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**Head Teacher**  
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Dear Parent / Carer,

Given the current situation in response to the coronavirus there will inevitably be a delay to when S3 pupils will make their final S4 curricular choices. Nonetheless it has been decided by the school to begin the process of working towards making this choice by asking all S3 pupils to complete and submit an electronic 'draft' choice form.

This will be an early indicator as to which subjects, at this point, your child has an interest in continuing with into S4 and at what level. The final choice, which may well be different, being made at a later stage when additional information will have been issued.

This additional information will relate to progress made in each subject and subsequently the S4 level of study that will be open to your child for each of their S3 subjects. The levels of study ordinarily open to S4 pupils from lowest to highest are National 3, National 4 and National 5. Details of each of these levels are given by the SQA on page 8 and 9 of the following document available online: [https://www.sqa.org.uk/files\\_ccc/Guide\\_to\\_Scottish\\_Qualifications.pdf](https://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/Guide_to_Scottish_Qualifications.pdf)

The rationale when making S4 curricular choice is focussed on both progression and challenge. Progression meaning that young people continue to advance their study in subjects that they have already undertaken in S3. Please note that this progression continues for those young people staying on for S5 with their S4 subjects then becoming the platform for continued progression into S5. And challenge meaning that young people opt for those subjects that will afford them the best opportunity to achieve at the highest levels open to them. In the main, this will be their strongest subjects.

The one exception to this rationale is the requirement to study a certain subject in order to pursue a particular career, which highlights the value of considering, at this point, career interests and pathways.

All young people in S4 continue to study the core subjects: Religious Education, Physical Education, and Personal Social Education. Additionally, the study of English and Mathematics is compulsory in S4. Beyond that young people choose an additional five from their current S3 subjects.

The electronic form to be completed and submitted for this exercise will be posted on your child's relevant Teams on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February and to be completed by Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

Information concerning the timeline for making final choices will be shared as soon as it becomes available.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Carroll,  
DHT

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