

# **S3 Curriculum**

## **BRECHIN HIGH SCHOOL**



**A guide for S3 pupils and  
parents**

**Session 2017-18**

Dear Parent/Carer,

Your child/legal charge is about to enter S3, their final year of a broad general education. This booklet gives an overview of Brechin High School's S3 curriculum. It should support your child/legal charge in selecting subjects which best suit their needs.

At Brechin High School we feel strongly about preparing our young people as well as possible for their course choices in S4/S5/S6. As part of this preparation we would like to offer the opportunity in S3 for increased personalisation and choice. This will allow your child/legal charge an element of choice regarding the subjects they wish to study in S3. As a result they will get an opportunity to study some subjects in greater depth and this will help them prepare for senior school.

If you have any questions about this process please contact **Mr Mills**.

### **Key Dates -**

#### **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

S2 Parents Evening

#### **Week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> December.**

Pupils will meet with their Pupil Care and Support Teacher to discuss their options in S3. A draft choice will be made at this point and sent home for discussion with parents.

#### **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December**

Course choice sheet to be returned to the school office, having been signed by parents.

## An overview of the S3 curriculum structure

The S3 curriculum choices sheet is split into 3 parts:

1. Core: All pupils take PSE, PE, RE, Maths, Modern Languages and 1 period of Support.
2. Choices: Pupils choose a discrete subject from each of the remaining curricular areas.
3. Enhancements: These are additional choices which are described in the rest of the booklet. They allow pupils to study more of what they like and what they are good at.

Your child/legal charge will study three enhancement subjects. We cannot guarantee to satisfy every enhancement choice because we are limited by the availability of staff and other resources but we will do the very best we can. Therefore, we ask that your child/legal charge chooses **six** enhancements and writes them **in order of preference** in the boxes provided. We would ask that your child/legal charge carefully considers their S3 choices and chooses subjects which give them the best progression pathway into senior school. This is why we have asked them to identify subjects in S4 they intend to study on the S3 curriculum choice sheet. Please note that, in addition to subject teachers and PCS, support has been made available from our Skills Development Scotland Officer who would be happy to provide career advice to help guide your child in their decision making process. Please contact the school should you wish to make use of this support.

## An overview of the S3 Enhancements on offer

The remainder of this document provides an overview of some of the more unfamiliar and enhancement subjects which are on offer to your child. This is to support you and your child/legal charge in making an informed choice.

## Admin & IT

The key purpose of this course is to develop pupils' administrative and IT skills and, ultimately, to enable them to contribute to the effective functioning of organisations.

The aims are to develop a basic understanding of administration in the workplace and key concepts such as legislation affecting employees. Pupils will also develop an appreciation of good customer care. Your child's IT skills will be developed and use them to perform straightforward administrative tasks. Organisational skills in the context of organising and supporting small scale events will also be developed. The course provides a solid foundation for National 5 Admin and IT.

## Architectural Design

This course is aimed at those interested in Architecture and building design. Pupils will explore the design process through a variety of projects, including designing a room interior. It will include an introduction to the History of Architecture: researching architects and buildings.

Pupils will develop their own ideas as well as perspective drawing and model making.

Pupils can go on to complete National 5 Art and Design in S4.

## Art Skills

The main aim of this course is to increase experience of the more involved art processes and techniques such as working with clay, various forms of printing, art school inspired drawing and painting techniques, to name a few.

This course will provide a broader skills base upon which to build a strong National 5 folio in S4 and beyond.

## Come Dine with Me

Come Dine with Me is an introductory course into World of Hospitality with progression to National Qualifications in the senior years. The course aims to introduce the importance of good hygienic practice through the REHIS Introduction to Food Hygiene Certificate. It will also develop Cookery Skills and Techniques and important nutritional knowledge that will enable participants to develop the organisation required to progress forward seamlessly to attainment at National 5 Hospitality.

NB - A charge will be incurred for ingredients used during this course.

## Computing Science

Computing science is vital to everyday life — socially, technologically and economically; it shapes the world in which we live and its future.

