

BARRHEAD HIGH SCHOOL



**Progression Routes
from S2 into S3/4**

General Information for Pupils and Parents

2016 - 2017

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To All S2 Pupils:

You are coming to a very important time in your schooling. Up until now, you have been studying a broad range of subjects under Curriculum for Excellence and many of the decisions have been made for you about what subjects to study at school, although you may have had some choice within subjects. From S3 onwards, you will have much more choice about what to study and it is important you make the right choices.

Over S3/4 you will continue to work through the Broad General Education with increasing focus towards gaining the new National Qualifications in each of eight (or nine) subjects by the end of S4 and you will carry five of these forward into S5.

So now it is your turn to make decisions, and it is important that you make the best choices for you and your future.

Don't worry however - you will not be left to make them by yourself. Over the next few weeks, many people will be helping you to make the right choices:

- Your family will know you best of all and will want to help you at this time. Older brothers or sisters may be able to give you advice, but remember, however, they may have studied with the old Intermediate courses which are slightly different. Your parents / carers will also be able to advise you.
- During your SE classes and assemblies you will hear Careers Officers and employers as well as your SE Teacher, Pupil Support Adviser and Year Head talking about different careers and the choices before you.
- Your own Adviser will meet with you individually to discuss your options and choices.

Think carefully before you make any decisions and remember, if you have any concerns, ask for help.

Mr Sinclair
Head Teacher

Preparing To Choose

What you choose now will have a significant effect on the rest of your time in school and even your career beyond that. You will still be able to make some changes if your career interests change, but you want to make the best possible choice now.

Before making a choice as important as this, you must be sure you know all the important facts that will affect your decision.

- **Know Yourself** - What subjects do you like? What subjects are you interested in? What subjects are you good at? Look at your S2 Report and think about what your teachers are saying. Look at the levels you are working on - that will give an indication of how you might perform in that subject.
- **Know About Careers** - It can help at this time if you have an idea of what you would like to do but it's not essential. Find out more about it and what qualifications you will need. Talk to people in that career if you can. Speak to the Careers Advisers when they are in school - your Pupil Support Adviser can help you set that up.

If you don't have a clue what you want to do - **DON'T PANIC!!** Many people don't decide until later, but you need to choose a broad range of subjects that keep your options open.

- **Know the Subjects** - your teachers have spent a lot of time writing the "Subject Information" booklet for you. It tells you about the courses on offer in S3/4. Read it carefully and find out more. The Skills Development Scotland website "My World of Work" has lots of information and in particular gives help with subject choices for pupils and parents:

<http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/subjectchoices>

Remember, there are some subjects that you will not have met in S1/2 - think about them as well. Talk to your class teachers if you want to know more about their subject - they will be happy to help you.

- **Know the Rules** - Your choice is not a "free for all". All pupils must study a range of subjects. There are certain subjects you must take, and in other cases you must choose one from a group of subjects. See the section Completing the Options Form - it will explain all the rules you need to follow.

Making Your Choice

How do you decide which subjects to take? There are some good reasons for choosing a subject ...

You need it for your career:

If you have some idea of your future career, find out which subjects are required and choose them. See your Pupil Support Adviser or the Careers Officer.

You are good at it:

Your S2 Report will help you decide if you are likely to do well. Speak to your class teacher as well.

You are interested in it and enjoy it:

This is a good reason, but you may have to choose between a subject you enjoy and a subject that you NEED for your future career.

... but also some bad ones! ...

My friend is taking it:

This is never a good reason - they may not have the same career in mind ... and you may not end up in the same class anyway!

It's a new subject and I want to do something different:

This might be a good choice but don't choose it just because it's new - think it through!

You like or dislike the teacher:

You may get a different teacher in S3/4. The end result is more important than personality clashes!

Completing the Options Form

By this point you will have had lots of advice from teachers, advisers and your parents. It's time for you to make up your mind.

Use the Option Form at the back of this booklet as a practice before you meet with your Adviser to complete the real one. Note that it is still a draft form at this stage as we will still be asking you for your views and choices.

The form is arranged in columns so that you can make only certain choices. This helps to make sure that you choose a broad range of subjects. For example, you must choose at least one science subject (in Column D).

1. Fill in your name and register class on the form. In the career box, write the career that might interest you or give some idea of the type of work or subjects that interest you.
2. The rules for choosing your subjects are quite simple:
 - All pupils must take 8 subjects - one from each of the 8 columns on the form.
 - All pupils will take English and Maths. These have already been entered for you.
 - All pupils must also take RMPS, PE, and SE as core subjects, so these do not appear on the form.
 - All the subjects in one column will run at the same time so you can choose only one subject from each column.
3. Now choose one subject from each of columns C - H, keeping in mind all that you have been thinking about in making your choices, and write it in the box below each column.
4. Talk to your parents about all your choices. (When you complete the real form with your Adviser you will bring it home for them to sign.)
5. Take this practice form with you to your interview with your Adviser. It will help them to know what you have been thinking about.

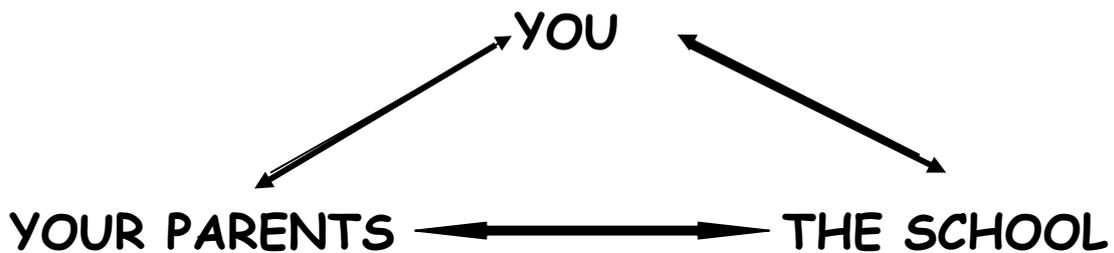
What Happens Next?

Your Adviser will meet with you and discuss your choices. In some cases they may ask you to think again if they feel it is not the best choice for you.

For some subjects, the level you start at in S3 will depend on how you have done in S2. Your Adviser will tell you the appropriate level for these subjects (this particularly affects the Science subjects) and write it on your form.

You will need to take the form home and ask your parents to sign that they are also happy with the choices. They may wish to speak to your Adviser at that point.

The *final decision* about your course will be a *joint decision* made by:



A Note to Parents

The Options Programme is a very important time for your son/daughter and we would like you to feel you also have an important part to play in it.

S3 marks the transition from the Broad General Education that pupils have been following since primary to the preparation for the new National courses which pupils will complete by the end of S4. In East Renfrewshire schools, that preparation will extend across S3 and S4 and pupils will have the opportunity to focus on 8 (or 9) courses. (See pages 9 and 10 for more information on Curriculum for Excellence and the new National qualifications).

It is not possible to continue the study of all subjects offered in S1 and S2 and so, over the next few weeks, decisions have to be made about which eight subjects your son/daughter will study. During this time, we aim to provide as much information as possible both to you and to the pupils to help them choose the subjects which are best suited to their needs and abilities.

The main features of the Options Programme are:

- All S2 classes have Social Education lessons which focus on careers in order to assist pupils in making appropriate subject choices.
- This “General Information” booklet and the “Subject Information” booklet will be issued and explained to pupils and sent home to parents. Pupils and parents also have access to the Skills Development Scotland website, “My World of Work” which gives information about subject choice:
<http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/subjectchoices/help-for-parents>
If you have any difficulty accessing this, let us know and we can supply a paper copy.
- S2 Reports issued to all pupils/parents – Tuesday 23rd February 2016.
- S2 Parents’ Meeting - Thursday 25th February 2016. Subject staff and Pupil Support Advisers will be available for interview - by appointment.
- Parents’ Information Evening on the new curriculum, choices and National courses – Tuesday 1st March 2016.
- Individual interviews with Adviser to finalise choices (Thursday 3rd March 2016).
- Completed Option Form, indicating course choices, taken home and returned by Monday 7th March 2016.

