

# St Ambrose High School



**S2 into S3  
of the Broad General Education  
2020-21**

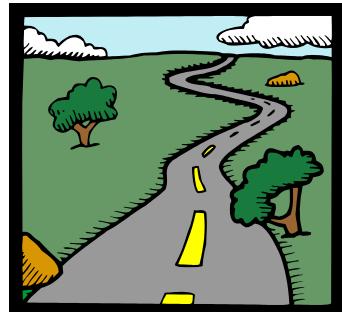


curriculum for excellence



## ***Continuing the Learner Journey***

In St Ambrose High School, all learners are offered a broad general education during the Junior Phase of Curriculum for Excellence which allows them to build on previous learning and to develop a range of transferable skills essential for success in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. As our young people prepare to continue that learning journey from S2 into S3, they will have the opportunity to further specialise in their choice of subjects to pursue their interests, deepen their learning and build towards National Qualifications in the Senior Phase.



### When and how will these decisions be made?

A detailed S2 Subject Decisions programme is in place in order to support our young people in making decisions which are most suited to them.

- ❖ This booklet provides details about the curriculum available as well as information on certification in the Senior Phase
- ❖ During Personal Support, all pupils have been participating in lessons about Careers and making subject decisions which best suit them. Pupils also visit the Careers library and work with the Librarian and Careers Advisers
- ❖ Pupils will have had a one-to one interview with a Careers Adviser to encourage informed and relevant decisions
- ❖ A shorter Subject Decision pamphlet has been at an assembly to each pupil as a ready reckoner to support them in their decisions
- ