

ST. COLUMBA'S HIGH SCHOOL

FAITH. AMBITION. INCLUSION. PERSEVERANCE.



S2 INTO S3 OPTIONS 2022

KEY INFORMATION FOR PUPILS AND PARENTS

S2 OPTIONS 2022

Dear Parent,

S2 pupils will soon be making their options choices for S3.

This can be a challenging time for young people and we think it is important that they are given as much information as possible to help them to make sensible and informed decisions.

This booklet is designed to outline the rationale behind our curriculum offering in S3 and to provide pupils and parents with some guidance around how to pick subjects most effectively.

This booklet will also outline where you can access useful information to support your child as they make these choices.

School staff will be on hand to provide support and guidance to pupils throughout the options process. Please do not hesitate to contact us at the school should you have any questions or require any additional information.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Mr S McFadden
Acting Depute Head Teacher



WHERE ARE WE NOW?

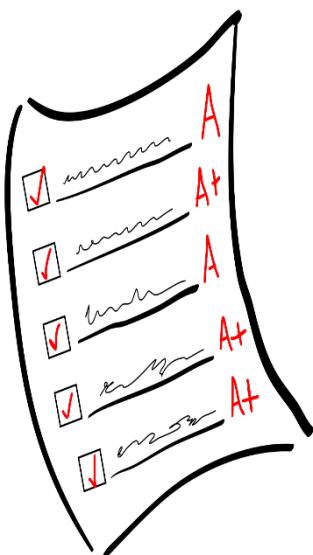
Information Gathering

In recent weeks, S2 pupils have been supporting staff by indicating the subjects that they would be most interested in studying in S3.

From this exercise, we have been able to create an options form which provides pupils with a range of choices and pathways in their S3 studies and beyond.



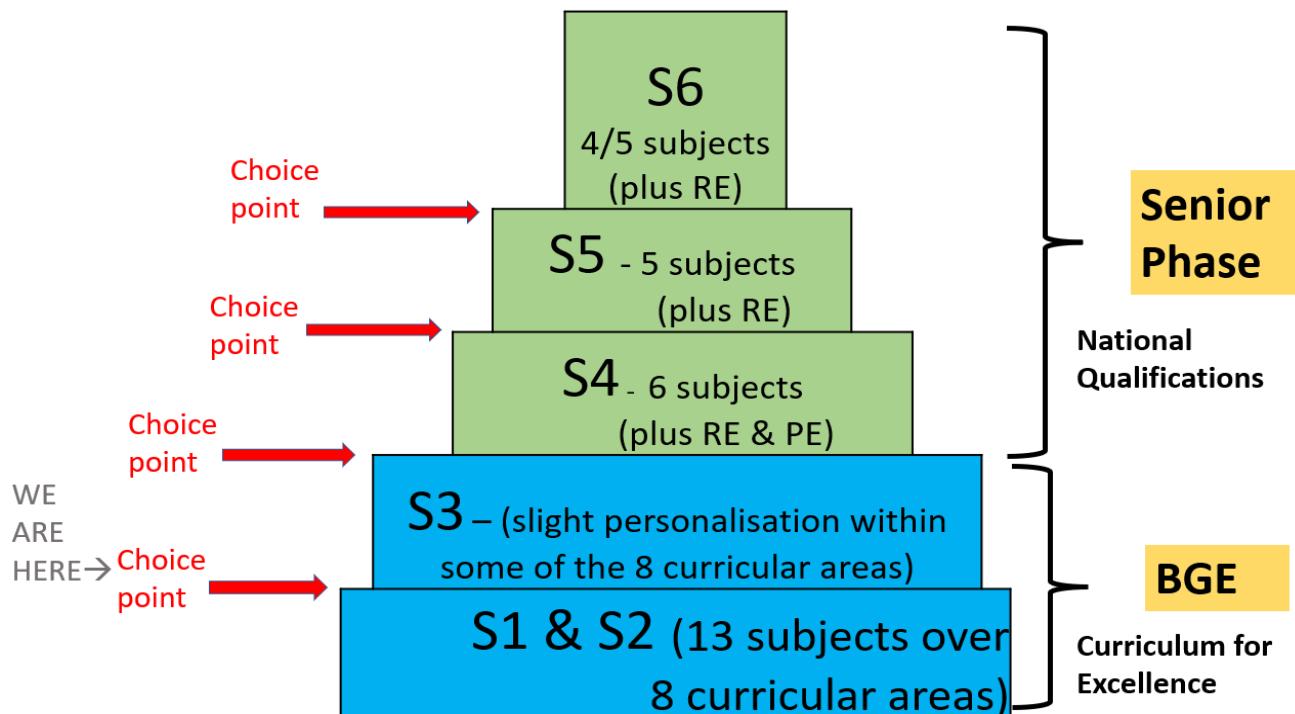
S2 Report



In March, pupils will be issued with their S2 Report. This will provide comments from teachers about progress and effort in class.

Pupils should use the information in this report, and the feedback from teachers, to support them as they select their options for S3.

PROGRESSION



Progression

S2 into S3 Options choices are the first in a range of subject choices that pupils will make.

As they move into S4, pupils will be asked to confirm the six subjects that they will study as part of their National Qualifications.

Pupils will then have the opportunity in S5 and S6 to specialise in certain subjects, as well as return to subjects that they had studied earlier in their school career.

Even at this early stage, pupils should consider where their chosen subjects could take them.

