

MEARNS CASTLE HIGH SCHOOL

S1 Curriculum Information Evening

Tuesday 1st October 2024



Welcome

Mr Clark
Head Teacher

2023-24 SQA

Results

Well Done!

- Upbeat Trips
- S6 Last Day Helpers & Talent Show
- Senior Pupil Exam Results

Results 2023-24

- S4 – Another increase in pupils achieving at least 5N5s - over 85% - our best ever exam performance!
- S5 – Highest ever % of pupils achieving straight As, & 2nd highest 5 Higher passes.
- S6 – Highest ever % of pupils achieving at least 5 Highers by end of S6 and 2nd best ever % of pupils passing Advanced Higher.

Miss Mortimer

Depute Head Teacher
S1 Year Head

S1 Settling-In Snapshot

Good **Busy** Enthusiastic Tiring ok Alright Intelligent Knowledgeable
Great Productive Exhausting Reliable **Fun** Exciting Humongous
Opportunities New Independent

Better Homework Cool Active Adventure Crowded
Different Movement School Welcoming
Nice Big Surprising Supportive



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 last session; encompassing:

our technology; our language; our environment; our uniform; our movement; our manners and our work.

Regularly reinforced across the school community: in classrooms, corridors, social spaces and assemblies.



Secondary School Journey

S1 to S3 - Broad General Education

S4 to S6 - Senior Phase (National Qualifications)

S1 – coverage of all eight curricular areas.

S2 – coverage of all eight curricular areas.

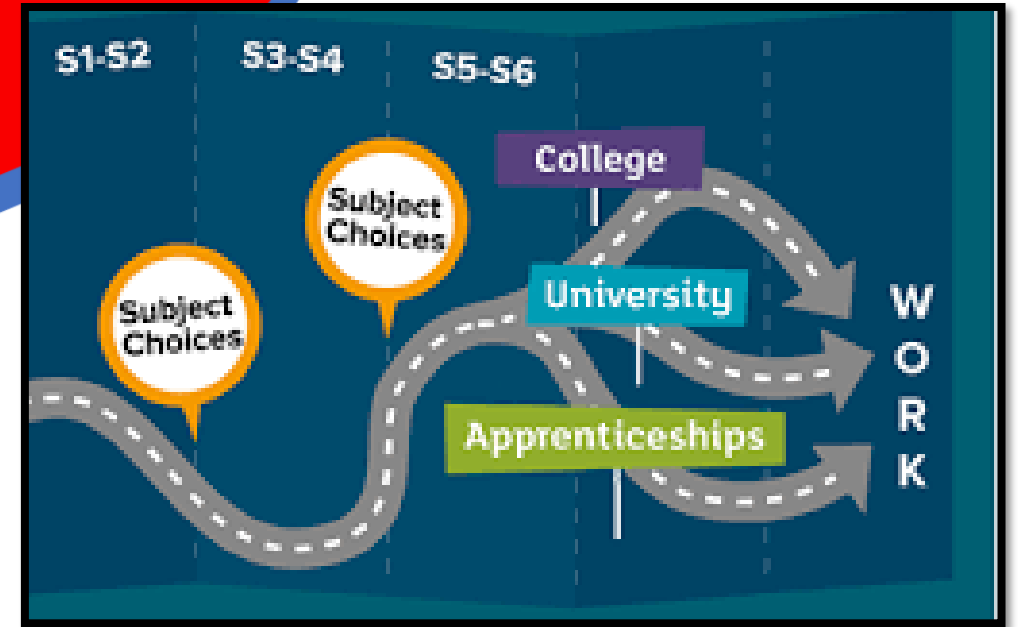
At the end of S2 pupils choose subjects to take forward into S3.

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

- **33 periods per week**
 - 5 periods English (S2 – 4 periods)
 - 4 periods Maths (S2 – 5 periods)
 - 3 periods PE, Science, Modern Languages, Social Subjects
 - 1 period RMPS, Citizenship, PSE
- **Subjects taught in rotation (rotate in October)**
 - 3 Periods per week – approximately 10 week blocks
 - Technical / Art
 - IT / Music
 - Food and Health Technology / Drama