There are certain broad guidelines laid down by the Scottish Government Education Department through the Curriculum for Excellence programme to ensure that all pupils receive an appropriate and balanced education. This means that a pupil cannot choose any combination of subjects for his/her National courses.

In Barrhead High School, every pupil must choose:

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| English | Mathematics |
| French (we encourage most pupils to take French but we may recommend an alternative more appropriate course for a few individuals) | |
| a Social Subject | a Science Subject |
| a Technologies (IT) Subject | an Expressive Arts Subject |
| one further "Optional" Subject | |

All pupils will also take Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies (RMPS), Core or NQ Physical Education, and Social Education (SE) as 'core' subjects.

Some subject courses allow pupils to start S3 on a common course and make decisions about presentation levels during S3/4. In other subjects, the National 4 and National 5 work is so different that pupils have to start at one level or the other. This particularly affects the Science subjects.

What Can You Do to Help?

- Please read through this General Information booklet with your son/daughter together with the "Subject Information" booklet, which provides further information about the subjects offered in Barrhead High School. Discuss these with your son/daughter to help him/her make the best decisions regarding courses.
- The Options Information Evening and the S2 Parents' Meeting will both have given a lot of useful information and we encouraged all parents to attend both if possible.
- After your son/daughter discusses their choices with their Adviser they will bring the Option Form home for you to sign your agreement. If you have further concerns at that stage, please feel free to contact, in the first instance, the Adviser or the Year Head. (You can be present at the pupil interview if you wish.)
- If you require further assistance, please speak to a member of the Senior Leadership Team at the Information Evening, make an appointment with subject departments, Adviser or Year Head at the Parents' Evening or contact your son/daughter's Pastoral Teacher. We will be happy to provide any help you may require.

I hope you will find this information helpful as together we help guide the pupils through this important, if slightly daunting, period in their education.

Andy Sinclair,
Head Teacher

The following 2 pages summarise the information given at the Parents' Information Meeting. The full presentation can be seen on the school website.

www.barrhead.e-renfrew.sch.uk

Information on Curriculum for Excellence

Curriculum for Excellence aims to ensure all pupils receive their Entitlements to:

- a curriculum which is coherent from 3 to 18
- a broad general education, including well planned experiences and outcomes across all the curriculum areas from early years through to S3
- a senior phase of education after S3 which provides opportunities to obtain qualifications as well as to continue to develop the four capacities
- opportunities to develop skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work (including career planning skills) with a continuous focus on literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing
- personal support to enable them to gain as much as possible from the opportunities which *Curriculum for Excellence* can provide
- support in moving into positive and sustained destinations beyond school

The 8 Curricular Areas of Curriculum for Excellence

Pupils should experience all curricular areas under the broad general education:

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Languages – English and Modern Language | |
| Mathematics | Sciences |
| Social studies | Technologies |
| Expressive arts | Health and wellbeing |
| Religious and moral education | |

Implementation of Curriculum for Excellence

The ERC Plan - All schools are maintaining the current policy of presenting pupils for 8 courses over S3/4 and 5 in S5.

Features of the S3 Experience under Curriculum for Excellence

The S3 experience is a blend of learning relevant to both the Broad General Education (BGE) and the senior phase. It will complete the entitlement to a broad general education (covering all 3rd Level Experiences & Outcomes) and extend learning into 4th Level. It will also introduce and start the pupils' preparation for the SQA National courses.

It will continue to develop the attributes and capabilities of the 4 capacities (successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors) and emphasise skills for learning, life and work. Each pupil's learning and achievements will be summarised in their S3 Profile.

Information on the new National Exams

Why were the exams changed?

The new qualifications aim to combine the best of Standard Grade and Intermediates and give better progression from previous learning and to future learning at Higher and Advanced Higher levels. They will offer a wider range of learning and assessment experiences and give a better preparation for the 21st C – eg developing skills, contextualising and applying learning, supporting research and presentation skills.

What is the same?

- Each course is made up from some (usually 2 or 3) units.
- The units are studied either all together or one after another.
- There is an internal assessment at the end of each unit – PASS / FAIL.
- You must pass all the Unit Assessments to get an overall award.

What is different?

- Less prescription and more personalisation and choice in the qualifications and assessments.
- Added value assessments - Assignment / Case study / Practical activity / Performance / Portfolio / Project / Question paper/test - at all levels.
- No final exam and no course grades in National 4s (most National 5 courses have a final exam)
- At National 5, more coursework / added value assessments will contribute to the final grade, so exams should be shorter.
- The Course Grade (A, B, C or D) will come from the exam / added value elements.

The Presentation Levels

Most pupils will be presented for 8 or 9 awards in S4, as currently, at appropriate levels:

- National 3 (replacing Access / Foundation)
- National 4 (replacing Intermediate 1 / General)
- National 5 (replacing Intermediate 2 / Credit)

The Pathways

The new Nationals provide a set of pathways through S3 to S6 as shown

| S3/4 | | S5 | S6 | |
|------------|---|------------|----|-----------------|
| National 5 | ⇒ | Higher | ⇒ | Advanced Higher |
| National 4 | ⇒ | National 5 | ⇒ | Higher |
| National 3 | ⇒ | National 4 | ⇒ | National 5 |

Determining Levels

In some subjects, all pupils work on a common course initially and decisions about presentation levels are made later in S3 or possibly into S4.

In other subjects this is not possible, and pupils will be assigned to a level at the start of the course based on their performance in S2.

BARRHEAD HIGH SCHOOL

OPTIONS FORM: SESSION 2016/2017

| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I |
|--|------------------------|--|---------------------------------|---|---|--|---|--|
| ENGLISH & LITERACY | MATHEMATICS & NUMERACY | SOCIAL STUDIES | SCIENCES | MODERN LANGUAGES | TECHNOLOGIES | EXPRESSIVE ARTS | CHOICE | HEALTH & WELLBEING |
| English | Maths | Geography History Travel & Tourism | Biology Physics Chemistry | French Note – some individual pupils may be directed to a more appropriate option. | Administration & IT Graphic Communication Computing Science | Art & Design Music Practical Woodworking Drama Hospitality | Business Management Drama Chemistry Fashion & Textile Technology 2 nd Social Subject | P.E. Core OR P.E. N.Q |
| <p>NOTE: If the uptake is too low, a course may not run. If the uptake is too high, we may need to limit numbers.</p> | | | | | | | | |

Choose one subject in each column. Write the name of the subject in the box.

| COLUMN A | COLUMN B | COLUMN C | COLUMN D | COLUMN E | COLUMN F | COLUMN G | COLUMN H | COLUMN I |
|----------------|--------------|----------|----------|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| ENGLISH | MATHS | | | FRENCH | | | | |
| | | | | <p>← Appropriate level (N3, N4, N4/5 or N5) for Science subjects only to be entered by Adviser.</p> | | | | |

NAME CLASS.....

| |
|------------------------------------|
| Type of Career or Area of Interest |
|------------------------------------|

| | | |
|----------------------|--|--------------------------|
| ADVISER | If you have any concerns, please tick the box and note them overleaf. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| INTERVIEW DATE | FORM RETURNED DATE | |

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| I am happy with this course choice. | If you have any concerns, please tick the box and note them overleaf. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| PARENT/CARER'S SIGNATURE | DATE | |