

ST. COLUMBA'S HIGH SCHOOL

FAITH ~ AMBITION ~ INCLUSION ~ PERSEVERANCE



S2 INTO S3 OPTIONS 2025

KEY INFORMATION FOR PUPILS AND PARENTS

S2 OPTIONS 2025

Dear Parent,

S2 pupils will soon be making their option 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. The opportunity for one to one option discussions will also be available at the following dates/times:

Thursday 27th February 3.15-5pm

Tuesday 4th March 4-5.30pm

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.

Collette McGeehan
Depute Head Teacher

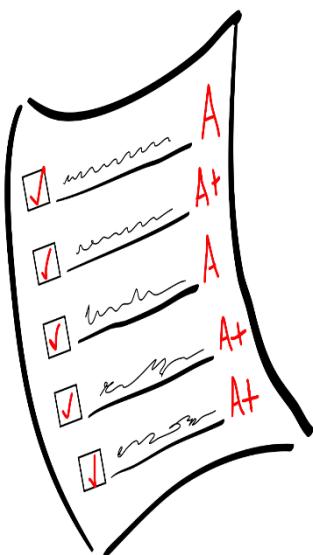


WHERE ARE WE NOW?

We have created an options form which provides pupils with a range of choices and pathways in their S3 studies and beyond.



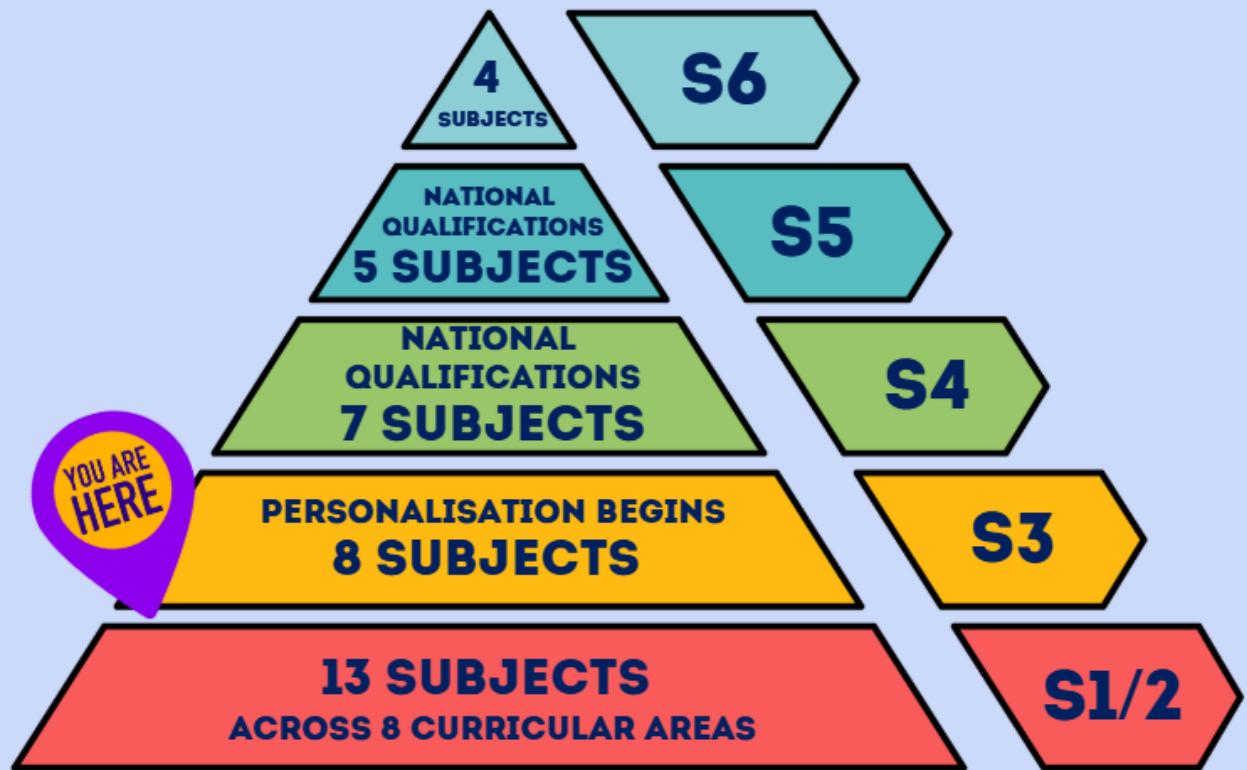
S2 Tracking Report



In February, pupils will be issued with their S2 Tracking 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.

PERSONALISATION & PROGRESSION



Progression from BGE to Senior Phase



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 **SEVEN** subjects that they will study as part of their National Qualifications.

Pupils will then have the opportunity in S5 and S6 to specialise further.

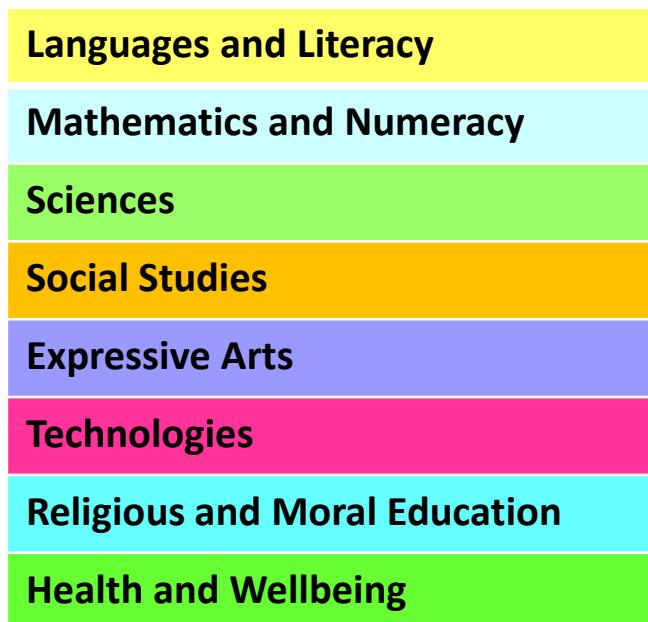
Even at this early stage, pupils should consider where their chosen subjects could take them.

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.



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 for excellence

CURRICULUM DESIGN

Compulsory Subjects

All pupils will study certain core subjects in S3

All pupils will study:

- **English**
- **Mathematics**
- **Physical Education**
- **Religious Education**



Pupils will then be asked to **choose 6 subjects** from the following curricular areas:

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

In addition, three **Skills for the Future** courses will be selected to study in S3. Personal and Social Education (PSE) will also be delivered through Skills for the Future classes.

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



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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

In order to provide pupils with learning experiences that lead to **engagement, enjoyment and success** for all learners, 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 option 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**.

Skills for the Future courses have been introduced to enhance the S3 experience and develop meta-skills in a range of areas. All pupils will have 3 blocks of skills for the future in S3.



S2 INTO S3 OPTIONS FORM

S2 into S3 Personalisation and Choice 2025 – 2026

OPTION FORM

Name:	Class:
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- please confirm option choices in columns 1-6 below. If any changes are requested please write below and we will do our best to accommodate these.
- Please choose at least one option from each curricular area. Where you have not selected a subject in a particular curricular area then you should should pick this curricular area/s as one of your options in column 7.
- No subject can be chosen twice
- In Column 7, please choose 3 options (plus two reserve options) to study for 2 periods on rotation throughout the year.
- Classes will only run where there are viable numbers
- All pupils in S3 will study English, Maths, RE, PSE and Core PE.



Curricular Areas	
Languages	
Expressive Arts	
Science	
Technologies	
Social Studies	

No. of periods:	1	2	3	4	5	6
No. of periods:	x 3 periods			x 3 periods		x 2 periods
Art	Art	Biology	Drama	Admin & IT	Admin & IT	
Biology	Biology	Chemistry	History	Computing	Business	
Chemistry	Chemistry	Geography	Modern Studies	Design & Man	Fashion Textiles	
French	Music	History	Music	Drama	Graphics	
Spanish	Physics	Physics	Spanish	Practical Cookery	Modern Studies	
			Woodwork	Woodwork	Practical Cookery	

7 - Skills for the Future	
Beekeeping & Gardening	x 2 periods
Barista Skills	
Conversational French & Spanish	
British Sign Language	
Basic Lab Skills	
Sound Production	
Digital Photography	
Creative Industries	
Criminology	
Sport & Fitness	

Option 1	
Option 2	
Option 1	
Option 2	
Option 1	
Option 2	

Parental Signature: _____ Date: _____

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.
- Feedback from the recent S2 Report.
- My World of Work – Options Choices Tool
<https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/tools/option-choices>



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.

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SCHOOL

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/in/schswebsite/>

SCHOOL X

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