

Our Lady's High School, Cumbernauld



Preparing for the S3 Experience

S2 Course Choice Information
for Parents & Pupils

The S3 Experience

As pupils move into their final year of Broad General Education (BGE), learning will continue to be challenging, engaging and motivating.

The curriculum in Our Lady's High School will continue to encourage high aspirations and ambitions for all learners.

Learning will take in a variety of contexts and the curriculum will continue to respond to individual needs and support particular aptitudes and talents.

In S3, young people continue to build well on their prior achievements.

Our pupil's learning in subjects should be deepened and expectations raised.

S3 courses and programmes provide in-depth learning and support higher-order thinking.

The courses on offer in S3 also provides suitably challenging progression routes to ensure success in the Senior Phase (S4-S6).

Many young people are specialising and working at fourth curriculum level across their learning. Fourth level courses will blend learning required for National Qualifications in S4.

Young people are well informed about their progress. They are taking increasing responsibility for tracking their own progress and profiling their achievements.

This supports decisions about which subjects they will choose at the end of S3 to take forward into the Senior Phase at the appropriate level.

The courses on offer are divided into curricular areas (*below*) as well as Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing:

| Sciences | Social Studies | Expressive Arts | Technologies | Modern Languages |
|-----------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Biology | Business Management | Art & Design | Administration & IT | French |
| Chemistry | Geography | Drama | Computing & Information Science | Mandarin |
| Physics | History | Music | Design & Manufacture | Spanish |
| | Modern Studies | | Graphic Communication | |
| | | | Hospitality | |
| | | | Music Technology | |

S3 Administration and I.T

BGE Content in S3:

The majority of work in S3 Administration & IT is based on the computer to allow pupils to further develop their ICT skills. They will learn how to create a variety of business documents such as memorandums and business letters using Word Processing software. They will also learn how to create and edit databases using Database software, as well as using Spreadsheet software to perform calculations and create charts. They will also develop their knowledge & understanding of the role of administration in today's workplace including topics such as Customer Care and Health and Safety.

Skills Developed in S3:

Pupils will develop a variety of skills throughout the S3 Administration & IT course such as problem solving, research, presentation, organisational, team working and ICT skills.

How does S3 link to the National Qualifications and the Senior Phase:

Pupils can progress onto either National 4 or National 5 Administration and I.T in S4.

Careers involving Administration and I.T:

Administration and I.T is an appropriate course for anyone considering a career in Administration, Banking, Insurance, Contact Centres, Local Government Organisations or Clerical Officers.

S3 Art and Design

BGE Content in S3:

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 may wish to progress onto higher levels of study. The BGE course in S3 continues to develop practical skills in the area of expressive work where pupils communicate personal thoughts, feelings and ideas using a range of media; Pupils will produce some design work 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.

Skills Developed in S3:

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 as pupils' moves through the later stages of the BGE course. 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 areas of portraiture and still life. 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.

How does S3 link to the National Qualifications and the Senior Phase:

Successful learners will progress onto National 4 or National 5 level Art and Design in S4.

Careers involving Art and Design:

Art & Design is an appropriate subject for anyone considering a career 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.

S3 Biology

BGE Content in S3:

The S3 course consists of topics linked to Environmental Biology. In S3, pupils will study;

- The wide variety of living things present on Earth
- How living things are interrelated depend on one another and on the environment for survival
- The evolution of new species and their adaptations for survival
- The impact of the human population on the environment

Skills Developed in S3:

The aim of this course is to help pupils to learn Biology successfully in a way that enhances their skills for future learning. Biologists must be creative and solve problems both on their own and by working collaboratively with each other. All pupils are encouraged to be involved in lessons helping their understanding while encouraging an enterprising approach to learning and developing 'Thinking Skills'. Pupils will be required to work on a range of collaborative tasks which encourage problem solving skills, helping them carry out experiments safely. They will also have to evaluate and display their results.

How does S3 link to the National Qualifications and the Senior Phase:

Pupils will build upon their existing knowledge of Environmental Biology to progress through National 4 and National 5 level Biology in S4.

Careers involving Biology:

Biology is an appropriate subject for anyone considering a career in Medicine, Nursing, Midwifery, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine. 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 Bio mimetics. Job opportunities are also opening up in many aspects of forensics.

S3 Business Management

BGE Content in S3:

In S3 Business Management pupils will study various topics such as how and why businesses operate in today's society as well as learning about the different types of business that exist. They will also look at the role of the entrepreneur and how stakeholders and external factors such as a change in the law or a new government can affect businesses and the decisions they make. Pupils will also look at the importance of customer satisfaction to businesses today and gain an introduction to marketing, finance, operations and human resources.

Skills Developed in S3:

Pupils will develop a variety of skills throughout the S3 Business course such as problem solving, research, presentation, team working and ICT skills.

How does S3 link to the National Qualifications and the Senior Phase:

Pupils can progress onto either National 4 or National 5 Business Management in S4.

Careers involving Business Management:

This course is appropriate for anyone considering a career in Finance, Marketing, Retail Management, Leisure Management or Human Resources.

S3 Chemistry

BGE Content in S3:

The S3 Chemistry course studies the fundamentals of Chemistry where pupils are exposed to challenges, experiences and outcomes mainly at CfE level 4. The topics studied are;

Chemical Reactions, Periodic Table, Elements and Compounds, Acids and Alkalis, Fuels and Hydrocarbons, Everyday Consumer Goods and Plant to Product.

Skills Developed in S3:

These topics are designed to capture the imagination and interest of our pupils whilst embedding important skills of planning, hypothesizing, problem solving and evaluation. All pupils are challenged to produce work of the highest standard at a level appropriate to his/her ability. Skills are developed throughout the course but primarily through a range of practical work supported by formative and summative assessment to evaluate learning.

How does S3 link to the National Qualifications and the Senior Phase:

Pupils get the opportunity in third year of a truer taste of Chemistry to better inform them for the senior phase. Successful learners will progress to National 4 or National 5 level Chemistry in S4.

Careers involving Chemistry:

Chemistry is an appropriate course for anyone considering a career in Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine, Nursing, Forensics, Dietician, Physiotherapy, Pharmacy, Geology, Engineering and Medical Research.

S3 Computing Science

BGE Content in S3:

In the S3 Computing Science course pupils will develop both their knowledge and understanding of computing concepts as well as develop their ICT skills. In the Graphics unit pupils will design and animate their own web phone. In the Database unit they will learn how to design, create and update an information system. In the Multimedia unit they will learn how to script their own webpages. Pupils will also gain knowledge of the security and legal implications of using ICT.

Skills Developed in S3:

Pupils will develop a variety of skills throughout the S3 Computing Science course such as problem solving, research, presentation and ICT skills.

How does S3 link to the National Qualifications and the Senior Phase:

Pupils can progress onto either National 4 or National 5 Computing Science in S4.

Careers involving Computing Science:

Computing Science is an appropriate course for anyone considering a career in IT related careers including Programming, Engineering and Games and Software Development.

S3 Design and Manufacture

BGE Content in S3:

S3 Design & Manufacture will cover two specific areas: Design and Materials & Manufacture. In Design, pupils will study design factors, the generation and development of ideas, the application of design knowledge and planning for manufacture and evaluation. In Materials & Manufacture, 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.

Skills Developed in S3:

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.

How does S3 link to the National Qualifications and the Senior Phase:

This course enables successful learners to progress to the National 4 or National 5 Design and Manufacture course in S4.

Careers involving Design and Manufacture:

Design and Manufacture is an appropriate course for anyone considering a career in the Design, Engineering and Manufacturing industries as well as Architecture, Interior Design and Product Design. This course would also benefit pupils considering a career in the construction industry.

S3 Drama

BGE Content in S3:

The Drama course in third year continues to develop the significant aspects of learning: Creating, Presenting, Evaluating and Appreciating. During the course, pupils will have the opportunity to express themselves in different ways, think creatively, meet challenges positively and find imaginative solutions to problems. They will also get the chance to work cooperatively and communicate with others, and in so doing, show initiative, dependability, and leadership. Pupils will have the opportunity to perform for different audiences and to be part of an audience for others. They will be encouraged to develop an enquiring mind by analysing, exploring and reflecting on their own work and that of their peers.

Skills Developed in S3:

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 collaborative groups of varying sizes to give performances ranging from individual monologues to whole class ensemble pieces. Pupils will be required to provide written evidence of their learning and will be supported throughout the course through a range of activities and resources designed to suit their individual needs and learning style.

How does S3 link to the National Qualifications and the Senior Phase:

Throughout their study of the Level 3 and 4 Experiences and Outcomes, pupils will be thoroughly prepared for the challenges of the National Qualifications that take place in the Senior Phase.

Careers involving Drama:

Drama is an appropriate subject for anyone considering a career in 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 learning, work and life.

S3 English and Literacy

BGE Content in S3:

The English and Literacy course in third year continues to develop the significant aspects of learning: Reading, Writing, Listening and Talking. All pupils engage with a broad range of increasingly complex texts, including Scottish texts, to develop and apply knowledge and understanding of language. They learn to find, use and organise information, including developing critical literacy skills. Reading and listening strategies to understand, analyse and evaluate texts are taught and pupils create texts of increasing complexity using more sophisticated language. Creating texts will include engaging effectively with others in different contexts demonstrating a range of verbal and non-verbal communication skills. Pupils will be taught to write with increasing accuracy, making effective use of spelling, grammar and punctuation.

Skills Developed in S3:

Pupils will experience a range of methodologies and approaches during their third year. They will participate in group work and learn collaboratively using higher-order thinking skills as well as having the opportunity to take part in interdisciplinary projects with other departments. Working with ICT will also be encouraged as pupils are supported to work with increasing independence.

How does S3 link to the National Qualifications and the Senior Phase:

Throughout their study of the Level 3 and 4 Experiences and Outcomes, pupils will be thoroughly prepared for the challenges of the National Qualifications that take place in the Senior Phase.

Careers involving English and Literacy:

English and Literacy enables pupils to develop the communication skills which are essential for learning, life and work. College and university courses most often require a qualification in English to gain entry and employers increasingly demand a high standard of literacy, communication and analytical thought from all prospective employees.

S3 French

BGE Content in S3:

The S3 French course provides learners with the opportunity to develop their existing skills in Listening & Talking, Reading & Writing within the new language of French. In addition, learners will be equipped with the skills to understand and use language in real contexts and will develop their knowledge of simple language across the 4 contexts of Society, Learning, Employability, and Culture. Pupils will explore the Experiences and Outcomes at the Third Level and where appropriate will stretch their learning into Fourth Curriculum Level Experiences and Outcomes. Where possible, learners will enjoy personalisation and choice and will increase their use of higher order thinking skills. Through coherent, progressive and challenging course outlines, pupils will deepen and broaden their knowledge and be given opportunities to develop leadership as well as skills for learning, life and work in preparation for the Senior Phase.

Skills Developed in S3:

The Modern Language classroom will be vibrant, innovative, creative, challenging and motivational where pupils will reflect, communicate and develop ideas through the target 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 and to also gain the confidence to communicate freely. Pupils will be provided with rich learning experiences and will be encouraged to become independent learners and take on more responsibility for their own learning in preparation for the Senior Phase.

How does S3 link to the National Qualifications and the Senior Phase:

Since this is a new language, only learners who show commitment, dedication, hard work and motivation can successfully progress to National Qualifications in S4.

Careers involving Modern Languages (*French, Spanish and Mandarin*):

A Modern Languages subject is an appropriate course for anyone considering a career in International Business, the IT and Financial Sectors, professions in Travel, Tourism and Hospitality, Interpreting and Translation and Teaching. However many employers find the ability to use and understand another language as highly desirable criteria.

S3 Geography

BGE Content in S3:

S3 BGE Geography will introduce learners to the concepts of both the physical environment and the impact of population change. They will study both Glaciation and Coasts and be introduced to the different features within these landscapes. They will also do an in depth study of the British Weather and Climate. This will involve learning about weather processes and their impact. Finally they will examine population - looking at reasons for Population change and its impact. This will involve a detailed comparison between Scotland and China.

Skills Developed in S3:

Learners studying Geography will have the opportunity to experience the benefits of an inclusive, pupil-centred approach. A wide variety of learning activities will be experienced, with a focus on targeting the preferred learning styles of individual pupils. Learners will also have the opportunity to participate in individual, group and whole class activities including having the chance to present/lead lessons themselves. Learners will develop a range of transferable skills by developing the skills of Describe and Explain. They will expand on their prior learning of map skills from S1 Geography and be able to write in detail about the Glacial and Coastal features they have learned about.

How does S3 link to the National Qualifications and the Senior Phase:

S3 Geography will introduce learners to many of the skills required for the Senior Phase, ensuring they are well prepared to progress. Time spent on working with sources and developing research skills will ensure they are prepared to tackle the Added Value components required in the Senior Phase. Learners will have an understanding of the skills required and will be able to progress further with these into National Qualifications.

Careers involving Geography:

Geography is an appropriate subject for anyone considering a career in Climatology, Environmental Management, Research, International Aid, Leisure and Tourism, Nature Conservation, Ecology and Meteorology.

S3 Graphic Communication

BGE Content in S3:

S3 Graphic Communication consists of two areas of study: 2D Graphic Communication and 3D and Pictorial Communication. In 2D Graphics, pupils will produce and interpret 2D sketches and drawings, preliminary designs and illustrations for promotional displays and create 2D promotional layouts. In 3D and Pictorial Graphics, 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).

Skills Developed in S3:

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.

How does S3 link to the National Qualifications and the Senior Phase:

This course enables successful learners to progress to the National 4 or National 5 Graphic Communication course in S4.

Careers involving Graphic Communication:

Graphic Communication is an appropriate course for anyone considering a career in Design, Architecture, Engineering, Branding, Illustration and Surveying. This course is also appropriate for anyone considering a course in the construction industry.

S3 History

BGE Content in S3:

S3 BGE History consists of 2 units: The Reasons for the Outbreak of World War One, and the Impact of the First World War on Scotland. Initially learners will be introduced to the concept of conflict and global relationships, before focusing on the relative impact of a range of factors on the eventual outbreak of fighting in 1914. They will then go on to examine the concept of 'Total War' with a focus on both the experiences of Scottish men on the battlefield as well as the impact of conflict on those living at home in Scotland. Throughout these two units learners will develop a detailed knowledge and understanding of integral subject content which will be essential to their learning if they elect to carry forward History into the Senior Phase. Similarly, they will gain a range of transferable skills including, evaluating, analysing, explaining, describing and establishing relative importance of factors.

Skills Developed in S3:

Learners studying History will have the opportunity to experience the benefits of an inclusive, pupil-centred approach. A wide variety of learning activities will be experienced, with a focus on targeting the preferred learning styles of individual pupils. Learners will also have the opportunity to participate in individual, group and whole class activities including having the chance to present/lead lessons themselves. Learners will develop a range of transferable skills by exploring, evaluating and assessing a range of historical sources. Learners will also have the opportunity to evaluate factors contributing towards historical development, change and continuity. Similarly, they will develop analysis skills.

How does S3 link to the National Qualifications and the Senior Phase:

S3 History will introduce learners to many of the skills required for the Senior Phase, ensuring they are well prepared to progress. Time spent on working with sources and developing research skills will ensure they are prepared to tackle the Added Value components required in the Senior Phase. Learners will have an understanding of the skills required and will be able to progress further with these into National Qualifications.

Careers involving History:

History is an appropriate course for anyone considering a career in Teaching, Law, Museum work, Archaeology, Research, Accountancy, Journalism and the media.

S3 Hospitality: Practical Cookery

BGE Content in S3:

The S3 Hospitality course includes the following key experiences and outcomes:-

1. Practical Cookery Skills, Techniques and Processes

Through participation in practical food activities, pupils will develop technological skills in food preparation and will apply these to produce dishes. They will also learn to critically evaluate their work and the work of others. High standards of food hygiene in practical work is expected and there may be an opportunity to achieve an introductory food hygiene award.

2. Understanding and Using Ingredients

Pupils will develop their knowledge and understanding of the properties and functions of various ingredients, the relationship between food and health and the importance of conserving resources.

3. Organisational Skills

Through learning to follow recipes, pupils will develop planning, organisational and time management skills.

Skills Developed in S3:

- The Course has a strong practical focus with weekly 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. All of these skills are further developed and assessed in National Qualifications in Hospitality.
- Theoretical aspects of the course are developed by class discussion, group tasks, individual written tasks, research tasks, and viewing relevant DVDs.
- Through its emphasis on safety and hygiene, the course will equip pupils with the ability to follow safe and hygienic practices in all cookery situations.

Cross-curricular skills

Throughout the course pupils have the opportunity to;

- Remember, understand and apply knowledge.
- Apply literacy and numeracy skills in a practical Hospitality environment.
- Regularly explore the links between food and health throughout the course.

How does S3 link to the National Qualifications and the Senior Phase:

This course aims to provide a secure foundation for the study of Hospitality qualifications in S4, S5 or S6.

Careers involving Hospitality:

This course is appropriate for anyone considering a career in the Hospitality or Catering Industry.

Important Note:

This is a practical cookery course for which pupils are asked to bring a clean apron, a container to take food home in and where possible, a contribution towards the cost of the food.

S3 Mandarin

BGE Content in S3:

The S3 Mandarin course provides learners with the opportunity to build upon their existing knowledge and to further develop their skills in Listening & Talking, Reading & Writing. In addition, learners will be equipped with the skills to understand and use the language in real contexts and will develop their knowledge of simple language across the 4 contexts of Society, Learning, Employability, and Culture. Pupils will explore the Experiences and Outcomes at the Third Level and where appropriate will stretch their learning into Fourth Curriculum Level Experiences and Outcomes. Where possible, learners will enjoy personalisation and choice and will increase their use of higher order thinking skills. Through coherent, progressive and challenging course outlines, pupils will deepen and broaden their existing knowledge and be given opportunities to develop leadership as well as skills for learning, life and work in preparation for the Senior Phase.

Skills Developed in S3:

The Modern Language classroom will be vibrant, innovative, creative, challenging and motivational where pupils will reflect, communicate and develop ideas through the target 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 and to also gain the confidence to communicate freely. Pupils will be provided with rich learning experiences and will be encouraged to become independent learners and take on more responsibility for their own learning in preparation for the Senior Phase.

How does S3 link to the National Qualifications and the Senior Phase:

Pupils who show commitment, hard work and motivation will successfully progress to National Qualifications in S4.

S3 Mathematics

BGE Content in S3:

In S3, young people continue to progress through Third Level Experiences and Outcomes. Where it is appropriate, many young people have the opportunity to work beyond this, at Fourth Level, providing deeper learning and more challenge. Much of the content at this level provides appropriate preparation for National Qualifications in the Senior Phase.

Skills Developed in S3:

The process of learning the skills of handling number, appreciating shape, and recognising and describing relationships will continue through S3. Problem solving, use of ICT and real life data and applications will be used where appropriate. Regular homework is an integral part of all courses. All pupils must have their own scientific calculator.

How does S3 link to the National Qualifications and the Senior Phase:

Based on evidence of learning in S1-3, young people will progress to National 4 or National 5 Mathematics in S4.

Life Skills Mathematics at National 3 or National 4 level may be more appropriate for some pupils.

Careers involving Mathematics:

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.

