





# S2-S3 Personalisation and Choice Information Booklet 2025-26

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 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

## 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

### 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 (Spanish) through units on Leisure, Healthy Lifestyles and Employability, building on the groundwork of S1 & S2 whilst also laying the foundations to continue studying Spanish at National level.

You will also complete the short Building Own Employability unit (which is completely in English!)

## Social Subjects

### 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.

# Social Subjects

## 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.

## Our Scotland

Our Scotland is a subject that is new for 2025 in Inverclyde Academy. The course will allow pupils to experience a range of topics across all the different Social Subjects. Pupils will look at a range of individuals and events which made Scotland what it is today. They will also understand modern Scottish society by looking at key issues facing Scotland today. To enhance and support learning pupils will take part in a number of trips and have external speakers coming to the school. A number of transferable skills will be developed including literacy, research, team work and problem solving skills. Pupils who successfully complete the course will then have the opportunity in S4 to achieve a Level 5 Scottish Studies. Recommendation for this course will come from Pupil Support during the options process.

# Technologies

## Creative Design



A creative designer uses their skills to create visual concepts that communicate ideas and messages. Pupils are offered a range of situations and have to work individually and collaboratively to provide a suitable solution. Creative thinking and 'thinking outside the box' are encouraged with plenty of opportunities for personalisation and choice. Ideally suited for people who are creative and enjoy problem solving. Classroom based only.

## 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.

## Engineering Science



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.

## Practical Skills



Practical Skills involves developing the ability to construct and finish models in wood to a given specification. From joinery and building furniture to constructing concert staging, to building sets on movie locations. Ideally suited for people who like to work with their hands, patiently and accurately. Workshop based only.

## Computing Science



Computing science is vital to everyday life; it shapes the world in which we live and its future. Computing is everywhere in the world around us: we use it to access our school work, communicate with our friends, shop, travel, play games and watch shows. We all know how to use these devices and apps but do you know *how* they work and how to code them? During your S3 course you will learn about how Computer Systems work, the basics of programming using Micro:Bits, 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

Administration and IT are essential skills for all jobs, especially after Covid-19. *How many times did you witness someone stay muted, forget to turn their camera on or off at the right time or struggle to join a Zoom meeting or Teams call?* There are many job opportunities in Administration and IT as all organisations need to ensure they are operating properly in a technologically driven world. The skills learned make an important contribution to wider achievement and to your general education. All subjects require Administration and IT skills and these are a pre-requisite to further study. The course uses real-life contexts making it relevant to the world of work. You will develop an understanding of administration in the workplace and legislation affecting organisations; an understanding of customer service/care and its benefits; industry standard IT skills (Word Processing, Spreadsheet, Database) and organisational skills in the context of organising and supporting events.

## Business Management



Business and enterprise are at the heart of national growth and development. The aim of this course is to provide pupils with a broad experience of Enterprise, IT and Business skills. The course will also provide a sound basis for progression into National 4/5 Business Management and, on leaving school, for professional qualifications in Business, Law and Accountancy or for anyone contemplating a career in government, commerce or industry where they can contribute to the dynamic business environment.

Business will develop students interpersonal and transferable skills - they will be expected to work with others, make presentations, research information, produce documentation and evaluate their work so that everything is up to a business standard. Students will learn about real life business topics such as organisational structure, human resources, operations, marketing and finance.

## Music Technology

Using industry-standard computer software and hardware, pupils will experience individual and group practical opportunities to create either radio shows, multi-track recordings, or audio books.

Pupils will develop skills in audio capture - using microphones and recording equipment effectively - and skills in the mixing and editing of tracks.

Alongside these new skills, pupils will gain an understanding of 20th and 21st Century music concepts and technological developments, through various listening activities.

## Expressive Arts

### 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, comprising 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

## 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. There are two separate options in PE- **Competitive** or **Aesthetics**. Whether engaging in team sports or in one-to-one sports such as badminton, you will gather data from your activities and use this information to create training sessions to improve your overall performance. Throughout the year, you will focus on developing your fitness, skill level and knowledge of the theory surrounding PE.



## Practical Cookery

Within the Practical Cookery course you will be involved in developing your skills and knowledge in preparation for National Practical Cookery in S4. Within the course you will work on developing time planning skills, equipment lists and budgeting. Within practical sessions you will use a range of equipment to develop your presentation skills.



## Useful Websites

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

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

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

The websites above all 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.



## S2 into S3 - Personalisation and Choice



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Class: \_\_\_\_\_

- 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 **TWO** choices 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 ✓		Elective Choices - Make 2 choices Tick 2 Boxes ✓✓				Reserve Elective
Biology		Geography		Administration & IT		Art & Design		Administration & IT		Modern Studies		<p><i>Write your back up choice in the box below</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px; width: 100%;"></div>
Chemistry		History		Computing Science		Music		Art & Design		Music		
Physics		Modern Studies		Practical Cookery		Drama		Biology		Music Technology		
Engineering Science		Business Management		Music Technology		PE (Competitive)		Business Management		Our Scotland		
Practical Skills		Our Scotland		Graphic Communication		PE (Aesthetics)		Chemistry		PE (Competitive)		
		Spanish				Creative Design		Computing Science		PE (Aesthetics)		
								Creative Design		Practical Cookery		
								Drama		Practical Skills		
								Engineering Science		Physics		
								Graphic Communication		Spanish		
								History				