play a fuller part as global citizens. Pupils will reflect, communicate and develop ideas using German language. This course provides pupils with the opportunity to develop skills in reading, listening, talking and writing, which are essential for learning, for work and for life; to use different media effectively for learning and communication; to develop understanding of how German works; and to use German to communicate ideas and information.

Graphic Communication

The Course allows learners to engage with technologies. It allows learners to consider the impact that graphic communication technologies have on our environment and society.
The aims of the Course are to enable learners to:

- develop skills in graphic communication techniques, including the use of equipment, materials and software
- extend and apply knowledge and understanding of graphic communication standards, protocols and conventions, where these apply
- develop an understanding of the impact of graphic communication technologies on our environment and society

On completing the Course, learners will be able to: initiate, develop and communicate ideas graphically; interpret graphic communications initiated by others; use graphic communication equipment, software and materials effectively; and apply knowledge and understanding of graphic communication standards, protocols and conventions.

The Course consists of two mandatory units. Each of the units of the course is designed to provide progression at National 5. 2D Graphic Communication: This Unit helps learners develop their creativity and skills within a 2D graphic communication context. It will allow learners to initiate, develop and communicate ideas using graphic techniques in straightforward and familiar contexts.
3D and Pictorial Graphic Communication: This Unit helps learners develop their creativity and skills within a 3D and pictorial graphic communication context. Again, it will allow learners to initiate, develop and communicate ideas using graphic techniques in straightforward and familiar contexts.

Health and Fitness

Pupils are developing their physical health as well as social, emotional and mental wellbeing.
The focus will be on leading an active and healthy lifestyle through a varied physical activity programme, making good nutritional choices through home economics and understanding about the body through science. This will be a very practical based course will many different fitness elements as well as working with partner agencies to focus on the emotional and mental aspects of a health body, healthy mind agenda.

History

In S3, pupils study American History, focusing on the life of Native Americans, the Atlantic Slave Trade and the American Civil War. Throughout these topics pupils will also research Scotland's involvement and the impact that these events have had on Scotland today. After completing the USA topics, pupils will study the impact and effects of the Great War on Scotland, concentrating on the causes of the conflict and life on the Western Front. This unit will allow pupils to gain a national qualification in Scottish Studies, working collaboratively across Social Subjects and English. Throughout the year pupils will be provided with further opportunities to practice and develop their skills in the key areas of source handling and extended writing. Pupils will complete timed spot check assessments and will research and produce a project on both The Atlantic Slave Trade and Great War topics.

Journalism

In this elective, pupils will develop their knowledge and understanding of the basic principles of print and online journalism as they examine the role of printed news media in our society. They will acquire investigative skills, responsible reporting, and journalistic writing techniques as they read, respond to, and write their own news and feature articles. Students will conduct interviews, research, write, and design their own publications.

Media

The media elective provides learners with the opportunity to: use different media effectively for learning and communication; be creative and express themselves in different ways; and use creative and critical thinking to synthesise ideas and arguments. The elective also provides learners with the opportunity to: experience enjoyment and contribute to other people's enjoyment through creative and expressive presentation; develop critical literacy skills and personal, interpersonal and team working skills; and enhance their enjoyment and their understanding of their own and other cultures.

The main purpose of this course is to analyse and create media content. The course enables learners to understand and develop their media literacy skills and appreciate the opportunities and challenges that occur within the media industry. This elective provides learners with opportunities to develop both knowledge and understanding of the media and the ability to create media content. The Media course offers learners opportunities to develop and extend a wide range of skills in preparation for progression on to the National 5 Media course.

Music

The Music course is S3 will cover the 3 elements of Performing, Understanding Music and Composing Skills. You will continue to build skills on your 2 instruments from S1 and S2 through both solo and group performing pieces. There will be an opportunity to complete a stand-alone SQA performing unit.
Listening skills will be further developed by beginning to look at some of the National 3 and National 4 musical concepts in relation to popular musical styles.

You will continue to expand you knowledge of music literacy. This will lead to beginning to investigate composing skills both practically and using music notation software.

Music Technology

This course covers basic Music Technology Skills and how to implement these skills within different contexts such as a radio broadcast, a composition based on loops and samples, an animation or an audiobook.

Pupils will gain experience of working in the studio and capturing sound, and then editing this within Cubase audio engineering software.
Pupils will be introduced to Understanding Music of 20th and 21st century through listening to different genres of music.

Modern Studies

Modern Studies develops an understanding of contemporary issues around the world. In S3, we examine the political, social and economic forces and institutions which influence our daily lives on a local, national and global scale. It is an exciting and fast moving subject and a variety of topics are studied as part of the Curriculum for Excellence 'People in Society'. Topics of study will include racism, inequalities and a deeper understanding of a world power.