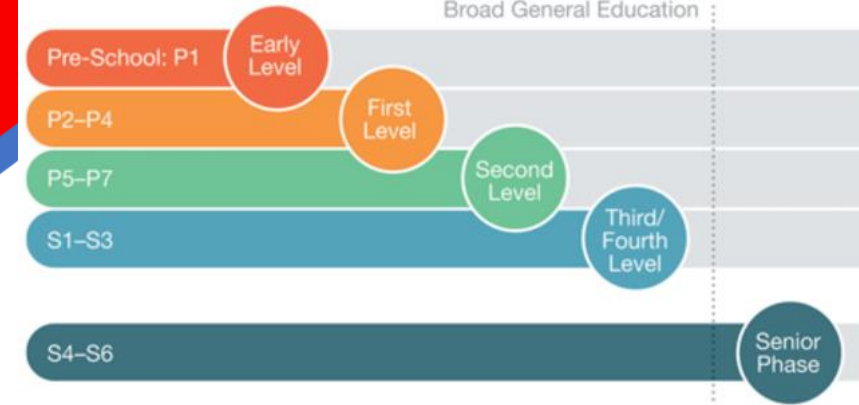
Key Dates for Parents in S1

- **Tracking Report** – 13 November 2024
- Ratings on Progress, Behaviour, Effort & Homework

- **S1 Parents' Meetings** (virtual) – 14 November 2024

- **Full Report** – 2 June 2025
 - Full written comment from each subject detailing strengths, next steps and level & progress within level

Reporting Attainment Levels



In S1 pupils will be working between Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) Levels 2 to 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

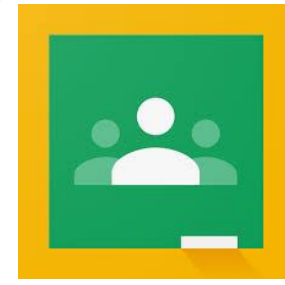
Supporting Successful Studying

- Dedicated study area
- Work to a plan – routines!
- Mobile phone use
- Clubs and activities
- Homework

Which room do you recognise?