The aims are to develop pupils' skills in computational (logical) thinking and develop knowledge and understanding of key facts and ideas in computing science. Pupils will gain skills in computer programming such as: analysis, design, implementation and testing of computer programmes to carry out specific tasks. They will develop an understanding of the impact of computing science with emerging technologies and their influence on our environment and society. The course provides a solid foundation for National 5 Computing Science.

## Design & Manufacture

Design and manufacturing skills are an essential element of the processes used by companies manufacturing and selling goods.

The course aims to provide opportunities for learners to develop practical and design skills. Pupils will be involved in the complete design process including designing products, research and evaluating existing products. In addition, pupils will spend some time in the workshop learning about materials and manufacturing processes.

The course provides a solid foundation for National 5 Design and Manufacture.

## Design Engineer Construct

Design Engineer Construct is a new and innovative qualification. The curriculum focuses on sustainable architecture and engineering. Design Engineer Construct offers learners the opportunity to develop a range of skills and knowledge. The areas covered are fundamental to successful engagement in professional aspects of architecture, engineering, construction and built environment sectors.

Students use project based learning to develop knowledge and skills by undertaking a sustainable building project such as: Sustainability and Sustainable Design, Client and Community Consultation, The Project Team and their roles, Building Information Modelling and Architecture and Design Development.

This is being offered as a pilot course which may lead to certification in S4 and beyond.

## Digital Media

The course comprises 3 topics: Animation, Film Making and Web Design. Pupils will research all 3 areas and produce a presentation using their ICT skills in Power Point for each. They will also produce practical work relevant to each topic. Pupils can go on to complete National 5 Digital Media in S4.

## Drama

This course will enable pupils to enhance their creativity and imagination, language and literacy, collaborative group skills, and confidence. Through a range of units and projects, students develop Drama Skills in communication, self-expression, developing ideas into action, voice, movement, role-play and improvisation.

## English

This enhancement is suitable for pupils that would benefit from an extra 2 periods in S3 in order to achieve a National 5 pass in English in S4. The course aims to provide the opportunity to develop creative and discursive skills in preparation for the folio element of National 5 English as well as the opportunity to enhance close reading skills.

## Environmental Science

Environmental Science enables learners to develop a scientific understanding of environmental issues. Learners will investigate key areas of the living environment, such as: biodiversity and interdependence; resource issues in the atmosphere, hydrosphere, geosphere and biosphere; and sustainability and sustainable development. This elective can progress into National 5 in S4.

## Graphic Communication

The Graphic Communication Course introduces learners to the diverse and ever-increasing variety of presentation methods employed in graphic communication.

The course aims to develop opportunities for learners to gain skills in reading, interpreting and creating graphic communications. It allows pupils to create 2D and 3D drawings using traditional drawing board methods and using appropriate software. In addition, there will be opportunities for pupils to produce and render sketches and it allows pupils to develop their skills in Desktop Publishing.

The course provides a solid foundation for National 5 Graphic Communication.

## Geography

This course has been designed to further develop the key skills required for National level Geography and/or Travel and Tourism.

Pupils will have the opportunity to study the following topics:

- Natural hazards- following on from volcanoes and earthquakes in S2, pupils will be able to study hurricanes and/or avalanches- looking at cause, impact and management of the problem.
- Pupils will also be able to gain some unit awards for National 4 Travel and Tourism while learning about tourist destinations in the UK and abroad.
- Finally, there will be a focus on geographical skills such as fieldwork techniques and how to process the data gathered.

Through these topics, valuable skills will be developed which will be good preparation for National 5 Geography and/or Travel and Tourism.

## History

This course is designed to further develop the key skills required for History. In particular, pupils will study the following historical figures and events: Mary Queen of Scots and the Reformation and The Russian Revolution. Through these topics pupils will develop valuable skills which will help prepare them for National 4 and National 5 History.

## Maths

This enhancement is suitable for pupils who would benefit from an extra 2 periods in S3 in order to achieve a National 5 pass in S4.

