

Auchenharvie Academy

**S2 into S3**

Options Handbook

2025

This handbook has been produced to help you through the options process for S3. It will be your companion as you work towards making you options choices. **Remember these choices will be the subjects you study for both S3 and S4.**

**Top tips**

* Read through this handbook.
* Bring it to all classes.

**Make notes in this handbook during classes.**

* Make sure you write down any ideas you have for careers relating to subjects.
* Make sure you write down any skills that each subject will develop to help you with your learning in all subjects as well as life skills.
* Make sure you write down any questions that you would like to talk to your teacher, parent/carer or pastoral care teacher about.
* Take your handbook home to discuss your thoughts with your parents/careers.
* Bring this handbook with you to your options interview.

**English – Core Subject**

S3 English covers the final year of the BGE. Pupils are assessed on Reading; Writing; Listening and Talking. A variety of genres are explored including prose fiction and non-fiction; poetry; drama and media. Written tasks include Imaginative and Personal Writing and developing critical essay writing skills.

Questions for my teacher/things I want to discuss at home or at my options interview

Skills for learning, life and work

Career Links – what are some of the jobs that studying English might be useful for?

**Numeracy – Core Subject**

In S3, you will continue to develop your Numeracy skills from S2. You will work on numerical and information handling skills to solve straightforward, real-life problems involving number, money, time and measurement. As you tackle real-life problems, you will need to be able to decide which numerical skills to use and how to apply these skills to an appropriate level of accuracy. Over the year you will be fully prepared to sit the appropriate Numeracy qualification in S4.

Career Links – what are some of the jobs that studying Numeracy might be useful for?

Questions for my teacher/things I want to discuss at home or at my options interview

Skills for learning, life and work

**Mathematics – Core Subject**

In S3, you will continue to develop your Mathematics skills from S2. Over S3 our aim is to help you understand the nature and purpose of mathematics, acquire skills in mathematical thinking and develop confidence in using and applying mathematics. In addition we will teach and encourage you to apply problem solving processes, select a strategy, process data and interpret and communicate the solution, to everyday situations.

Career Links – what are some of the jobs that studying Mathematics might be useful for?

Questions for my teacher/things I want to discuss at home or at my options interview

Skills for learning, life and work

**Biology – Option Choice**

In S3, you will develop knowledge of three main areas of Biology that were explored in S1/2 in more depth and breadth.

The S3 course allows an exploration of the topics of Cell Biology, Multicellular Organisms and Life on Earth.

Through practical investigations, you will also explore the key skills of experimental work with a focus of enhancing a skill set required for the Senior Phase curriculum.

The S3 course will enhance skills development in the area of processing, selecting and predicting.

Career Links – what are some of the jobs that studying Biology might be useful for?

Questions for my teacher/things I want to discuss at home or at my options interview

Skills for learning, life and work

**Chemistry – Option Choice**

In S3, you will develop knowledge of three main areas of Chemistry that were explored in S1/2 in more depth and breadth.

The S3 course allows an exploration of the topics of Chemical Changes & Structure, Chemistry in Society and Nature’s Chemistry.

Through practical investigations, you will also explore the key skills of experimental work with a focus of enhancing a skill set required for the Senior Phase curriculum.

The S3 course will enhance skills development in the area of processing, selecting and predicting.

Career Links – what are some of the jobs that studying Chemistry might be useful for?

Questions for my teacher/things I want to discuss at home or at my options interview

Skills for learning, life and work

**Physics – Option Choice**

In S3, you will develop knowledge of three main areas of Physics that were explored in S1/2 in more depth and breadth.

The S3 course allows an exploration of the topics of Dynamics and Space, Electricity & Energy and Waves & Radiation.

Through practical investigations, you will also explore the key skills of experimental work with a focus of enhancing a skill set required for the Senior Phase curriculum.

The S3 course will enhance skills development in the area of processing, selecting and predicting.

Career Links – what are some of the jobs that studying Physics might be useful for?

Questions for my teacher/things I want to discuss at home or at my options interview

Skills for learning, life and work

**History – Option Choice**

In S3 you will look at the Atlantic Slave Trade exploring the origins of the trade. You will study each stage of the journey for an enslaved African from their capture in Africa to life on the plantation in the Caribbean and finally the abolition of the Slave Trade. Furthermore, you will also look at what Scotland was like in the early 20th century. A key aspect of this topic is looking at the campaign for women to gain the right to vote by comparing the methods used by the peaceful Suffragists and militant Suffragettes.

By looking at these historical event, you will be able to relate this to our present day world and understand the impact past events can have on future generations.

Career Links – what are some of the jobs that studying History might be useful for?

Questions for my teacher/things I want to discuss at home or at my options interview

Skills for learning, life and work

**Modern Studies – Option Choice**

 By studying topics such as Crime and Law you will examine why people commit crimes and what the consequences are for these crimes while also looking at the role of the Police and the responses to crime. Furthermore, you will look closely at the USA and explore the social and economic issues faced by different groups in the USA with the question in mind ‘can everyone achieve the American Dream?’

By studying Modern Studies, you will develop an understanding of how you can contribute and make a difference in the world.

Career Links – what are some of the jobs that studying Modern Studies might be useful for?

Questions for my teacher/things I want to discuss at home or at my options interview

Skills for learning, life and work

**Geography – Option Choice**

The purpose of Geography is to develop your understanding of our changing world and its human and physical processes by studying physical, human and global topics. In S3, you will look at climate change and explore what is causing climate change and how we can help the climate movement to help the planet. Furthermore, you will explore Natural Disasters that take place across the world and the impact this is having on countries.

This subject will provide you with the knowledge and skills to let you to contribute effectively to your local communities and wider society.

Career Links – what are some of the jobs that studying Geography might be useful for?

Questions for my teacher/things I want to discuss at home or at my options interview

Skills for learning, life and work

**Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies – Core Subject**

In RMPS, you will have regular debates and discussions about a variety of opinions and responses. You will learn to put together strong and valid arguments to support your opinion whilst also being able to respect the other side. RMPS will give you the confidence to be able to voice your opinion and viewpoints in class. By studying RMPS you will become better informed about some of the moral and philosophical issues that are not only relevant today but have been relevant throughout the history of mankind.

S3 RMPS will enable you to gain both a local and global perspective on issues such as justice and capital punishment whilst allowing you to think about life’s big questions and have your say on big issues.

Career Links – what are some of the jobs that studying RMPS might be useful for?

Questions for my teacher/things I want to discuss at home or at my options interview

Skills for learning, life and work

**Art – Option Choice**

In S3, there are two main elements within the Art and Design course:

Expressive with critical activity – when you can express your thoughts, ideas and responses to a subject or theme visually. This can include painting, construction, collage and sculpture.

Design with critical activity – when you can solve a design problem and use your creative and imaginative skills to produce ideas and present a final solution. This can include graphics, illustration, applied design, ceramics.

Career Links – what are some of the jobs that studying Art might be useful for?

Questions for my teacher/things I want to discuss at home or at my options interview

Skills for learning, life and work

**Drama – Option Choice**

In S3, you will develop your skills in acting through devised and scripted dramas. You will be introduced to issue based drama and will begin by exploring the issue of homelessness. You will research, create and perform a monologue telling your character’s story of becoming homeless. You will be introduced to set, prop, costume, make-up, sound and lighting design. In the written element of the course, you will develop your use of drama terminology and will write your own plots.

Looking ahead to S4, if you continue with your study of drama, you will be given the option of specialising in acting or in one of the areas of design listed above.

Career Links – what are some of the jobs that studying Drama might be useful for?

Questions for my teacher/things I want to discuss at home or at my options interview

Skills for learning, life and work

**Music Performing – Option Choice**

In S3, there are three main elements within the Music Performing course:

Performing on 2 instruments - this is usually the 2 instruments you have been working on in S2 eg Keyboard, Guitar, Glockenspiel, Drum kit or Voice.

Composing – when you have the opportunity to compose your own music through different ways eg compose a song, an instrumental piece of music or use technology.

Understanding Music – listening and discussing different styles of music ranging from Baroque to Reggae.

Questions for my teacher/things I want to discuss at home or at my options interview

Skills for learning, life and work

Career Links – what are some of the jobs that studying Music Performance might be useful for?

**Music Technology – Option Choice**

In S3, there are three main elements within the Music with Technology course:

Music Technology Skills – focussing on recording and editing sounds and covers recording musical instruments, recording sound effects, editing and manipulating audio and using pre-recorded samples and loops.

Music Technology in Context – understanding how the equipment is use.

Understanding 20th and 21st Century Music - listening and discussing different styles of music ranging from Blues to RAP.

Questions for my teacher/things I want to discuss at home or at my options interview

Skills for learning, life and work

Career Links – what are some of the jobs that studying Music Technology might be useful for?

**Media Studies – Option Choice**

In S3, you will learn how to analyse media content and to understand the role of the media; its purpose, influence and how it meets the needs of its audience.  By studying media texts such as film, adverts and posters you will also develop your knowledge of the seven key aspects of media including genre, representation and audience.  You will also be expected to create your own media content using your knowledge of these key aspects. This will offer you the opportunity to develop your knowledge of camera, sound and editing.

Looking ahead to S4, if you continue with your study of media studies, you will be given the option of making a short trailer. This will develop your production skills and enhance your knowledge of the key aspects of the course.

Questions for my teacher/things I want to discuss at home or at my options interview

Skills for learning, life and work

Career Links – what are some of the jobs that studying English might be useful for?

**Design and Manufacture – Option Choice**

This subject strengthens your ability to think creatively and practically.

In S3, you will: Think as a product designer, create drawings that show your ideas, show development through a folio, learn design language used in industry, make physical models in the work shop.

You will: Spend time both in the classroom and the workshop to develop and strengthen your skills

Career Links – what are some of the jobs that studying Design and Manufacture might be useful for?

Questions for my teacher/things I want to discuss at home or at my options interview

Skills for learning, life and work

**Graphic Communication – Option Choice**

This subject strengthens your ability to think about sketching, graphic design and computer based graphics. In S3,

You will: Think as a graphic designer and use industry standard software to design flyers, brochures and leaflets.

You will: Get the opportunity to learn 2D & 3D sketching techniques

You will: Get the opportunity to use Google Sketch Up & Inventor CAD to 3D model object

Career Links – what are some of the jobs that studying Graphic Communication might be useful for?

Questions for my teacher/things I want to discuss at home or at my options interview

Skills for learning, life and work

**Practical Woodwork – Option Choice**

This subject strengthens your ability to read drawings and use workshop tools and machinery to manufacture carcase and flat frame models.

In S3, You will: develop your practical skills using various types of wood

You will: develop your accuracy by marking out

You will: be able to read and interpret technical drawings and be able to use and name tools.

Career Links – what are some of the jobs that studying Practical Woodwork might be useful for?

Questions for my teacher/things I want to discuss at home or at my options interview

Skills for learning, life and work

**PE – Option Choice**

3-4 Periods a week

Lots of practical: badminton, football, trampoline, basketball, handball etc.

Theory: Learn about different types of fitness, data collection, training programmes. Building the foundation knowledge for Higher P.E.

Assessment 50% practical, 50% theory. No written exam.

Questions for my teacher/things I want to discuss at home or at my options interview

Skills for learning, life and work

Career Links – what are some of the jobs that studying PE might be useful for?

**L4/5 sports and recreation – Option Choice**

3-4 periods a week

Lots of practical, deliver gym and coaching sessions, possible work placement at a sports centre.

Theory: Plan gym based and coaching based sessions. Prepare a pathway to your dream job.

No written exam, but completion of 4 units.

Questions for my teacher/things I want to discuss at home or at my options interview

Skills for learning, life and work

Career Links – what are some of the jobs that studying PE might be useful for?

**Modern Languages – Option Choice**

Our S3 course enable young people to use languages effectively to communicate and build essential skills necessary for future study, work and leisure, whether you plan to travel the world or not.

The course enables young people to understand the nature & process of learning a language learning and helps young people develop an awareness and understanding of different cultures in the world. It helps to foster curiosity, a lifelong interest and enjoyment in language learning.

Not only does learning a foreign language improve your language skills in English, it is a huge advantage when you are looking for a job, both in the UK and abroad.

Career Links – what are some of the jobs that studying modern languages might be useful for?

Questions for my teacher/things I want to discuss at home or at my options interview

Skills for learning, life and work

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**Computing Science – Option Choice**

Our S3 course follows the level 4 Experiences and Outcomes outlined in A Curriculum for Excellence – Technologies Curriculum Area. Computers play an important part in today’s society. It is important to be aware of their effects at work, in the home and in our leisure time and to be able to adapt to the inevitable new developments in technology.

The course aims to develop skills and confidence in a range of software which will be beneficial to pupils now and on leaving school.

The course contains the following units: Databases, Web Design, Software Development and Design, Computer Systems, Cyber Security

Questions for my teacher/things I want to discuss at home or at my options interview

Skills for learning, life and work

Career Links – what are some of the jobs that studying Computing Science might be useful for?

**Developing the Young Workforce – Course Choices**

**Nail Bar Programme**

Under the branding of “Pretty little Nails” the school has a devoted fully equipped Nail Bar salon within the building.  This allows pupils to work with the Ayrshire College staff to gain certification in nail technology, hair and hand care along with a personal development award. Pupils are provided with branded work wear and are able to develop their skills in a practical setting.

**Cycle Maintenance Programme**

Introduced in 2019 the Cycle Maintenance programme known as Magic Mechanics allows pupils to learn the foundation principles of engineering. S3 Pupils work to take apart bikes and learn how to clean and repair each aspect of the cycle. Pupils work toward certification in a level 4 Cycle Maintenance Award and a level 4 Personal Development Award. Future plans include pupils to work with the local skate park and cluster primary schools to begin maintaining and servicing cycles within the area.

**Early Education and Childcare Programme**

We have also introduced the Early Education and Childcare Programme known as the Little Loves. The project provides students with the opportunity to develop a range of interpersonal skills, an understanding of the workplace and the employee’s responsibilities within a childcare setting whilst gaining an Early Years Steps to Work Award. Future plans are for pupils to obtain work experience opportunities in our cluster primaries and nurseries.

Questions for my teacher/things I want to discuss at home or at my options interview