



Brechin High School

Curriculum Rationale

At Brechin High School, our curriculum is built to ensure every learner finds their path to success. Our rationale is underpinned by our core values: Respect, Responsibility, and Ambition. We respect the unique journey of every learner, encourage them to take responsibility for their growth, and foster the ambition required to achieve their fullest potential.

At Brechin High School, our curriculum is designed to promote an environment of Respect, encouraging individual Responsibility, and raising Ambition, so that we can ensure that every Brechin HS pupil is prepared for their next step in education, training or work.

The BGE Phase: S1 & S2

Relationships, Transition, and Breadth

In the transition from primary to secondary, we prioritise wellbeing and belonging. To ease this shift, we strive to keep pupils with the same teachers where possible, allowing meaningful relationships to form.

Us Time (Universal Support): This is central to our S1 and S2 experience. Held in smaller practical classes with their registration teacher, this time focuses on community building, social skills, and celebrating success. It ensures every pupil is "known" and supported.

Breadth of Learning: Pupils engage in a wide range of subjects across all curricular areas, from Sciences and Technologies to the Expressive Arts and Modern Languages.

'School Of' & Metaskills: Two periods a week are dedicated to Schools Of in areas such as football, archaeology and computing. These schools allow pupils personalisation and choice, and the chance to work with pupils outside of their house group. These classes also give pupils the opportunity to explore metaskills—such as self-management, social intelligence, and innovation—preparing them for a rapidly changing world.

S3: The Bridge to Senior Phase

Progression and Specialisation

S3 marks the beginning of a progressive curricular pathway. While continuing with core subjects (English, Maths, PE, PSE, and RME), pupils begin to refine their focus by choosing six additional subjects across all curricular areas.

Wider Achievement in S3: S3 pupils have two periods a week of Wider Achievement to promote learning beyond the traditional CfE Curriculum. This time allows pupils to develop the "Four Capacities"—becoming confident individuals and responsible citizens. By engaging in diverse activities, pupils build resilience, teamwork, and problem-solving skills that enhance their academic performance and prepare them for the challenges of the Senior Phase.

From Term 2, pupils often begin National 4/5 content. This ensures a solid foundation of knowledge, reducing pressure in S4 and allowing for a deeper understanding of their chosen subjects.

The Senior Phase: S4 – S6

Qualification, Depth, and Future Pathways

Our Senior Phase is designed to be flexible, offering a suite of qualifications through Qualifications Scotland that meet the needs of all learners.

S4 & S5: Building Excellence

In S4, pupils focus on seven qualifications (including English and Maths). By S5, they refine this to five. Our curriculum pathways promote consistency and we discourage "starting from scratch" in S4 or S5. By building on the subjects started in S3/S4, pupils achieve greater depth and better results.

Further Qualifications: For those studying at Level 5, we provide additional awards in areas such as Personal Finance and Safe Road User—ensuring our learners leave with practical life skills.

Leadership & Volunteering: In S5 and S6, Wider Achievement focuses on Responsibility. By alternating between Leadership and Volunteering awards (Level 6), pupils give back to the Brechin community while earning vital employability skills and UCAS credentials, as well as an additional qualification.

S6: Independence and Transition

S6 is about preparing for life beyond Brechin HS.

We encourage progression to Advanced Higher for those who have demonstrated excellence at Higher level. Through partnerships with the TRIC and Angus Academy, we widen our offer, promoting more opportunities for pupils to reach their ambition.

YASS (Young Applicants in Schools Scheme): We offer YASS courses in partnership with the Open University to provide S6 pupils with a unique "bridge" to Higher Education. These modules allow pupils to experience university-level independent study and research while still benefiting from the supportive environment of Brechin High School.

Inclusion and Equity: ASN

Targeted Support and Bespoke Pathways

We are committed to the principle of Getting It Right For Every Child. Our Hub model ensures that barriers to learning are removed with Respect and care.

The Wee Hub: A fully bespoke curriculum for pupils with additional support needs. It provides a nurturing environment, primarily delivered by a single teacher to maintain consistency and security.

The Junior Hub: A hybrid model for S1/S2. It offers a consistent academic base while ensuring pupils remain socially integrated through "Us Time" and practical classes.

The Senior Hub: Focuses on individualised qualification pathways. It allows pupils to blend mainstream classes with specialist ASN qualifications, ensuring they leave school with a full suite of awards.

The Intervention Hub: A flexible space for targeted support. Whether a pupil is facing temporary barriers or struggling with EBSA (Emotionally Based School Avoidance), this hub provides the bridge needed to transition back into full-time learning or gain qualifications in a way that suits their current needs.