Our Lady's High School,

Cumbernauld

A Community of Faith & Learning

Preparing for the Senior Phase

S4 Course Choice Information

for

Pupils & Parents

Preparing to Move to the Senior Phase

In the first three years at Our Lady's High School your child has enjoyed a wide range of experiences as part of the Broad General Education. We are now at a stage where pupils are preparing to move into the Senior Phase, which is the term used to describe S4-S6. In the Senior Phase, pupils will choose the subjects which will deliver qualifications which lead to their desired post-school destinations e.g. employment, training, further or higher education.

Pupils have started to personalise their curriculum in S3 by making some choices within curricular areas. Your son or daughter will now make the important decisions about which subjects they might take forward. This will involve choosing subjects which will mainly be delivered at National 4 and National 5 levels.

National 4 courses will be internally assessed and moderated by the Scottish Qualifications Authority on a unit-by-unit basis or by combined assessment. There is no final exam for National 4. Courses will be assessed on a pass/ fail basis. National 5 courses do have a final exam and will be Graded A to D.

Learners should always aim for the highest possible level. In many cases the final level of presentation will be decided during the course of S4, to give pupils every opportunity to be successful.

English and Maths are compulsory subjects and will be studied by all pupils for 4 periods per week. Pupils will choose 5 other subjects using their S1-S3 experience to guide them. These subjects have an allocation of 4 periods per week.

This booklet is designed to give you the information you require to support your son or daughter in making choices for the Senior Phase. Please read it carefully. If you have any questions, please contact Mr Lester (DHT S3) or your child's Pupil Support teacher.

ADMINISTRATION & IT

Course Structure & Content

Administration & IT consists of 3 units: Administrative Practices, IT Solutions for Administrators and Communication in Administration. In the Administrative Practices unit pupils will study the role of administration in today's workplace including topics such as customer care and health and safety. In the IT Solutions for Administrators unit pupils will learn and develop skills in word processing, spreadsheets and database software packages to create business documents. In the Communication in Administration unit pupils will study the different sources and methods of communication used in administration as well as learning how to use technology such as the internet and intranets to gather information as well as using software such as e-mail and presentation packages to communicate information. National 4 is recommended for pupils who are sitting English at Access 3 or National 4 levels, while National 5 is recommended for pupils sitting English at National 5 level.

Learning & Teaching Approaches

A wide variety of learning and teaching resources and techniques will be used to deliver the course including the use of textbooks, DVD's, role plays and internet research. Pupils will also have the opportunity to participate in individual, group and whole class activities including having the chance to present/lead lessons themselves. The use of Information & Communications Technology is a vital and integral part of the course and pupils will be given ample opportunity to work on software packages such as word processing, database, presentation, spreadsheets, e-mail and the internet. Classes are delivered in an enterprising manner using situations and scenarios that the pupils are familiar with and challenging them to see the link between how the knowledge and skills gained in the classroom can be applied to the outside world.

Career Possibilities

Administration & IT is an excellent subject to offer practical and transferable skills for the world of work. The skills developed in these courses are highly desirable in today's job market. There are many job opportunities for those pupils who have completed a National Qualification in Administration & IT: Administration, Banking, Insurance, Contact Centres, Local Government, Clerical Officer etc. We encourage the development of transferable skills that employers value highly.

ART & DESIGN

Course Structure & Content

Art & Design is a practical and experiential subject and is suitable for all learners with a general interest in art and design and for those who wish to progress onto higher levels of study. It consists of three units of work: a practical Expressive Folio where pupils communicate personal thoughts, feelings and ideas using media; a Design Folio working imaginatively and creatively developing problem-solving skills. Pupils will gain knowledge, understanding and appreciation of artists' and designers' work and practice. They will learn how to integrate their knowledge of art and design practice with practical activities. The third unit is an Added Value Unit where pupils will produce one finished piece of expressive art based on a theme and one finished piece of design work in response to a design brief.

Learning & Teaching Approaches

The course allows pupils to develop their individual creativity and personal self-expression. It is largely learner-centred where the learning experiences in the Course are flexible with opportunities for personalisation and choice. Pupils will develop their imaginative ideas in both expressive and design contexts. They will use a range of art & design media, materials and techniques when developing their artwork. Pupils will draw from first hand resources, and produce work, which shows an understanding of the visual elements. A range of approaches will be adopted, showing ability to select and use appropriate media with skill and sensitivity. In the design process pupils will work imaginatively and develop individual creativity developing skills in problem solving, critical thinking and reflective practice of others; communicate personal thoughts, feelings and ideas.

Career Possibilities

Art & Design is an excellent subject to offer practical and transferable skills for the world of work. A qualification in Art & Design can lead to careers in Architecture, Graphic and Interior Design, Textile & Fashion Design, Public Art Commissions, Art Therapy, Community Arts work, Photography, Printing & Publishing, Film Television, Animation, Visual Special effects, Computer Graphics & Virtual Reality, Colour consultant, Web Design, Make-up Artistry, Teaching, Costume Design. Studying Art & Design also demonstrates an applicant's aesthetic awareness as well as their ability to problem solve to universities and employers.

BIOLOGY

Course Structure & Content

Biology consists of 3 units: Cell Biology, Multicellular organisms and Life on Earth. In the Cell Biology unit pupils will study cell structure and processes, DNA and genetic engineering.. In the Multicellular organism's unit pupils will learn the problems faced by multicellular organisms and the strategies used to overcome these. In the Life on Earth unit pupils will study biodiversity, bioethics and behaviour as well as the process of Evolution.

Learning & Teaching Approaches

The new biology course uses a diverse collection of teaching and learning techniques to enable every learner access to achieve their potential. These will include such approaches as experimental and investigative research work, learning outside the classroom with field work and a visit to the Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh, and various active learning strategies including having the chance to present/lead lessons themselves. Pupils will develop an understanding of biology's role in scientific issues and relevant applications of biology in society by the use of internet research and class discussion/debate.

Career Possibilities

Biology can lead to a wide variety of interesting careers. Health sector professions, such as medicine, nursing, midwifery, dentistry and veterinary medicine all require qualifications in biology. There are many opportunities in the ever-changing world of research and lab-work, including such things as research into new genetic techniques, exploratory work in the biodiversity and oceanography of the globe, medical research, and the progressive world of biomimetics. Job opportunities are also opening up in many aspects of forensics.

BUSINESS/ BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Course Structure & Content

Business consists of 2 units: Business in Action and Influences on Business. In the Business in Action unit pupils will study how and why businesses operate in today's society. They will also look at the main functional activities carried out by businesses – Marketing, Operations, Finance and Human Resources. In the Influences on Business unit pupils will learn about how both internal and external influences can affect a business' survival and success. National 4 Business is recommended for pupils who are studying English at Access 3 or National 4 levels.

Business Management consists of 3 units: Understanding Business, Management of People & Finance and Management of Marketing & Operations. In the Understanding Business unit pupils will study the different types of business found in today's society. In the Management of People & Finance unit pupils will learn about the various human resources issues that affect business organisations, as well as learning about the financial records that businesses must keep in order to assess their performance. In the Management of Marketing & Operations unit pupils will study the role and importance of marketing and advertising to an organisation. They will also learn about the different production processes used by businesses in the provision of products and services. Due to the amount of personal reading and extended response answers demanded of this course, National 5 Business Management is recommended for pupils who are studying English at National 5 level.

LEARNING & TEACHING APPROACHES

A wide variety of learning and teaching resources and techniques will be used to deliver the course including the use of textbooks, DVD's, role plays and internet research. Pupils will also have the opportunity to participate in individual, group and whole class activities including having the chance to present/lead lessons themselves. Classes are delivered in an enterprising manner using situations and scenarios that the pupils are familiar with and challenging them to see the link between how the knowledge and skills gained in the classroom can be applied to the outside world. Speakers from the world of business as well as industry visits also form part of the course, allowing pupils to see the knowledge gained in class in action in the real world.