## Maths for Science

This course will cover element of the National 5 maths course which are essential to certain topics within the three science courses. It is recommended for pupils who wish to study science but will find national 5 Maths challenging.

## Media

This enhancement will introduce pupils to the complexities of analysing and creating media content as well as introducing the concept of the relationship between media content and context. This course is aimed at those considering the option of National 5 media in S4.

## Music Technology

This course enables learners to develop basic skills in the use of music technology hardware and software to capture and manipulate audio. This could include creating music for film or video games and recording both voice and instruments. The course also enables learners to use music technology creatively in sound production and to develop an understanding of a range of 20th and 21st century music styles and genres.

Pupils can go on to complete National 5 Music with Technology in S4.

## Practical Woodwork

Practical Woodworking qualifications develop practical woodworking skills, practical creativity and problem solving. Learners develop understanding of safe working practices in a workshop environment, and awareness of sustainability issues in a practical woodworking context.

The course aims to provide opportunities to gain a range of practical woodworking skills and to use a variety of tools, equipment, materials and processes including finishing techniques. Pupils will also gain skills using hand tools to make traditional joints and also the use of power tools. The course provides a solid foundation for National 5 Practical Woodwork.

There is a cost, for materials, associated with this course

## PE Enhancement

The PE Enhancement course is designed to improve practical ability and theoretical knowledge within a variety of activities. Pupils will gain an understanding of factors that impact on performance through both practical lessons and classroom based activities. This course will prepare pupils for the National 5 and Higher PE courses.

## Press Group

This course is for pupils interested in gathering news and writing copy for both the local press and school social media outlets. Pupils would canvas staff and pupils during their timetabled lesson and then write up articles for a fortnightly deadline. Pupils would act as reporters to cover, and take photographs, at school events, visits by organisations/experts, school trips, etc. Possible opportunities exist for interviewing Angus authority's best and brightest in business, the council and the general public.

## Science

This elective is for pupils who intend to study two sciences in S4. It will support pupils in acquiring the skills required in their second science choice.

## Sign Language

This course is designed to teach learners to communicate with Deaf people in British Sign Language (BSL) on a range of topics that involve simple, everyday language use. They will gain basic skills and confidence in production and reception of BSL. This will include understanding and communicating basic conversation when meeting people, signing basic numbers, knowing different weather conditions, modes of transport and being able to communicate a range of directions.

## S2 into S3 Course Choice Form

**Pupil Name**..... **Form Class**..... **Date Returned**.....

	Subject	No of periods	S3 Course Choice	
<b>CORE</b>	PSE	1	PSE	
	Support	1	Support	
	PE	2	PE	
	RE	1	RE	
	Maths	4	Maths	
	Modern Languages	3	Modern Languages	
<b>CHOICES</b>	English	English or ESOL	4	
	Sciences	Biology or Chemistry or Physics	3	
	Social subjects	Geography or History	2	
	Expressive Arts	Art or Music	2	
	BCT	Business Management or Computing or Graphic Communication	2	
	Health Improvement	Home Economics or PE	2	
<b>ENHANCEMENTS</b>	<p>You will get 3 enhancements At 2 periods each. Select 6 choices in order, we will try to give you your top 3.</p> <p>(£) after a choice indicates that there is a cost associated with this course. Payable to the school office by start of June 2017.</p>	Admin and IT	2	In order of preference -
		Architectural Design	2	1
		Art Skills	2	2
		Come dine with me (£)	-	3
		Computing Science	-	4
		Design and Manufacture	-	5
		Design Engineer Construct	-	6
		Digital Media	-	
		Drama	-	
		English	-	
		Environmental Science	-	
		Graphic Communication	-	
		Geography	-	
History	-			
Maths	33			
Maths for Science				
Media				
Music Technology				
Practical Woodwork (£)				
PE				
Press Group				
Science				
Sign Language				

Career Intention:

Post school intention (employment, apprenticeship, college, university):

Intended S4 Choices:

Parental Signature:

PCS Signature: