

# MEARNS CASTLE HIGH SCHOOL

## S2 Curriculum Information Evening

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023



Welcome

**Mr Clark**  
**Head Teacher**

# SQA Results 2022 - 23



Hannah Ahmed, Mathew Thom and Susie McInnes receive their texts

funded and teachers have been stretched to breaking point.”  
Labour’s education spokeswoman Pam Duncan-Glancy pointed out that progress was also “stalling” for pupils with additional support needs and those from minority backgrounds.  
She said: “Pupils from more deprived backgrounds continue to be failed. The fact is that after over a

with ASN and minorities is stalling.” And Lib Dem education spokesman Willie Rennie said: “These results are a milestone for young people and a warning to the SNP Government.  
“The drop in overall performance following the turbulence of the pandemic isn’t a great surprise but we do need a government that delivers better results long term.”



Cherish Ibe, Jude Arias and Thenuga Mahaidelage have embraced the multicultural ethos at St Luke’s High



Anthony Orr was jumping for joy



Frazer Robertson has landed an apprenticeship

year and it took me a while to understand all the subjects that I was doing.  
“I was so nervous opening my results but I’m absolutely delighted with what I

“I’m so delighted that I secured the grades I wanted and will now be doing three Advanced Highers as I look to pursue a career in medicine.”  
Hannah 17, also from New-



Members of the Mearns Castle High Medic Society

He had achieved two As and two Bs in S5, as well as starting the two-year foundation apprenticeship in mechanical engineering at City of Glasgow College

**NEED TO SEE HOME QUI**

We are cash buyers & can offer a cash adv

**WE GUARANTEE TO BEAT ANY OTHER COMPANY'S OFFER!**

**ANY AREA REPOSSESS! ALL LEGAL! NO HIDDEN! COMPLETE 25 YEARS STAY IN YOUR DEBIT FOR**

- S4 - Increase in pupils achieving at least five N5s (over 83%) - 50% achieved five As.
- S5 – Highest ever five Higher % of ANY Year Group of ANY school in East Renfrewshire – ever.
- S6 – Highest ever % of pupils achieving at least one Advanced Higher in exams.
- Wide range of achievements

# Mr Donnelly

Depute Head Teacher  
S2 Year Head

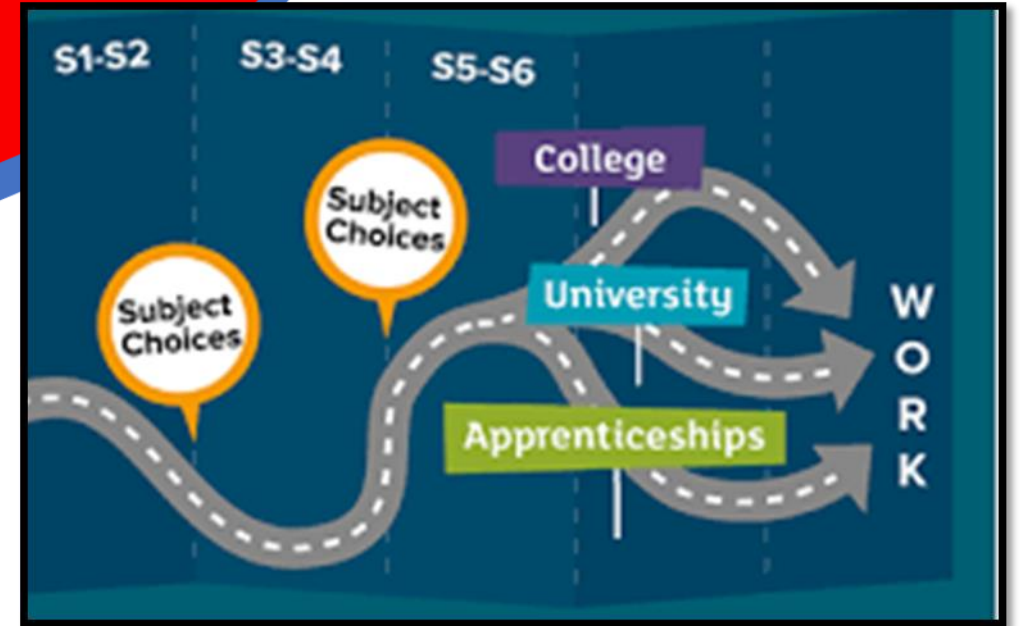
# Secondary School Journey

S1 – coverage of all eight curricular areas.  
S2 – coverage of all eight curricular areas.  
(examples of these on next slide)

Towards the end of S2, pupils choose subjects to take forward into S3 and S4.

S3/S4 - Pupils working towards their first National Qualifications.  
At the end of S4 pupils choose five subjects to take forward into S5.

S5 – Pupils working towards National Qualifications.  
At the end of S5 pupils choose four subjects to study in S6.



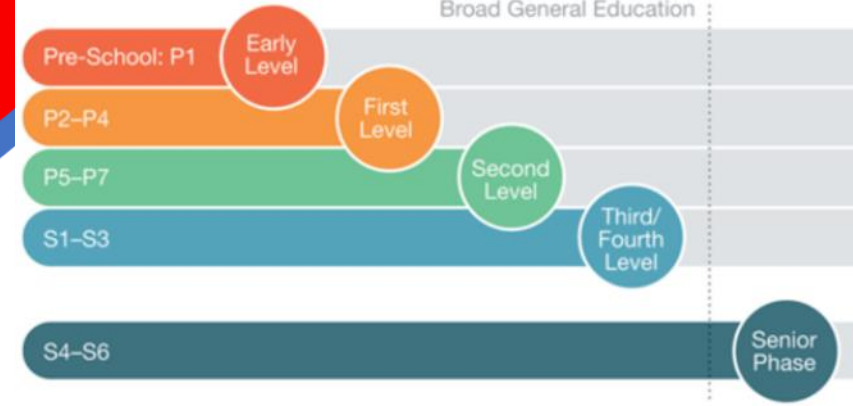
# Timetable in S1 & S2

- **33 periods per week**
  - 4 periods English / S1 - 5
  - 5 periods Maths / S1 - 4
  - 3 periods PE, Science, Modern Languages, Social Subjects
  - 1 periods RMPS, Citizenship, PSE
- **Subjects taught in rotation (rotate towards end of October)**
  - 3 Periods per week – approximately 10 week blocks
  - Technical & Art
  - IT & Music
  - Food and Health Technology & Drama

# Key Dates for Parents in S2

- **Tracking Report – Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023**
  - Ratings on Progress, Behaviour, Effort & Homework
- **Full Report – Friday 2nd February 2024**
  - Full written comment from each subject detailing strengths, next steps and level & progress within level
  -
- **S2 Options/Parents' Meeting – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024**
  - Meet individual teachers for feedback
  - Presentation from myself explaining the options process

# Reporting Attainment Levels



In S2 pupils will be working between Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) Levels 2-4. Within each level, there are currently **3 categories**

- **Making progress**

- Pupil has experienced a number of outcomes and are beginning to make progress
- 02.M – Achieved level 2 and making progress at level 3

- **Working**

- Pupil has achieved a wide range of outcomes and are beginning to undertake more challenging learning
- 02.W – Achieved level 2 and working at level 3

- **Achieved**

- Pupil has achieved success in all outcomes and has applied learning in new and unfamiliar situations
- 03 – Achieved level 3



# Mearns Respect Matters



*“The highest standards in all aspects of school life.”*  
*Vision, values and aims.*

Following discussion with the Pupil Parliament, S5 Prefects and staff, a summary of expectations in relation to mutual respect was launched August 2023; encompassing:  
our technology; our language; our environment; our uniform; our movement and our work.

**Our Technology**  
Our Mobiles/Earphones are turned off and in bags every period unless our teacher requests use during the lesson.

**Our Language**  
We challenge discriminatory, abusive or unkind comments. We follow our agreed steps for any discriminatory incidents every time.

**Our Environment**  
We re-cycle, minimise energy use and take responsibility for litter at our tables.  
We know we can have access to water throughout the day but eating/drinking anything else is not allowed in class.

**Our Uniform**  
We wear our blazers and full uniform throughout the day with no hoodies, crew necks or logos on jumpers.  
We know that uniform issues are addressed every period with the uniform store used where needed.

**Our Movement**  
We arrive to class on time and remain at our desks for an orderly dismissal at the end of the period.  
In S5/6 we may leave 3 minutes early if the learning has finished (interval, lunchtime & end of the day) but may not pack up earlier than 5 minutes before the bell.  
We keep left and follow one-way systems to make moving around easier for everyone.  
We remain in class for the full lesson wherever possible.

**Our Work**  
We are prepared to contribute to our positive learning environment. Our jotter work meets subject expectations and we ensure our digital calendar is set up and accessed regularly, ensuring our homework is our best and on time.

**MEARN'S RESPECT MATTERS**

# Supporting Successful Studying

Which room do you recognize?



# Which room do you recognize?



# Which room do you recognize?



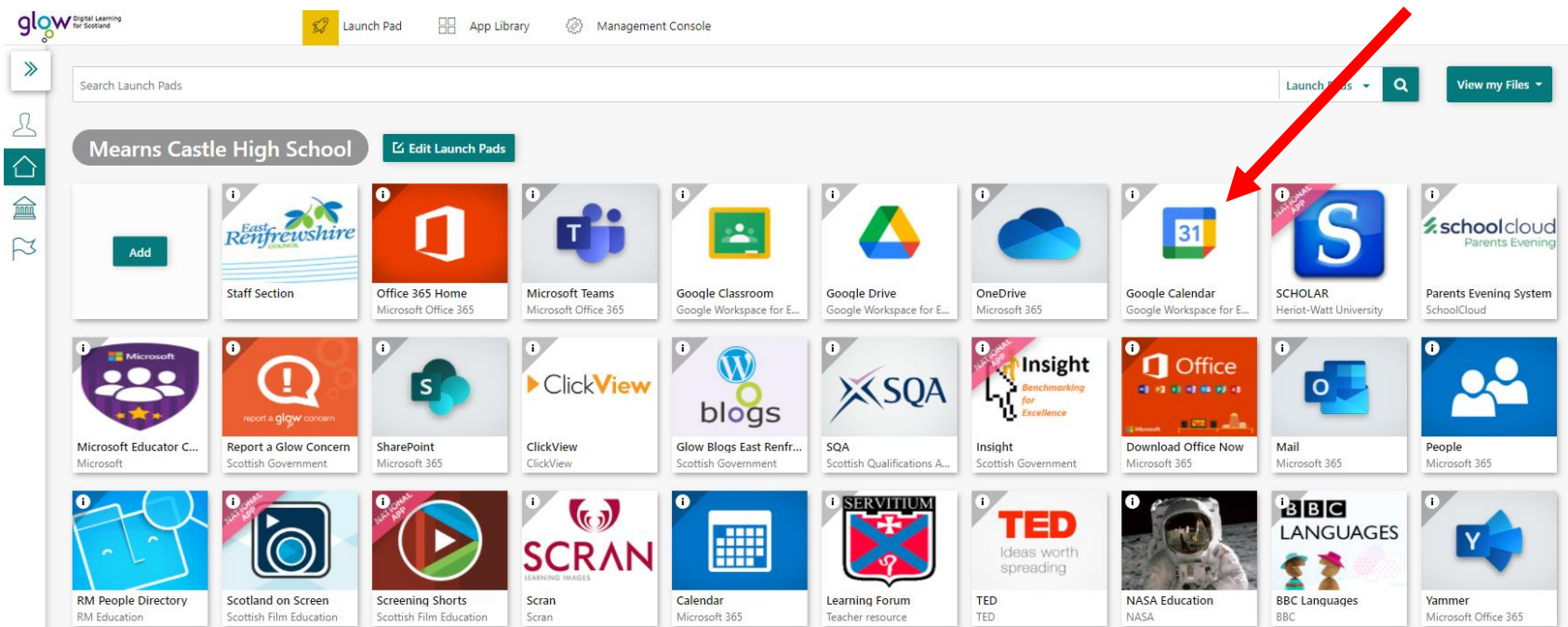
# Homework and Studying



- Every class has their own Google Classroom or Microsoft Teams page.
- Resources and learning materials for each subject will be shared via these platforms.
- Homework will be issued via these platforms.

