Our Lady's High School,

Cumbernauld

Preparing for the Senior Phase

S4 Course Choice Information

for

Pupils & Parents

A Community of Faith & Learning

CONTENTS

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 (BGE). We are now at a stage where pupils are preparing to move into the Senior Phase (SP), 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 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

National 4/5 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 two units of work: a practical Expressive Portfolio where pupils communicate personal thoughts, feelings and ideas using media based on a personal theme; a Design Portfolio working imaginatively and creatively developing problem-solving skills. Pupils will produce a portfolio of design work in response to a design brief. 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.

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.

Assessment

On completing the course, learners will be able to plan, produce and present creative Art and Design work; develop and refine expressive compositions and design proposals; and solve design problems and evaluate their work. At National 5 pupils will also sit an externally assessed written exam. Learners will also be able to reflect on and evaluate their own work and the work of artists and designers. Throughout the year the class units will be internally assessed and pupils will undertake self and peer evaluation.

Progression: Pupils who successfully complete the internal units in the National 5 Art and Design and obtain a pass at A or B in the external exam can progress to higher level in S6.

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. Costume Design, Prop Designer, Ceramic Designer, Silversmith/Jewellery Designer, Glass Artist, Book Illustrator, Cartoonist, Mural Artist, Toy Designer, Personal Stylist, Picture Framer, Colour Consultant.

Art & Design can be great preparation for any career that requires fine motor skills, presentation skills, an eye for aesthetics and creative thinking.

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 and Content

In S4 pupils **embark upon study that will lead to National 4 or National 5 qualification within Biology.** National 4 and National 5 Biology consist of 3 units;

- Cell Biology – the study of cell structure and processes
- Multicellular organisms – the study of complex organisms including processes such as growth and reproduction and the structure and function of the main organ systems.
- Life on Earth – the study of biodiversity, bioethics and behaviour as well as the process of Evolution.

Learning & Teaching Approaches

The biology course uses a diverse collection of teaching and learning techniques to enable every learner access to achieve their potential.

These will include various approaches including;

- experimental and investigative research work
- learning outside the classroom with field work
- active learning strategies including having the chance to present/lead lessons themselves.
- internet research and class discussion/debate to develop scientific literacy

Assessment

In the National 5 course pupils will be issued with regular homework which will assess their knowledge and understanding of the topics covered in class. This homework will allow pupils and teachers to assess their performance in each unit as well as track their progress towards their target grade. National 5 level pupils will sit an externally assessed written exam and produce an assignment which assesses the application of scientific skills.

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 and of course vaccine development.

Progression

Pupils who achieve a National 4 level award at the end of S4 can go on to study National 5 level Biology in S5. Pupils who achieve a National 5 level award at the end of S4 can go on to study Higher level Biology in S5 or S6.

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 and Content

In S4 pupils embark upon study that will lead to National 4 or National 5 qualification within Chemistry. National 4 and National 5 Chemistry consists of 3 units:

- Chemical Changes and Structure- the study of atomic structure, properties of materials, the rate of chemical reactions including acids and bases.
- Nature's Chemistry – the study of a range of organic compounds and their chemical reactions.
- Chemistry in Society - the study the chemistry of metals, plastics and ceramics alongside the agrochemical and nuclear industries and their impact on the environment.

Learning and Teaching Approaches

The Chemistry course uses a diverse collection of teaching and learning techniques to enable every learner access to achieve their potential.

These will include various approaches including;

- experimental and investigative research work
- learning outside the classroom with field work
- active learning strategies including having the chance to present/lead lessons themselves.
- internet research and class discussion/debate to develop scientific literacy
- the use of ICT to support and enrich the learning experience.

Assessment

In both National 4 and National 5 courses, pupils will be issued with regular homework which will assess their knowledge and understanding of the topics covered in class. This homework will allow pupils and teachers to assess their performance in each unit as well as track their progress towards their target grade.

The National 4 course is assessed internally through unit assessments, whilst at National 5 pupils will sit an externally assessed written exam and produce an assignment which assesses the application of scientific skills.

Career Possibilities

A qualification in Chemistry is advisable 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.

Progression

Pupils who achieve a National 4 level award at the end of S4 can go on to study National 5 level Chemistry in S5. Pupils who achieve a National 5 level award at the end of S4 can go on to study Higher level Chemistry in S5 or S6.

COMPUTING SCIENCE

Course Structure & Content

Computing Science consists of 4 units: Software Design & Development, Database Design & Development, Web Design & Development and Computer Systems. In the Software Design & Development unit pupils will design and develop their own computer programs using appropriate programming environments such as Python. In the Database Design & Development unit pupils will develop their knowledge and understanding, as well as their practical ICT skills in creating and manipulating databases using SQL. In the Web Design and Development unit pupils will learn how to build their own websites using HTML and CSS, while in the Computer Systems unit pupils will develop their knowledge and understanding of the main components of a computer system, as well as how computers store/represent information. 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 two specific areas: Design and Materials & Manufacture. In Design, pupils will study the generation and development of ideas, the application of design knowledge, planning for manufacture and evaluation. In the 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.