CAREER POSSIBILITIES

Business/Business Management is an excellent subject as it gives pupils a thorough introduction into the world of business. It is very useful for anyone who may be planning to run their own business in the future. The course would also be appropriate for anyone considering a career in Finance, Marketing, Retail/Leisure Management or Human Resources.

CHEMISTRY

Course Structure & Content

Chemistry consists of 3 units: Chemical Changes and Structure, Nature's Chemistry and Chemistry in Society. In the Chemical Changes unit pupils will study atomic structure, properties of materials, the rate of chemical reactions including acids and bases and learn how to write chemical formula. In the Nature's Chemistry unit pupils will study a range of organic compounds and their chemical reactions. In the Chemistry in Society unit pupils will study the chemistry of metals, plastics and ceramics. Pupils will learn about all aspects of the agrochemical and nuclear industries and their impact on the environment.

Learning & Teaching Approaches

A wide variety of learning and teaching resources and techniques will be used to deliver the new course including the use of textbooks, DVDs and ICT including interactive learning tools and games. Experimental work plays an important part in the teaching of Chemistry and pupils are trained to observe and collect information in a safe and structured way. Pupils will also have the opportunity to participate in individual, group and whole class activities including scientific investigations and discussions on the importance of Chemistry's role in scientific issues and relevant applications of Chemistry in society.

Career Possibilities

A qualification in Chemistry is essential in many careers such as medicine, dentistry, vet, nursing, forensics dietician, physiotherapy, pharmacy, geologist, engineer and medical research. In addition, the high level of training and transferable skills such as problem solving ability and numeracy make Chemistry a readily accepted qualification for Law, Banking and Computing.

COMPUTING & INFORMATION SCIENCE

Course Structure & Content

Computing & Information Science consists of 2 units: Software Design & Development and Information System Design & Development. In the Software Design & Development unit pupils will develop skills in problem solving and modelling through practical tasks using appropriate programming environments in a range of contemporary contexts, such as games development and intelligent systems e.g. Scratch and robots. In the Information System Design & Development unit pupils will develop their knowledge and understanding of information system hardware, security, databases, web-based information systems and multimedia information systems through a range of practical and investigative tasks. National 4 level is recommended for pupils who are sitting English at Access 3 or National 4 levels, while National 5 level is recommended for pupils who are sitting English at National 5 level.

Learning & Teaching Approaches

A wide variety of learning and teaching resources and techniques will be used to deliver the course including the use of textbooks, practical activities and internet research. Pupils will also have the opportunity to participate in individual, group and whole class activities including having the chance to present/lead lessons themselves. Classes are delivered in an enterprising manner using situations and scenarios that the pupils are familiar with and challenging them to see the link between how the knowledge and skills gained in the classroom can be applied to the outside world. The use of Information & Communications Technology is a vital and integral part of the course and pupils will be given ample opportunity to work on packages such as Live Code and Scratch programming, databases, e-mail, web-authoring software and the internet.

Career Possibilities

The knowledge and skills gained in the Computer & Information Science course are not only desirable for many university courses, but are highly necessary in most modern careers and businesses. IT related careers can include programmers, engineers and games development.

DESIGN & MANUFACTURE

Course Structure & Content

Design & Manufacture consists of 2 units: Design and Materials & Manufacture. In the Design unit pupils will study the generation and development of ideas, the application of design knowledge, planning for manufacture and evaluation. In the Materials & Manufacture unit pupils will learn and develop skills in both manufacturing in the workshop and in industry. This will cover areas such as common tools and materials, joining techniques, manufacturing processes, environmental issues and Health & Safety.

Learning & Teaching Approaches

A wide variety of learning and teaching resources and techniques will be used to deliver the course including the use of practical tasks, textbooks, DVDs, role plays and internet research. Pupils will also have the opportunity to participate in individual, group and whole class activities including having the chance to present/lead lessons themselves. The use of Information & Communications Technology is a vital and integral part of the course and pupils will be given ample opportunity to work on software packages such as CADD, presentation, research and the internet. Classes are delivered in an enterprising manner using situations and scenarios that the pupils are familiar with and challenging them to see the link between how the knowledge and skills gained in the classroom can be applied to the outside world.

