



# S3 Personalisation and Choice Information Booklet 2020-21

Here in Inverclyde Academy we have a proven track record of successfully supporting our pupils into positive school leaver destinations. Key to this success is how we support all of our pupils at important times of transition. We are delighted to support our S2 pupils with new opportunities to personalise their choices as they move from S2 into S3.

The information in this booklet is designed to help pupils make choices that support them to maximise their interests in curricular areas and support them towards that positive destination, whether that is employment, training, volunteering, college or university.

Pupils are being supported with this process through their Personal and Social Education (PSE) classes. The option form has been shared with pupils in PSE and an interactive version of it is also available to view on the school website. This year, the form will be issued and returned through Microsoft Teams.

We hope that the information in this booklet is helpful and fully supports S2 pupils to make key subject choices as they move into S3 later this session. We wish our pupils every success on the next step of their learning journeys.

Make the correct choices for you!	
 Do's	 Don'ts
<b>DO</b> Choose a subject because you are good at it ✓	<b>DON'T</b> Choose a subject because your friends are choosing it X
<b>DO</b> Choose a subject because you enjoy it ✓	<b>DON'T</b> Choose a subject because you hope to get a teacher you like X
<b>DO</b> Choose a subject because it might be useful for a future job or a future opportunity at college or university ✓	

# SCIENCES

You must choose at least 1 Science

## BIOLOGY



In third year, pupils opting for biology will be studying cellular biology. Lessons will be a mixture of practical work and knowledge on cells and how they work. Pupils will also learn about how cells work together within the body. Topics covered include cell structure, cell transport, how cells make protein and genetic engineering.

## CHEMISTRY



In third year, pupils opting for chemistry will complete 2 units:  
**Environmental Chemistry:** This unit looks at fuels, including fossil fuels and alternative fuels and the advantages and disadvantages of these. The unit also considers the uses of plants in every aspect of human life.  
**Everyday Chemistry:** This unit explores metals, fertilisers, plastics and new materials. Students learn how metals are extracted from the earth, the need for fertilisers and about the process of making plastics. The development and uses of novel materials is also considered.

## PHYSICS



In third year, pupils opting for Physics will be studying the key area of **Electricity:** Our modern world runs on electricity. It powers our homes and runs our hospitals. It provides us with our home entertainment and is the life blood of the internet and all communications systems. In this unit we will look at the fundamental physics that underpins our modern society.

# Languages

You must choose at least 1 Language

## FRENCH



French is a world language with over 220 million speakers in the 5 continents. French is also the only language other than English that is taught in every country of the world. The ability to speak French and English is an advantage on the international job market and it's the world's fifth biggest economy. It's the language of culture, fashion, tourism, art and travel. So, what are you waiting for? You will complete the Modern Languages for Life and Work Award (French) through units on Employability, Technology and Media, including the film 'Les Choristes', building on the groundwork of S1 & S2 whilst also laying the foundations to continue studying French into S4 at National Level.

## SPANISH



Did you know that around 437 million people in the world speak Spanish? No longer can we use the phrase 'everyone speaks English anyway'! By continuing to develop your Spanish language skills you are actively ensuring you become a citizen of the world. By combining your knowledge of Spanish with your other subject interests, you are opening the gate to living and working across the globe. To help you achieve this you will complete the Modern Languages for Life and Work Award through units on Leisure, Healthy Lifestyles and Shopping, building on the groundwork of S1 & S2 whilst also laying the foundations to continue studying Spanish at National level.

# Social Subjects

You must choose at least 1 Social Subject

## GEOGRAPHY



Quite simply, Geography is about the world that we live in. It is unique because it covers the social subjects and the natural sciences, through both human geography and physical geography.

Physical geography helps you understand how natural landscapes are formed and the special features of natural environments, such as rainforests. Human geography studies the places where humans live, how human activities affects our world, but also how humans are affected by the destructive power of nature. The study of geography will improve your ability to understand problems and how to solve them. These skills are great for any kind of career.

## HISTORY



History is the story of everything that people have ever done on our planet. It is a story full of world changing events that have either destroyed lives or changed human cultures, lifestyles and beliefs. History is important because by understanding our past and where we came from, we will better understand what is happening now, and even decide what might happen in the future. History will improve your language skills by helping you to communicate your understanding of different viewpoints and the impact of human actions. The study of History is a doorway leading to a wide variety of jobs.