# Homework

- All staff issue homework as an “assignment” on Google Classroom or Microsoft Teams.
- No matter the platform, this can all be viewed on each pupil’s Google Calendar in GLOW



# Homework

Homework will appear in the calendar on the date it is due, as per example below

The screenshot shows a Google Calendar interface for May 2022. The calendar grid displays various events, including homework assignments. A red arrow points to a homework event on Wednesday, May 11th, titled "11:30am ICT HOME". Other homework events include "Assignment: Exercise" on May 9th, 10th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th; "Assignment: Test 2" on May 10th; "Assignment: YPI Pres" on May 17th; "Assignment: Test Assi" on May 6th; "Assignment: Test 1" on May 12th; and "Assignment: Test Assi" on May 13th. The calendar also shows "Early May Bank Holiday" on May 2nd and "Spring Bank Holiday" on June 1st. The interface includes a "Create" button, a "Meet with..." section, and "Time Insights" for the month.

# Homework

Homework can be accessed by clicking on the hyperlink which will open the Classroom or Teams page for the subject and show a description of the homework task.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with a Google Calendar interface. The calendar is set to May 2022. A pop-up window displays details for an assignment on Monday, 9 May:

- Assignment: Exercise 33**
- Monday, 9 May
- <https://classroom.google.com/c/MzYwOTI5MDg4MDA5/a/NTA1NTgzNTE5MDM0/details>
- Mrs Stewart S2 French 2021/22 S2  
Created by: L Stewart
- Busy



# Homework



- Parents can access their child's Google Calendar by **seeking permission from your child** to log in to the Google Calendar app on the parents phone.

*It must be the child's school Google account – not a personal e-mail account. The last part of the login for Google is the key bit:*

*gw...@er.glow.scot*

Sign in

with your Google Account. You'll also sign in to Google services in your apps & Safari.

Email or phone

glowemailaddress@er.glow.scot

[Forgot email?](#)

[Create account](#) [Next](#)

# Mr Whiteford

Principal Teacher of  
Personal Development

# Digital Support- context



## Why are we talking about digital support and technology?

- Issues from online coming into school, which can be complicated.
- Boundaries are clear in the classroom, but difficult for us to impact outside of school.
- Limiting screen time can be an effective method to improve learning and mental health and it is normal for parents to do so.

# What does the research say?

## Mobile phones: The effect of its presence on learning and memory



- Found that if a student is consciously thinking about their phone then there is a 20% reduction in performance and working memory.

## The effects of smartphone addiction on learning: A meta-analysis (2021)



ScienceDirect

- 45 separate studies show that mobile phone use had negative effects on learning and studying
- One notification, or even the presence of a phone in the room is enough to disrupt concentration- much more effective if in another room ([University of Chicago](#))
- 10% of UK teens get the recommended sleep and exercise- linked to phone use ([2019 study from College of London](#)).

# Controls

- **Google Family Link**

- Downloadable app can be used from android and apple
- Can be used to control screen time of chromebooks or android tablets/phones



Google Family Link

Click pictures for  
practical videos

- **Apple Family Sharing**

- Found in: *settings>family sharing*
- limit screen time- weekly reports, set limits, down time- you get a notification to ask if you want to override the down time limit



Family Sharing

# What can we do?

Meaningful discussion around social media use can be just as effective as controls.

- **Watch:** *The Social Dilemma*- Netflix
- **Listen:** *Your Undivided Attention*- podcast
- **Download:** Safer Schools Scotland app
- **Read:** Guides on [Safer Schools website](https://www.safer-schools.org.uk/)

**All About Twitch**

Twitch is a livestreaming platform which offers users a fun and social way to record themselves or watch others doing a range of activities in real time. Although livestreams are mostly playing games, they also broadcast themselves going to events or doing a range of activities. There are few limits on what can be shared on Twitch, which in turn poses significant safeguarding risks.

You must be at least 13 years-old to register for an account. However, anyone under 18 has to be authorised by a parent or guardian who agrees to the terms and conditions.

**LIVE**  
103,000 LIVESTREAMS AT ANY GIVEN TIME

**41% OF USERS ARE BETWEEN 16-24**

**13+**

**ALERT!**  
Twitch came under scrutiny when popular streamers broadcast inappropriate and sexual content. Even when the content is removed for breaking their Community Guidelines, there is still a risk of recordings being uploaded elsewhere. In some cases streamers had accounts reinstated, only to repeat the behaviour in another livestream.

**ONLINE SAFETY SHAREABLE BY**  
SAFER SCHOOLS  
OUR SAFER SCHOOLS

**TWITCH SAFETY SETTINGS**

**Parental Controls**  
Currently, there are no parental controls or "time limit" settings on Twitch.

**Reporting and Blocking**  
Users can block receiving messages from others who don't follow them.

**Chat Feature**  
Explicit language filters can be used to moderate language within a livestream chatroom. Users can pause or hide the livestream chat themselves.