Photography

This is a practical working course that will have a small element of written work to mirror skills expected for this type of course at a later stage and higher level. Skills developed include aesthetic qualities of the visual elements such as line, tone, colour, texture, pattern, shape and form, and an awareness of compositional elements which will enhance their photographs through framing, use of focal points, directing the eye and creating depth. These elements will be explored through a variety of genres such as landscape, still life, portraiture and built environment. Small projects will incorporate "The day in the life of" and "My Visual Diary". This program will give the pupils opportunities to work both in a classroom and community environment.

Physics

S3 Physics eliminates the common perception that the subject is highly mathematical and is only for boys by promoting academic equality to all. This is a great taster course for pupils who want to continue further studies in Physics, but also a stimulating course for pupils who are curious about the science subject. Pupils venture through light years in space, simulating experiments to discover exo-planets, search for extra-terrestrial life in "Goldilocks zones, design and test balloon propelled cars, use logic circuits to design sensor operated circuits and research the deep bone-crunching depths of the Mariana trench. The approach to this skills-based course is based on scientific enquiry merged with cognitive and higher order thinking skills, essential for pursuit of further study in Physics whilst transferrable to other subjects.

Practical Metalworking

The Course provides opportunities for learners to gain a range of practical metalworking skills and to use a variety of tools, equipment and materials. It allows them to plan activities through to the completion of a finished product in metal. The Course also gives learners the opportunity to develop thinking, numeracy, employability, enterprise and citizenship skills.

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

- skills in metalworking techniques
- skills in measuring and marking out metal sections and sheet materials
- safe working practices in workshop environments
- practical creativity and problem-solving skills
- knowledge of sustainability issues in a practical metalworking context

Two Units will be covered in S3, and this will lead directly into National 5 Practical Metalworking.

Practical Woodworking

The Course provides opportunities for learners to gain a range of practical woodworking skills and to use a variety of tools, equipment and materials. It allows them to plan activities through to the completion of a finished product in wood. The Course also gives learners the opportunity to develop thinking, numeracy, and employability, enterprise and citizenship skills.

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

- skills in woodworking techniques
- skills in measuring and marking out timber sections and sheet materials
- safe working practices in workshop environments
- practical creativity and problem-solving skills
- knowledge of sustainability issues in a practical woodworking context

Two Units will be covered in S3, and this will lead directly into National 5 Practical Woodworking.

RMPS

This course allows pupils to develop a deeper understanding of RMPS. Pupils will study the nature of extremism, looking at ISIS and the terrorist attacks of the 21st century. This will enable pupils to analyse and evaluate the morality of terrorism and the responses to it. Pupils will also study the morality of life and death through topics such as capital punishment, abortion and euthanasia. The final area of study will focus on the rights of animals in the 21st century. Pupils will research and debate the arguments of animals in captivity, animals in science and as a source of food.

Spanish

In S3, pupils will continue to develop their language ability across the four main skills areas; Reading, Listening, Talking and Writing. In S3 pupils will begin to explore the use of different tenses and will learn to manipulate the language more to their own needs; not just expressing ideas but backing them up with opinions and reasons. Topics covered include home area, holidays and travel, technology, hobbies and interests and food in Spain and other Spanish speaking countries. Pupils are also encouraged to look at how languages may be useful to them in the future, whether for work or for leisure.

Travel and Tourism

Pupils will research holiday destinations eg. City breaks, Adventure Tourism, Winter Sun and Theme Park holidays e.g. Disneyland. They will learn about the impacts of tourism, both positive and negative and about trends in tourism – historical reasons for the growth of tourism and future trends such as Space Tourism. Pupils may have the opportunity to develop their own virtual holiday resort and give presentation to the class including their hotel policies, uniform designs, pricing guides and hotel entertainment.

Young Engineers

This course involves project based learning activities, such as "F1 in Schools", where pupils will set into groups and given a large degree of autonomy to tackle the project. Project based learning of this nature will help develop important life skills such as working both collaboratively and independently; communicating both verbally and in written formats; developing problem solving skills; creating links with organizations / industries out with school; working to deadlines; and developing presentation skills.

An Application Form should be submitted on choosing this course. This will ensure the competitions entered best suit pupil needs, and support the formation of competition teams within the class. This form can be obtained from Technical or PC&S staff.

Pupils will have choice in the form of area of responsibility within projects, such as: Project Manager, Design Engineer, Resource Manager, Researcher or Scrutineering Supervisor. The end product will be in the form of in school race days/competition; Regional / UK Finals; and/ or showcasing of projects at the Young Engineers and Science Clubs event.

This course is excellent preparation for Technologies subjects at National 5, and gives ample opportunity to prepare project work necessary to apply for the Arkwright Scholarship in S4