S3 Modern Studies

BGE Content in S3:

S3 BGE Modern Studies introduces learners to the concepts of Ideologies. Throughout S3 they will complete an in depth comparison of life in the UK and in China. They will examine the differences between Communism and Capitalism and be able to compare them both. They will complete an in depth study of Human Rights in the UK and China, again allowing for a detailed comparison of the different experiences in each country. Finally they will study Politics. Here they will examine ways in which people can participate in politics, including a study of Pressure Groups.

Skills Developed in S3:

Learners studying Modern Studies will have the opportunity to experience the benefits of an inclusive, pupil-centred approach. A wide variety of learning activities will be experienced, with a focus on targeting the preferred learning styles of individual pupils. Learners will also have the opportunity to participate in individual, group and whole class activities including having the chance to present/lead lessons themselves. Learners will develop a range of transferable skills by learning to Describe. They will also be introduced to source skills questions such as examining the selectivity of sources, and being able to reach conclusions based on source information provided.

How does S3 link to the National Qualifications and the Senior Phase:

S3 Modern Studies will introduce learners to many of the skills required for the Senior Phase, ensuring they are well prepared to progress. Time spent on working with sources and developing research skills will ensure they are prepared to tackle the Added Value components required in the Senior Phase. Learners will have an understanding of the skills required and will be able to progress further with these into National Qualifications.

Careers involving Modern Studies:

Modern Studies is an appropriate course for anyone considering a career in Civil Service, Journalism, Law, Management, Police, Teaching, Social Work and Local Government.

S3 Music

BGE Content in S3:

Music develops creativity, listening skills and powers of concentration. This course provides all learners the opportunity to develop and consolidate a general interest in music, and to further develop practical and listening skills developed in S1 and S2. It also allows learners to develop their own creativity through composition. This course therefore focuses on Performing, Composing, and Understanding Music:

Performing skills: You will choose to study two instruments, or possibly, one instrument and voice. These will probably be the two instruments that you enjoyed most and were best at in S2.

Composing skills : You will learn how to create your own original music.

Understanding music : You will study many different styles of music, from Pop to Classical, Scottish to Jazz, and also literacy skills in music.

Skills Developed in S3:

Two periods a week will be spent on developing practical skills on your chosen instruments, and there will be blocks of time spent on composition. Lessons will be given by the class teacher or possibly one of the visiting instrumental tutors. One period will be spent developing an understanding of music through musical concepts and music literacy. This will be done using a wide variety of approaches including power points, DVD's and listening to a wide range of music.

How does S3 link to the National Qualifications and the Senior Phase:

Learners can progress onto either National 4 or National 5 level Music in S4.

Careers involving Music:

This is an appropriate course for anyone wishing to become a professional musician or anyone considering a career Sound Engineering, Dancing to DJ's. It is also appropriate for anyone considering a career as a Music Technician, Song Writing, Performing and Recording and Producing.

S3 Music Technology

BGE Content in S3:

Music develops creativity, listening skills and powers of concentration. This new course provides all learners the opportunity to develop and consolidate a general interest in music but also permits them to acquire skills which may be of particular interest to them in terms of learning about current music technology. During S1 and S2 students will have developed many of the music skills required for the S3 course and will be able to apply their knowledge here, whilst developing new skills in technology as they progress through the course. This course focuses on- Technology, Performing, Composing, and Understanding Music: The technology aspect involves learners using the software Garageband, Logic and AUDACITY to record, manipulate and edit music. This will include laying down music tracks and adding effects such as reverb and delay- techniques used in professional recording studios. Performance involves learning one instrument, developing the ability to play accurately and maintain musical flow. Through regular practice and reflection, pupils will develop technical and musical skills while exploring a range of music. Class teachers give regular advice to ensure the highest level of success, and where possible, pupils will also work with an Instrumental Tutor. Finally, learners will develop their knowledge and understanding of music and musical literacy. Learners will explore music of various styles, cultures and genres.