## MODERN STUDIES



Modern Studies is a subject unique to Scottish secondary schools. It is the study of recent local, national and international issues that affect the lives of individuals, groups or countries. It looks at what people must have to survive and develop, and how some suffer through crime and inequalities. You will learn what freedoms we are entitled to, but how these are affected by the decisions of individuals, groups and governments. Modern Studies will improve your ability to understand issues through research and debate. It will also improve your skills of communication. Modern Studies prepares you for any career.

## BUSINESS MANAGEMENT



Business plays one of the most important roles in the world where we live – it creates jobs; wealth; choices and allows our country to trade nationally.

During your S3 course you will learn about the environment – both economic and financial – in which businesses start, grow and succeed in. You will understand the important role that customers, employees and employers play in fate of a business – some succeed and unfortunately, some don't! You will also learn key business knowledge of the different types of business that exist; how internal and external factors can influence a business and the financial aspects of a business – all of this knowledge is in high demand from employers and will give you flexibility to work in any industry.

Fancy running your own business and being your own boss? Then Business is for you!

# Technologies

You must choose at least 1 Technology

## DESIGN MANUFACTURING



Combine creative and practical skills with knowledge of materials and manufacturing processes to solve problems in this course. Develop design proposals to meet a brief and make models of your ideas. Learn how to evaluate products and recognise design factors at work. You will use both the classroom and the workshop.

## GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION



In an age of technological advancements we are increasingly surrounded by clever graphics in our everyday lives. From online content including electronic magazines and advertisements to billboards and product packaging it is clear this is an emerging industry. In this course we examine the use of Preliminary, Production and Promotional Graphics and develop skills associated with Graphic Design, Architecture and Engineering while also considering the impact on society. Classroom only.

## COMPUTING SCIENCE



S3 Computing Science will give you the opportunity to develop your skills and knowledge of Computing Science including how to design and create Databases, 3D Computer Games and mobile Apps.

Computing science is vital to everyday life; it shapes the world in which we live and its future. Computing is embedded in the world around us: from the devices we use at home, school and places of work, to how we access education, entertainment, transportation and communication. During your S3 course you will learn about how basic Computer Systems work, the basics of programming using Kodu, Scratch and Visual Basic, and how to design and develop Databases and Websites. Understanding computational processes and thinking is vital to many other fields, including science, economics, business and industry. No matter what your chosen career path is, everyone will benefit from the development of these skills and the underpinning knowledge necessary to meet the needs of society today and for the future! Want to know more...just Google "why study computing?"

## ADMINISTRATION & IT

Want to be a Microsoft whizz kid - then Administration is for you! Learn how to use the Microsoft packages to perfection, a transferrable skill you can use in all other subject areas and every career path you pick. You will develop excellent skills in Word Processing, Database, Spreadsheet, E-mail, Internet, E-diary and more.

# Expressive Arts

You must choose at least 1 Expressive Art  
OR  
1 Health & Wellbeing subject

## MUSIC



The S3 Music course will build upon the skills that you have developed throughout S1 and S2. There are 3 main elements to the S3 course; Performing, Understanding Music and Composing. On your 2 chosen instruments, you will work individually to prepare a programme of music, participate in class performances and make audio recordings of your progress. You will learn to critically reflect on excerpts of music through listening and participating in class discussions with a focus on understanding and evaluating 'Scottish Music'. You will use your music literacy and analysis skills to create your own musical composition using instruments and/or ICT resources.

## DRAMA



The S3 course allows for pupils to develop the skills they have been learning in S1 & 2. Pupils will use their thoughts and imagination to create pieces of drama from stimulus alongside furthering their knowledge and understanding of Drama through the written elements of the course. As part of the course they will study all aspects of theatre production such as acting, lighting, sound, set design, directing, costume, hair and make up. It is important to note the following when considering choosing Drama in S3:

There is a considerable amount of written work in the S3 course, it makes up 50% of the course.

All S3 candidates will be required to work in groups throughout the course, there is minimal individual work.

All S3 candidates will be required to Perform or Present in front of others (mainly classmates) at regular intervals throughout the course.

## ART



Whatever you do in the future, your life will be affected by Art and Design! Artists and designers will have been involved in making your life and your surroundings better. They will have designed your clothes and your jewellery. They have designed your house and the furniture you sit on. They have designed computers games and the adverts you watch on TV. They are even responsible for the pictures and photographs you put on your walls. Art & Design involves developing your taste and your appreciation of beauty and the visual world. If you choose to study Art & Design in S3, you will continue to develop your expressive and design skills. You will also learn to write about artists' and designers' work. Pupils wanting to choose Art & Design should have shown that they are interested in the subject and have some ability. They must want to develop their ability to be creative and to learn new skills and techniques.

## Health & Wellbeing

You must choose at least 1 Expressive Art  
**OR**  
1 Health & Wellbeing subject

PE



Within the Physical Education course you will be involved in developing your own performance through the identification of factors such as physical, social, mental and emotional which impact your performance. You will gather data from a number of activities such as hockey, basketball and badminton and use this information to create training sessions to improve your overall performance. You will focus throughout the year on developing your fitness, skill level and knowledge of the theory surrounding PE.

## Useful Websites

<https://www.planitplus.net/>

<https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/careers>

All of these websites contain a range of very useful interactive tools that will help you prepare for your option choice decisions.

PlanIt has a specific section giving guidance about choices for S3 which you should look over. It is accessed here:

[https://www.planitplus.net/DocumentStore/MakingSubjectChoicesForS3\\_S4\\_2019.pdf](https://www.planitplus.net/DocumentStore/MakingSubjectChoicesForS3_S4_2019.pdf)

My World of Work is a fantastic site which contains interactive quizzes for pupils to complete to consider how career pathways may match up with their unique skills, abilities, strengths and character traits. The About Me questionnaire is the perfect starting point and can be found here:

<https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/tools/about-me#/questionnaire>

BBC Bitesize contains a great blend of information and real-life stories to view as well as some sensible advice about choosing options.



### Moving from S2 into S3 - Opportunities for Personalisation and Choice

- As you move into third year you will have the opportunity to make some curriculum choices that support your interests.
  - In S3 Everyone continues to study: Mathematics (5 periods), English (5 periods), PE (2 periods), RE(1period) and PSE (1 period)
  - You will study all other subjects that you choose for 3 periods per week.
- In each “Choice column” you must pick **ONE** subject. **Put a TICK next to each Choice.** ✓
- You must also pick ONE reserve choice from the Elective column.
- We do our best to ensure as many pupils as possible are able to study their preferred subjects.
- **In some cases, pupils do need to study the reserve choice – make sure you choose sensibly.**

Choice 1 Tick 1 Box ✓	Choice 2 Tick 1 Box ✓	Choice 3 Tick 1 Box ✓	Choice 4 Tick 1 Box ✓	Choice 5 Tick 1 Box ✓	Elective Column Make 1 choice here Tick 1 Box ✓	Reserve Electives Write your back up Elective Choice in the box below
French <input type="checkbox"/>	Biology <input type="checkbox"/>	Geography <input type="checkbox"/>	Administration <input type="checkbox"/>	Art & Design <input type="checkbox"/>	Administration <input type="checkbox"/> Art & Design <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Reserve Elective</i> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 80px; width: 100%;"></div>
Spanish <input type="checkbox"/>	Physics <input type="checkbox"/>	History <input type="checkbox"/>	Computing <input type="checkbox"/>	Music <input type="checkbox"/>	Biology <input type="checkbox"/> Business Man. <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Chemistry <input type="checkbox"/>	Modern Studies <input type="checkbox"/>	Graphic Communication <input type="checkbox"/>	Drama <input type="checkbox"/>	Chemistry <input type="checkbox"/> Computing <input type="checkbox"/>	
		Business Management <input type="checkbox"/>	Design Manufacturing <input type="checkbox"/>	Physical Education <input type="checkbox"/>	Design <input type="checkbox"/> Drama <input type="checkbox"/>	
					Manufacturing <input type="checkbox"/>	
					Graphic Communication <input type="checkbox"/> French <input type="checkbox"/>	
					Geography <input type="checkbox"/> History <input type="checkbox"/>	
					Music <input type="checkbox"/>	
					Modern Studies <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Education <input type="checkbox"/>	
					Physics <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish <input type="checkbox"/>	