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 CAD, 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 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 work is pupil centred with practical learning opportunities. In Drama Skills, pupils build on the skills they have already learnt at Third Level and apply their knowledge and understanding in the Drama Production Skills and Performance elements of the course.

Learning and Teaching approaches

A range of practical teaching and learning resources are 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, 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. It 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 learning, work and life.

ENGLISH

Course Structure & Content

The English National 4 course consists of two core units: Analysis and Evaluation and Creation and Production. In addition to these, there are also Literacy and Added Value Units to complete and there is no external assessment. At National 5, pupils take part in a Spoken Language Assessment and produce a written Portfolio. In addition to this, there is an external exam. The Added Value element is assessed through the quality of the coursework and External Course Assessment. It may be appropriate for some pupils to complete the National 5 Units: Analysis and Evaluation and Creation and Production.

Learning & Teaching Approaches

The aim of Creation and Production 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 discursive and creative writing and will build a portfolio of work that will demonstrate their learning. They will develop their language skills in both reading and writing and through a variety of activities, they will be encouraged to develop skills in talking and listening including presentation skills. During Analysis and Evaluation, pupils will develop their listening and reading skills. They 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 learning, work and life.

Virtually every Further and Higher Education course demands a qualification in English to gain entry and most 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 main areas: 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 the 3D and Pictorial section 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 Content

Pupils will develop the following skills, knowledge and understanding throughout this course:

- using food preparation techniques and cookery processes in the preparation of dishes
- understanding and demonstrating knowledge of the importance of food safety and hygiene and its application in the practical context
- selecting, weighing, measuring and using appropriate ingredients to prepare and garnish or decorate dishes
- understanding and demonstrating knowledge of the characteristics of a range of ingredients, and their function in a practical context
- understanding and demonstrating knowledge of the importance of sourcing sustainable ingredients
- understanding and demonstrating knowledge of current dietary advice relating to the use of ingredients
- following recipes in the preparation of dishes and carrying out an evaluation of the product
- planning, costing, organisational and time management skills in a cookery context
- producing, portioning and presenting dishes appropriately.

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.

Theoretical aspects of the course will be developed by class discussion, some written work, research tasks, and viewing relevant online content.

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.

Possibilities

Learners who have chosen to follow it may wish to utilise their cookery knowledge and skills at home, in the wider community or, ultimately, in the hospitality industry.

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 Applications of 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 Applications of Mathematics and N4 Mathematics 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.

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

MODERN LANGUAGES

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 Understanding and Using Language and 1 Added Value Unit. There is no external exam.

National 5 in Modern Languages consists of Understanding and Using Language and an external exam. The external exam consists of 4 components: a Portfolio of Writing submitted to the exam board in advance of the final exam; 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

The Music course 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 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 some musical literacy.

Learning & Teaching Approaches

Two periods per week will be spent on developing practical skills on your chosen. 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 and brass. In the third period you will 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. The fourth period will be used for composition. You will continue to build on your skills from S3 and will write your own music.

Career Possibilities

Many of the skills required to play a musical instrument are useful in other aspects of daily life. For example, in most careers you will be required to show dedication, commitment, ability to work individually and as a group – all of which you learn when playing an instrument. 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. Music is highly sought after by a wide range of university and college courses due to its unique mix of practical skills and academic rigour and many music students go on to study medicine, law, maths and history if they do not choose music as a future career choice. For many it may not be a career, but will be a lifelong leisure pursuit, the benefits of which manifest themselves in many ways.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Course Structure & Content

Physical Education consists of 2 parts that interlink: Performance Skills; and Factors Impacting on Performance. In the 'Performance Skills' aspect pupils will select, use, demonstrate and adapt skills, make decisions and evaluate performance. In the 'Factors Impacting on Performance' section pupils will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how physical, mental, emotional and social factors impact on performance. Pupils will also develop knowledge of methods for improving 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: gathering data; 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 this course.

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 and Content

In S4 pupils embark upon study that will lead to National 4 or National 5 qualification within Physics.

In physics, pupils will study units on

- Dynamics & Space - explores concepts relevant to study of the solar system/universe and its exploration.
- Waves & Radiation – explores concepts that are relevant to sound, light and nuclear radiation.
- Electricity & Energy - focuses 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.

Assessment

In both National 4 and National 5 courses, pupils will be issued with regular homework which will assess their knowledge and understanding of the topics covered in class. This homework will allow pupils and teachers to assess their performance in each unit as well as track their progress towards their target grade.

The National 4 course is assessed internally through unit assessments, whilst at National 5 pupils will sit an externally assessed written exam and produce an assignment which assesses the application of scientific skills.

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.

Progression

Pupils who achieve a National 4 level award at the end of S4 can go on to study National 5 level Physics in S5. Pupils who achieve a National 5 level award at the end of S4 can go on to study Higher level Physics in S5 or S6.