Skills Developed in S3:

The course will take a variety of approaches. Some days you will spend time working on your own or as part of a small group at a computer, working on your project. Other times will be spent as a whole class learning how to use particular aspects of the technology and then applying these in tasks. You will also have whole class lessons on music of the 20th and 21st centuries where you will develop your knowledge and understanding of music technology.

How does S3 link to the National Qualifications and the Senior Phase:

Learners can progress onto either National 4 or National 5 level Music Technology in S4.

Careers involving Music Technology:

Music Technology is an appropriate course for anyone wishing to become a professional musician or anyone considering a career Sound Engineering and Musical Production. It is also appropriate for anyone considering a career as a Music Technician, Recording and Producing.

S3 Physics

BGE Content in S3:

In S3 physics, pupils will study topics on Sound Waves, Light Waves, the Electromagnetic Spectrum, Nuclear Radiation, Speed & Acceleration and Forces & Motion all mainly at CfE level 4.

Skills Developed in S3:

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. 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. Pupils will also have access to ICT support enriching the learning experience through the use of computer simulations and virtual textbooks.

How does S3 link to the National Qualifications and the Senior Phase:

Pupils can progress from the work covered in S3 to pursue National 3, National 4 or National 5 level Physics in S4.

Careers involving Physics:

Physics is an appropriate course for anyone considering a career in Aeronautics, Medicine, Computer Programming, Engineering, Education and Energetics as well as many other science related careers.

S3 Physical Education

BGE Content in S3:

This course is for learners who have a genuine interest in Physical Education and who are prepared to work hard to improve their own fitness, skills, and understanding of physical activity. Learners are expected to take part in all activities. These activities will be both indoor, outdoor, individual, team and aesthetic. Learners will also engage in theory classes.

Learners will adopt a variety of roles including: coach, leader, observer, umpire/ referee and performer. Learners will develop an understanding of the four factors that impact on performance: Mental, Emotional, Social and Physical.

Skills Developed in S3:

Studying Physical Education at this level will help give learners the knowledge, attitudes, skills and confidence needed to be physically active for life. Self-management skills such as goal-setting and self-monitoring are taught in an environment which actively teaches the interpersonal skills required for cooperation, self-responsibility and competition.

How does S3 link to the National Qualifications and the Senior Phase:

Participating in this course will prepare learners with a solid foundation of the skills, knowledge and understanding needed to progress to study Physical Education at National 4 or National 5 level and beyond.

Careers involving Physical Education:

Physical Education is an appropriate course for anyone considering a career in Sports Science, PE Teaching, Sports Coaching, Physiotherapy and Sport in The Community.

S3 Spanish

BGE Content in S3:

The S3 Spanish course provides learners with the opportunity to build upon their existing knowledge and to further hone and develop their skills in Listening & Talking, Reading & Writing. Learners will be equipped with the skills to understand and use the language in real contexts and will develop their knowledge of more complex language across the 4 contexts of Society, Learning, Employability, and Culture. Pupils will complete all the Experiences and Outcomes at the Third Level and will stretch their learning into Fourth Curriculum Level Experiences and Outcomes. Where possible, learners will enjoy personalisation and choice and will increase their use of higher order thinking skills. Through coherent, progressive and challenging course outlines, pupils will deepen and broaden their existing knowledge and be given opportunities to develop leadership as well as skills for learning, life and work in preparation for the Senior Phase. In addition, pupils will embark upon a SQA accredited Award “Modern Languages for Life and Work” Award at SCQF Level 3/4. The award will develop learners’ language and employability skills in practical and relevant contexts.

Skills Developed in S3:

The Modern Language classroom will be vibrant, innovative, creative, challenging and motivational where pupils will reflect, communicate and develop ideas through the target 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 and to also gain the confidence to communicate freely. Pupils will be provided with rich learning experiences and will be encouraged to become independent learners and take on more responsibility for their own learning in preparation for the Senior Phase.

How does S3 link to the National Qualifications and the Senior Phase:

Pupils who show commitment, hard work and motivation will successfully progress to National Qualifications in S4.