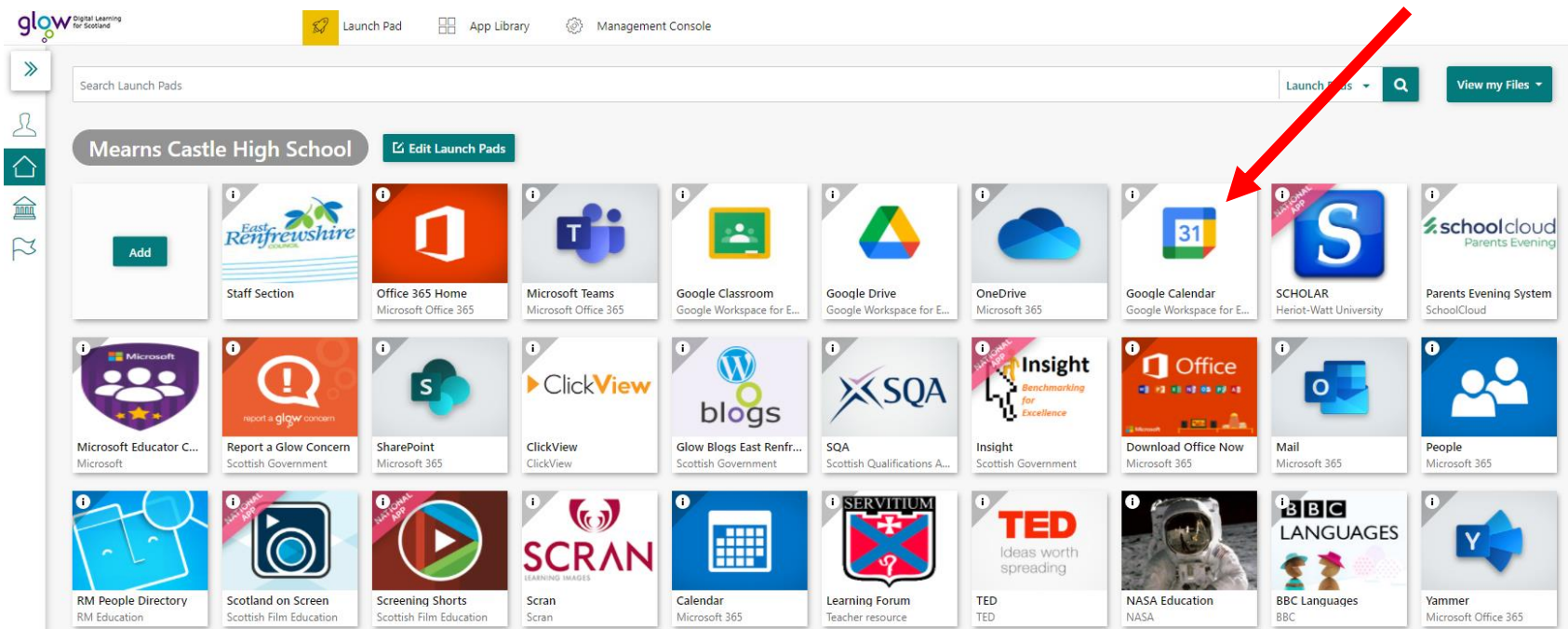
Homework and Studying



- 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 instructions will be issued via these platforms.

Homework

- All staff will now 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 assignments and events. A red arrow points to an assignment on May 11th. The assignments are as follows:

Day	Event
May 2 (MON)	Early May Bank Holiday
May 6 (FRI)	Assignment: Test Assi ● 11:29am Assignme
May 8 (SUN)	8
May 9 (MON)	Assignment: Exercise
May 10 (TUE)	Assignment: Test 2
May 11 (WED)	● 11:30am ICT HOME
May 12 (THU)	● 11:29pm TEST 1
May 13 (FRI)	● 11:29am Assignme 2 more
May 15 (SUN)	15
May 16 (MON)	Assignment: Exercise ● 11:30am DIG TECH
May 17 (TUE)	Assignment: YPI Pres
May 20 (FRI)	● 11:29am Assignme
May 22 (SUN)	22
May 23 (MON)	Assignment: Exercise ● 11:29pm S2 MCHS
May 29 (SUN)	29
May 30 (MON)	Assignment: Exercise
May 31 (TUE)	● 11:29pm S2 Pop M
May 31 (TUE)	Spring Bank Holiday
June 1 (WED)	1 Jun
June 2 (THU)	2
June 3 (FRI)	Queen's Platinum Jubilee ● 11:58pm Assignme

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 page. The browser tabs include 'Glow - Launch Pad' and 'East Renfrewshire Council - Calendar'. The address bar shows 'calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0/r/month/2022/5/1'. The calendar interface is for May 2022, with a 'Create' button on the left. A pop-up window is open over the calendar, displaying details for an assignment:

- 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

The background calendar shows dates from Sunday, 1 May to Saturday, 7 May, with various assignment notifications and a bank holiday on Monday, 2 May.

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

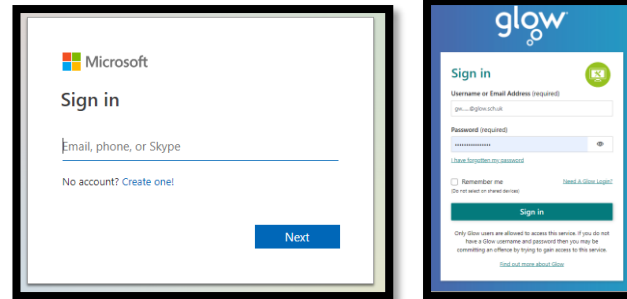
****Instructions on how to sync Teams and Google calendars is on the S1 Google Classroom page****

Online Platform Log-In

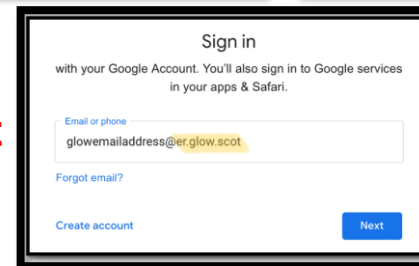
The most common issue is the wrong username being used to access the Teams and/or Google Classroom apps.

The correct usernames are:

Microsoft sign-in (Teams/Glow) = gw...@glow.sch.uk



Google sign-in (Classroom/Docs etc..) = gw...@er.glow.scot



Also, make sure there aren't any other/private email addresses logged-in to the Teams/Google apps.

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

- **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
DURAFER.SCHOOLS.COM

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.

S1 ELM Team

Every Learner Matters

Every Learner Matters Team

Each year group is fully supported by an Every Learner Matters (ELM) Team. For S1, this is:

Year Head – Miss Mortimer, DHT; overall responsibility for year group ethos, attainment and achievement of S1.

Pupil Support Teacher – Miss Oram, PT; overall responsibility for year group pastoral care and first point of contact for all partners involved with S1.

Year Leader – Mr Stewart, PT; overall responsibility for tracking and monitoring of year group attainment and achievement, planning for appropriate positive curricular pathways for all learners.

Pastoral Project Lead – Miss Brown; targeted intervention support for attainment and achievement.

Miss Oram

S1 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

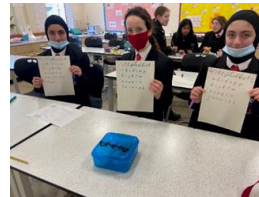


Group Sessions

1 to 1 Sessions



Outdoor Activities



Relationship Building

Creative Activities

Flexible Drop In

Relaxation Techniques

The Hub Lunchtime Activities

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

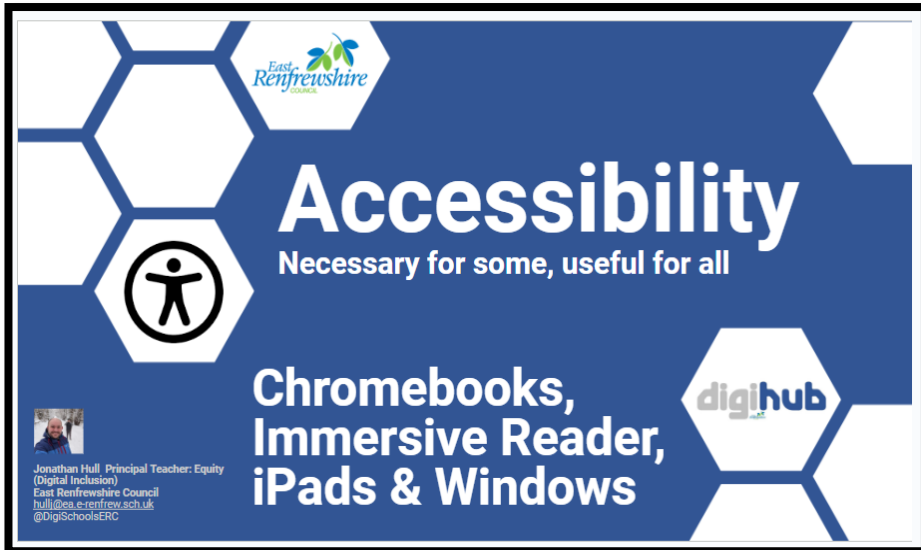
Chill out space- The hub is still always open for those that just want a quiet place to hang out

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



Supporting Home Learning in the BGE



Accessibility
Necessary for some, useful for all

Chromebooks,
Immersive Reader,
iPads & Windows


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



MEARNS CASTLE HIGH SCHOOL
S1 & S2 Curriculum Information Evening

scan the QR codes using the camera on your phone

Accessibility
Necessary for some, useful for all

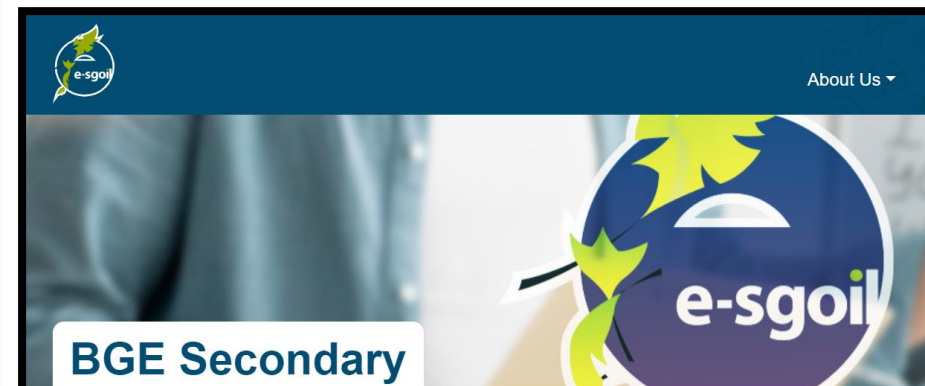
ERC Digihub Accessibility
necessary for some, useful for all

West OS PARENT CHANNEL
supporting you to support your child

e-sgoil BGE Secondary
resources to support learning

S1 & S2 Curricular Evening Event Evaluation
Share your feedback we value your views!

Please complete the event evaluation form



BGE Secondary

e-sgoil

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

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.



Click the link to complete the short Form: <https://forms.office.com/e/sVT4fapAR6>