**Privacy Settings**  
All profiles are public and cannot be made private. This means anyone can view another user's profile at any time.  
Anyone can access and watch livestreams without registering.

**TWITCH TIPS**

- **Talk to the young person** in your care about livestreaming: what type of livestreaming do they like to watch?
- **Encourage open and ongoing conversation** about everything they do and see online. Make sure they know they can come to their trusted adult if they see something that worries or upsets them.
- **Check that they know how to protect their personal information.** This includes using usernames that don't give away any details about their real name, location or their other platform profiles.
- **Talk about spending money online** in games and other platforms. Decide on a healthy spending limit together and, depending on their financial maturity, whether they should check with you first!

**RISKS**

- **Exposure to explicit, sexualised content.** If livestreams are not appropriately rated, children and young people may be exposed to explicit, sexual or harmful content on Twitch.
- **Lack of parental controls.** Parents and carers can't enable safety measures on their child or young person's account or monitor what content they are exposed to.
- **Ease of streaming.** Once an account has been made, the user is able to livestream immediately. Children may live stream themselves to strangers without thinking of the consequences.
- **Concerns over banning and moderation.** Twitch's moderation and the short lifespan of bans on streamers who break the rules (usually seven days) is concerning. Banned users can also easily start a new account.
- **Ineffective age verification.** Although Twitch has added new age verification processes, under 13s can still access the platform as it does not require you to log in.
- **Stranger interaction.** The platform encourages interaction, leaving young users open to communication with strangers.
- **Gifting and spending.** Young people might feel pressured or encouraged to spend money on streamers.

# Every Learner Matters Team

- Each year group is fully supported by an Every Learner Matters (ELM) Team.

- For S2:

**Year Head – Mr Donnelly DHT;** overall responsibility for year group ethos, attainment and achievement of S2.

**Pupil Support Teacher – Mr Gilroy PT;** overall responsibility for year group pastoral care and first point of contact for all parents/carers/partners involved with S2.

**Pastoral Project Lead – Miss Russell;** targeted intervention support in S2.

# Mr Gilroy

## S2 Principal Teacher of Pupil Support



# The Role of Pupil Support Teacher

- Help pupils settle into school
- Help with any pastoral issues affecting school
- Liaise with staff
- Monitor attendance, time keeping and behaviour
- Teach PSE
- Guidance on subject choice, careers, future plans
- Link to external agencies as required – SDS/Youth Counselling/GP
- First point of contact for parents and carers.





Supporting your  
Wellbeing



## Universal Support



## Targeted Support

Group Sessions

Relationship Building

Creative Activities



Flexible Drop In

1 to 1 Sessions

Outdoor Activities

Relaxation Techniques

### The Hub Lunchtime Activities

Homework Help- Come and get some additional support with any homework from our S6 Hub Ambassadors

Chill out space- The hub is still always open for those that just want a quiet place to hang out

Board games- We have plenty new games ready to go, come along with your friends

Jewellery making- Make some jewellery for you or a friend. We have lots to choose from every lunch

Monday Guitar Club- Learn to play the guitar, led by one of our S6 ambassadors



# Supporting Home Learning in the BGE

*Handout available, please take one before you go!*



**Accessibility**  
Necessary for some, useful for all

Chromebooks, Immersive Reader, iPads & Windows

digihub

Jonathan Hull, Principal Teacher: Equity (Digital Inclusion)  
East Renfrewshire Council  
hullj@ea-renfrew.sch.uk  
@DigSchoolsERC

**West OS**  
WEST PARTNERSHIP ONLINE SCHOOL

**PARENT CHANNEL**

SUPPORTING YOU TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD

**BGE Secondary**

About Us ▾

**Welcome to the BGE Secondary page.**  
You will find details of all the programmes and resources on this page.

# Curricular Evening Evaluation

## S1 & S2 Curricular Evening Event Evaluation

3 October 2023

Thank you for attending the S1 and S2 Curricular Information Evening.  
We value all feedback and would appreciate your time to complete this short survey; it will take approximately four minutes to complete. Thank you, for your time and support.



<https://forms.office.com/e/sVT4fapAR6>