CURRICULUM DESIGN

Curriculum for Excellence

‘The Curriculum for Excellence has been introduced to raise standards of learning and teaching for all 3 to 18 year olds. It aims to help prepare children and young people with the knowledge and skills they need in a fast changing world’. **Scottish Government**

In line with the framework of Curriculum for Excellence, the Broad General Education (S1-S3) provides a focus on skills development for pupils across eight curricular areas.

Languages and Literacy

Mathematics and Numeracy

Sciences

Social Studies

Expressive Arts

Technologies

Religious and Moral Education

Health and Wellbeing

In S3, pupils have the opportunity to add an element of Personalisation and Choice to their curriculum. We encourage pupils to pick a range of subjects across curricular areas.



CURRICULUM DESIGN

Compulsory Subjects

All pupils will study certain core subjects in S3.

All pupils will study:

- **English**
- **Mathematics**
- **Physical Education**
- **Religious Education**
- **Citizenship/PSHE**



Pupils will then be offered a choice of subjects across five curricular areas:

Languages and Literacy	French, Spanish
Sciences	Biology, Chemistry, Physics
Social Studies	Geography, History, Modern Studies
Expressive Arts	Art and Design, Drama, Music
Technologies	Business and Admin, Computing, Fashion and Textiles, Graphic Communication, Design and Manufacture, Practical Cookery, Practical Woodworking,

Pupils should ensure that the subjects they choose cover as many of the curricular areas as possible.

curriculum for excellence



OUR ADVICE TO PUPILS

There are many things for pupils to consider when selecting their option choices.

Enjoyment

Pupils should think carefully about the subjects that they enjoy most. Pupils should reflect on their experience in S1 and S2 and consider those subjects that they enjoyed most.

Skills and Strengths

Pupils should take time to consider the subjects that they perform well in. Pupils should be encouraged to play to their strengths and pick subjects where they have the potential to enjoy success.

Future Careers

Although pupils may not be sure which career path they hope to follow in the future, they should keep in mind that certain career paths may require qualifications in certain subject areas. School staff, careers staff and the extensive range of online resources available to pupils and parents will help support in this.

Keeping your options open

At this early stage, we would advise all pupils to ensure that they select a wide range of subjects across curricular areas. This will help to keep their options open and ensure that all career pathways remain open to them as they move into the Senior Phase.

CURRICULUM RATIONALE

Here at St Columba's we are determined to provide pupils with learning experiences that lead to **engagement, enjoyment and success** for all learners.

In order to achieve this aim, we are keen to offer pupils the ability to choose subjects which best fit with their own interests and aspirations.

That being said, we would encourage all pupils to pick a **varied range of subjects across as many curricular areas as possible**.

It is important that pupils do not narrow their curriculum too much in S3 as this could have an impact on their choices in later years.

The options form for S2 into S3 is outlined on the next page. Pupils should take time to review these options and select one subject in each column.



S2 INTO S3 OPTIONS FORM

This options form will be given to pupils alongside their S2 report. It should be completed online using the following Form: <https://forms.office.com/r/kL0sZjgmc>

S2 into S3 MOCK Personalisation & Choice 2022 (please enter your choice of subject in columns 1-6. Please note, no subject can be chosen twice)

You will be given an opportunity to confirm these options in March/April.

All pupils in S3 will study English, Maths, RE, Citizenship and Core PE.

Name: _____

Class: _____

No. of periods:	1	2	3	4	5	6
	x 3 periods	x 3 periods	x 3 periods (double period)	x 3 periods (double period)	x 3 periods	x 3 periods
Geography (30)	Geography (30)	Art & Design (20)	Art & Design (20)	History (30)	Modern Studies (30)	Modern Studies (30)
History (60)	Modern Studies (30)	Music (20)	Music (20)	French (30)	Spanish (30)	Spanish (30)
Graphics (20)	Spanish (30)	Wood Work (20)	Wood Work (20)	Physics (20)	Design & Manufacture (20)	Design & Manufacture (20)
Business & Admin (20)	Drama (20)	Practical Cookery (20)	Practical Cookery (40)	Biology (20)	Chemistry (20 or 40)	Chemistry (20 or 40)
Art & Design (20)	Business & Admin (20)	Fashion & Textiles (20)	Biology (20)	Computing (20)	Biology (20 or 40)	Biology (20 or 40)
		Physics (20 or 40)	Design & Manufacture (20)	Business & Admin (20)		
		Chemistry (20)				
My choices:						

Languages
Expressive Arts
Science
Technologies
Social Subjects

My choices:

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT YOUR CHILD?

Supporting your child in their options choices:

There are a number of things that parents can do to support their child as they make their options choices. Always remember that school staff will be available to discuss your child's options and offer advice and support throughout the process.

- Discuss tracking reports and feedback
- Consider what your child enjoys
- Think about what they are doing well in
- Enquire as to which career path they would like to follow
- Ask your Son /Daughter why they are picking subjects?
Discourage them from selecting subjects based on friendships and perceptions of teachers.
- Discuss alternative choices.
- Ask advice from staff.

WHAT SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE?

- Information on courses for S3 can be accessed on the Transitions section of the school website.
- Staff will share with their classes information regarding subjects in their faculty during class time.
- Option forms and information will be available online and through year group Teams.
- Feedback from the recent S2 Report.
- My World of Work – Options Choices Tool
<https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/tools/option-choices>

KEEPING IN TOUCH

HERE TO HELP

We look forward to supporting pupils in the options process.

We will keep in touch with parents throughout the process and will be available to answer any questions that you may have.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require additional information.



COMMUNICATING WITH YOU

SCHOOL WEBSITE

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/in/schs/website/>

SCHOOL TWITTER

[@ stcolumba](https://twitter.com/stcolumba)