Career Possibilities

The person who can both think and do is recognised as important to society. The skills developed in this course provide invaluable experience and preparation for design, engineering and manufacturing industries as well as many transferable skills regardless of the career path followed. Successful pupils can pursue University and FE courses in the fields of design, architecture, manufacture and engineering.

DRAMA

Course Structure and content.

Drama consists of 3 units: Drama Skills, Production Skills and Performance. The National 4 qualification also has a 'Value added' unit for all students to demonstrate their skills learnt in the previous units. All the units are pupil centred with practical learning opportunities. In the Drama Skills unit pupils will develop the skills they have already learnt at the Level 3 and apply their knowledge and understanding in the Drama Production Skills and Performance units.

Learning and Teaching approaches

A range of practical teaching and learning resources will be used to deliver the course including the use of specialist technical equipment. Pupils will be given a variety of opportunities to work in groups of varying sizes including performances ranging from individual monologues to whole class ensemble performances. Due to the practical nature of the subject the pupils will work in groups for a large proportion of the course. Pupils will be required to provide written evidence of their learning and will be supported throughout the course through a range of activities, worksheets and resources designed by the teacher-examiner to suit their individual needs.

Career possibilities

Drama is an excellent subject to offer transferable skills into the workplace. Drama offers interpersonal skills which are essential for working with others, a desirable skill highly valued by employers. Drama also enables individuals to develop a wide range of personal skills which are essential for work and life.

ENGLISH

Course Structure & Content

The English National 4 course consists of four units comprising two core units: Analysis and Evaluation and Creation and Production. In addition to these units there is a Literacy Unit and an Added Value Unit. There is no external assessment. There are two units in National 5: Analysis and Evaluation and Creation and Production. In addition to this, there is an External Course Assessment. In National 5, the Added Value will be assessed through the quality of the coursework and in the External Course Assessment.

Learning & Teaching Approaches

The aim of the Creation and Production Unit at National 4 and 5 is to give pupils the opportunity to develop writing and talking skills. Pupils will be exposed to a range of activities. They will discuss fiction and non-fiction texts; they will be engaged in functional and creative writing and will build a portfolio of work that will demonstrate their learning. They will reflect on personal experiences and write in a variety of creative and discursive ways. They will develop their language skills in both reading and writing. Through a variety of activities they will be encouraged to develop skills in talking and listening including delivering presentation skills. Opportunities will be given to develop writing in a range of different genres. In the Analysis and Evaluation Unit pupils will develop their listening and reading skills. Pupils will be encouraged to develop their understanding, analysis and evaluation of a range of texts from different genres. In literature, pupils will focus on prose, poetry and drama.

Career Possibilities

English enables pupils to develop their communication skills which are essential for work and life.

Virtually every Further and Higher Education course demands a qualification in English to gain entry. Many employers also expect a similar competence.

GEOGRAPHY

Course Structure & Content

Geography consists of 3 units; Physical Environments, Human Environments, and Global Issues, which focus on the development of geographical skills and techniques. Topics include; the formation and management of UK landscapes, comparison of developed and developing countries, world population change, environmental hazards, climate change, trade and globalization, and development & health. In National 4, students will complete a Personal Study (Added Value Unit)

from any of these 3 areas, where they research an issue of their choice and communicate findings, allowing for personalization and choice.

Learning & Teaching Approaches

Geography courses encourage active learning, including fieldwork. Students will develop a wide range of important and transferable skills for life and work. There will be a wide variety of teaching and learning approaches, including power points, DVDs, map work, model design and production, guest speakers, textbooks, and library work and Internet, with pupils working in a variety of ways in individual, group and class tasks. There may also be opportunities for fieldtrips out-with school, which could include UK and European residential trips.

Career Possibilities

"Geography is a brilliant subject for today's school students - almost everything in the news has a geographical bent as it draws together science, economics, sociology and the environment. It is a way of teaching citizenship, responsibility and sustainability. It teaches pupils a sense of their place in the world and encourages joined up thinking" (RSGC)

Geography is an excellent subject in offering highly desirable and transferable skills for the world of work, and potential job opportunities including; Advertising, Marketing, Civil Service, Law, Police, International Aid and Development, Leisure and Tourism, Recreation Management, Marketing and Retailing, Nature Conservation, Heritage Management, Information Technology, The Media, Teaching and Lecturing, Environmental Research, Ecology, Meteorology, Urban Development, etc.

At many colleges and Universities, Geography can be taken as part of an Arts or Science course and can be combined with many other subjects.

GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION

Course Structure & Content

Graphic Communication consists of 2 units: 2D Graphic Communication and 3D and Pictorial Communication. In the 2D Graphic unit pupils will produce and interpret 2D sketches and drawings, preliminary designs and illustrations for promotional displays and create 2D promotional layouts. In the 3D and Pictorial unit pupils will produce and interpret pictorial sketches, drawings and 3D models, produce 3D illustrations and create pictorial or 3D promotional displays. Pupils will develop their skills in both manual and electronic graphic techniques and further develop their knowledge of CADD (computer-aided drawing and design).

Learning & Teaching Approaches

A wide variety of learning and teaching resources and techniques will be used to deliver the course including the use of practical graphics tasks , use of computer modelling, rendering and DTP packages, online resources, textbooks and internet research. The use of Information & Communications Technology is a vital and integral part of the course and pupils will be given ample opportunity to work in this area. All lessons are delivered in an enterprising manner using situations and scenarios that the pupils are familiar with and challenging them to see the link between how the knowledge and skills gained in the classroom can be applied to the outside world.

Career Possibilities

Clear communication is essential in everything that we do and this is especially true for those pupils who wish to follow careers as designers, architects, engineers, illustrators and surveyors through following courses at University and FE levels. The skills gained from this international language of Graphic Communication can also be transferred and used to great effect to support and enhance many professions.

HISTORY

Course Structure & Content

History consists of 3 units: Scottish History, British History and European and World History. In the Scottish History unit pupils will study the impact of the First World War on Scotland. They will look at the effects for Scottish men on the battlefield as well as the impact at home in Scotland. In the British History unit learners will develop a detailed knowledge and understanding of the British role in the Atlantic Slave Trade, whilst gaining skills to evaluate the impact of historical development. In the European and World History unit pupils will develop a range of specific skills in evaluating the usefulness of historical sources, in relation to the Rise of Nazi Germany.

Learning & Teaching Approaches

A wide variety of learning experiences will be used to target pupils preferred learning styles, including; Power Points, textbooks, ICT, visual and audio, interactive Smart Board activities and cooperative activities. Pupils will also have the opportunity to participate in individual, group and whole class activities including having the chance to present/lead lessons themselves. Pupils will learn a range of transferable skills by exploring, evaluating and assessing a range of historical sources. Pupils will also have the opportunity to evaluate factors contributing towards historical development, change and continuity.

Career Possibilities

Pupils with a National Qualification in History have access to a wide variety of careers; teaching, law, museum work, archaeology, research, accountancy, journalism, and the media. Employment and career opportunities include banking, television and radio broadcasters, national and local government, management, law and education. History can be taken as part of an Arts or Social Science course and can be combined with many other subjects at University or College. The skills gained in History are easily transferable into the world of work and are skills which employers value very highly.

HOSPITALITY: PRACTICAL COOKERY

Course Structure & Content

Hospitality: Practical Cookery consists of 3 units:

1. Cookery Skills, Techniques and Processes

This unit aims to develop pupils' cookery skills, food preparation techniques and the ability to use cookery processes to produce dishes.

2. Understanding and Using Ingredients

This unit aims to enhance pupil knowledge and understanding of ingredients from a variety of different sources and of their characteristics. It also addresses the importance of sustainability, the responsible sourcing of ingredients and of current dietary advice. Learners will further develop their ability to select and use a range of appropriate ingredients in the preparation of dishes.

3. Organisational Skills for Cooking

This Unit aims to extend planning, organisational and time management skills. Pupils will develop the ability to follow recipes; to plan, produce and cost dishes and meals; and to work safely and hygienically. They will also extend their ability to carry out an evaluation of a food product.

Throughout each unit course pupils will also develop an understanding of the importance of safety and hygiene and the ability to follow safe and hygienic practices at all times.

Learning & Teaching Approaches

- The Course is primarily practical in nature with regular cookery demonstrations and practical cookery lessons. This will allow pupils to develop a range of cookery skills, food preparation techniques, planning, organisational and time management skills in hospitality-related contexts.
- Theoretical aspects of the course will be developed by class discussion, some written work, research tasks, and viewing relevant DVDs.
- Through its emphasis on safety and hygiene, the course will ingrain in pupils the ability to follow safe and hygienic practices in all cookery situations. It also develops the thinking skills of remembering, understanding and applying, and aspects of numeracy.

Important Note

This a practical cookery course for which pupils will asked to bring:

- Appropriate clothing including a clean apron.
- A container to take food home in.
- If possible, a contribution towards the cost of the food.

MATHEMATICS

Course Structure & Content

National courses are designed to draw on and build on Curriculum for Excellence experiences and outcomes as appropriate.

The N5 Mathematics course builds on the skills and knowledge gained from success with fourth level experiences and outcomes. N5 will develop and assess Algebraic (both linear and quadratic), Geometric, Statistical, Trigonometric and Reasoning Skills.

N3/4 Life Skills Mathematics and N4 Mathematics and their respective third and fourth level experiences and outcomes are broadly equivalent in terms of level of demand although N3/4 Life Skills and N4 will be more specific to allow for more specialist study of Mathematics/Numeracy.

In both N4 and N5 pupils will be expected apply these skills to interpret a situation which requires the use of mathematics, select an appropriate strategy to solve a problem and to explain a solution by relating it to the task.

Learning & Teaching Approaches

Pupils will experience a range of learning and teaching approaches including the use of technology and other resources to enhance the delivery of the course. Real life data and applications will be used where appropriate. Pupils will also engage in remediation and consolidation of learning needed for preparation for Unit assessments and final assessment. Regular homework is an integral part of all courses. All pupils must have their own scientific calculator.

Career Possibilities

For most careers or entry to Higher or Further Education courses (College or University) attainment in Mathematics is either a preferred or essential requirement.

Life Skills Mathematics is usually accepted for non-scientific/ technology based courses – pupils should research this carefully before choosing this route.

MODERN LANGUAGES

MANDARIN

Course Structure & Content

The course provides learners with the opportunity to develop their Listening & Talking, Reading & Writing skills and fully equips learners with skills required to understand and use the language.

National 3 Learners will have the opportunity to develop reading, listening, writing and talking skills and to develop their knowledge of simple language in the contexts of society, learning, employability, and culture. There is no external exam.

National 4 in Modern Languages consists of 3 mandatory units, comprising the 2 units of Understanding and Using Language and 1 Added Value Unit. There is no external exam.

Learning & Teaching Approaches

The Modern Language classroom will be vibrant and motivational where pupils will reflect, communicate and develop ideas through language. Pupils will participate in individual and group activities such as role-plays, cultural projects and relevant language 'scenarios' which will allow them to see 'real language at work.' A wide range of media and modern, interactive software means our pupils will not only have the opportunity to communicate ideas and think critically, but to also be creative and enhance their enjoyment and understanding of their own and other cultures. Classes will be delivered in a manner that encourages pupils to build on their 4 skills of and to also gain the confidence to communicate freely in their chosen language.

Career Possibilities

Modern Languages offers endless opportunities for learners to acquire the skills and knowledge essential for learning, work and life. The courses allow the learner to communicate, be critical thinkers, develop cultural awareness and to be creative. As well as developing skills that are crucial in the world of work, the study of a Modern Language has a unique position in that its learners can

make connections with different people and their cultures and thereby encourage them to play a fuller part as global citizens. There are many job opportunities for those pupils who have completed a National Qualification in Modern Languages: International Business, the IT and Financial Sectors, professions in Travel, Tourism and Hospitality, Interpreting & Translation and Teaching are only a few, however many employers find the ability to use and understand another language as highly desirable criteria.

FRENCH & SPANISH

Course Structure & Content

Modern Languages provide learners with the opportunity to develop their Listening & Talking, Reading & Writing skills and fully equips learners with skills required to understand and use a Modern Language.

National 4 in Modern Languages consists of 3 mandatory units, comprising the 2 units of Understanding and Using Language and 1 Added Value Unit. There is no external exam.

National 5 in Modern Languages consists of 2 mandatory units, comprising the 2 units of Understanding and Using Language and an external exam. The external exam consists of 3 components, a 'Listening' paper, a 'Reading & Writing' paper and an Internal Performance unit titled 'Talking & Listening'.

Learning & Teaching Approaches

The Modern Language classroom will be vibrant and motivational where pupils will reflect, communicate and develop ideas through language. Pupils will participate in individual and group activities such as role-plays, cultural projects and relevant language 'scenarios' which will allow them to see 'real language at work.'

A wide range of media and modern, interactive software means our pupils will not only have the opportunity to communicate ideas and think critically, but to also be creative and enhance their enjoyment and understanding of their own and other cultures.

Classes will be delivered in a manner that encourages pupils to build on their 4 skills of Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing and to also gain the confidence to communicate freely in their chosen language.

Career Possibilities

Modern Languages offers endless opportunities for learners to acquire the skills and knowledge essential for learning, work and life. The courses allow the learner to communicate, be critical thinkers; develop cultural awareness and to be creative. As well as developing skills that are crucial in the world of work, the study of a Modern Language has a unique position in that its learners can make connections with different people and their cultures and thereby encourage them to play a fuller part as global citizens.

There are many job opportunities for those pupils who have completed a National Qualification in Modern Languages: International Business, the IT and Financial Sectors, professions in Travel, Tourism and Hospitality, Interpreting & Translation and Teaching are only a few, however many employers find the ability to use and understand another language as highly desirable criteria.

MODERN STUDIES

Course Structure & Content

Modern Studies consists of 3 units: Democracy in Scotland and the UK, Social Issues in the UK and International Issues. In the Democracy in Scotland and the UK unit pupils will develop a Knowledge and Understanding of the UK's political structure, including the place of Scotland within this structure. In the Social Issues unit, pupils will focus on Crime and Law in society with a focus on the causes and consequences. In the International Issues unit pupils will study the issue of Poverty in Africa including the role of agencies and aid. Pupils will develop skills in detecting exaggeration and bias, drawing conclusions and in decision making.

Learning & Teaching Approaches

A wide variety of learning and teaching resources and techniques will be used to deliver the course including the use of textbooks, DVDs, role plays, internet research, newspapers and speakers. Pupils will experience a variety of co-operative learning approaches. Pupils will also have the opportunity to participate in individual, group and whole class activities including having the chance to present/lead lessons themselves. Pupils will be given opportunities to research using the internet in order to develop their skills in sourcing, selecting and evaluating relevant information. Pupils will be provided with opportunities to develop additional skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work.

Career Possibilities

Modern Studies is an excellent subject to offer practical and transferable skills for the world of work. The skills developed in these courses are highly desirable in today's job market. There are many job opportunities for those pupils who have completed a National Qualification in Modern Studies: Civil Service, Journalism, Law, Management, Police, Teaching, Social Work and Local Government. Modern Studies is the main vehicle by which young people develop their political literacy and citizenship skills. Modern Studies can be taken as part of an Arts or Social Science course and can be combined with many other subjects at University or College. The skills gained in Modern Studies are easily transferable into the world of work and are skills which employers value very highly.

MUSIC

Course Structure & Content

Music consists of three units:

- Performing skills: You will continue to study the two instruments or one instrument and voice that you have been studying since the end of S1. You will continue to improve on your performing skills.
- Composing skills: You will create your own original music.
- Understanding music: You will learn about many different styles of music from pop to classical, Scottish to Jazz, and also a bit about the theory of music.

Learning & Teaching Approaches

Two periods per week will usually be spent on developing practical skills on your chosen instruments and there will be blocks of time spent on composition. You will prepare pieces for performance on both instruments, sometimes with the help of one of the visiting instructors, who give lessons on guitar, drum kit, tuned percussion, woodwind, violin, snare drum and brass. In the third period you develop your understanding of music through musical concepts and basic music literacy. This will be done using a variety of approaches and techniques including PowerPoints, DVDs and listening to a wide range of music.

Career Possibilities

There are many opportunities open to people who study music. These are varied; from professional Musicians to Sound Engineers, Dancers to DJ's. It is also appropriate for anyone considering a career as a Music Technician, Song Writing, Performing and Recording and Producing. It is very useful for both Primary and Secondary teaching and is highly regarded and widely accepted as an entry qualification into a wide range of University courses that you wouldn't initially think about, as well as Further Education courses. For many it may not be a career, but will be a lifelong leisure pursuit.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Course Structure & Content

Physical Education consists of 2 units: Performance Skills; and Factors Impacting on Performance. In the Performance Skills unit pupils will develop a range of performance and movement skills. They will select, use, demonstrate and adapt skills, make decisions and evaluate performance. In the Factors Impacting on Performance unit pupils will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how factors such as skill level, tactics and fitness impact on performance. Pupils will develop knowledge of methods for enhancing performance. This knowledge will develop the pupils' ability to plan for, record, monitor and reflect on performance development.

Learning & Teaching Approaches

Practical, experiential learning in a range of physical contexts and supported investigations will be used as the vehicle for developing knowledge, understanding and skills. Learning processes will include: identifying strengths and areas for improvement in performance; preparing and implementing a personal performance development plan; setting goals and recording progress; reviewing and evaluating the effectiveness of their personal development plan; and identifying areas for future development. Pupils will be required to work independently as well as in pairs, groups and teams. Discussions, debates, presentations, self/peer evaluation, undertaking different roles, keeping learning logs, undertaking problem solving activities, and learner demonstrations are some of the approaches used in the Courses.

Career Possibilities

Physical Education is an excellent subject to offer practical and transferable skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work. Pupils can use their National Qualification in Physical Education to help progress to study courses at College or University such as Sports Science, PE Teaching, Sports Coaching, Physiotherapy, and Sport In the Community.

PHYSICS

Course Structure & Content

In physics, pupils will study units on Dynamics & Space, Waves & Radiation and Electricity & Energy.

The Dynamics & Space unit will explore concepts relevant to study of the solar system/universe and its exploration. The Waves & Radiation unit will explore concepts that are relevant to sound, light and nuclear radiation. The Electricity & Energy unit will focus on concepts in energy and energy transformation and introduce some electrical and electronic systems and components.

The Course provides opportunities for learners to develop skills, knowledge and understanding of physics. In addition to this, the Course aims to develop an understanding of the role of physics in scientific issues and relevant applications of physics in society. Pupils will also develop investigative skills and analytical thinking skills in a physics context. Pupils will use technology, equipment and materials, safely, in practical scientific activities. Pupils will develop problem solving skills in a physics context, develop their scientific literacy, to make scientifically informed choices and develop the knowledge and skills for more advanced learning in the sciences.

Learning & Teaching Approaches

Pupils will develop their understanding of physics in a variety of interesting and stimulating ways. A major emphasis is placed on practical work with pupils learning through experiments and observation. Pupils will have the opportunity to work individually, in small groups and as a class. Support materials are provided in the form of summary notes, content checklists, homework booklets and tutorial exercises as well as the use of textbooks. Pupils will also have access to ICT support enriching the learning experience through the use of computer simulations and virtual textbooks.

Career Possibilities

Qualifications in Physics can lead to careers in Aeronautics, Medicine, Computer Programming, Engineering, Education, Journalism, and Finance as well as many other science related careers. The study of Physics supports development of numerical skills, reporting skills and problem solving skills all of which are highly desirable to employers.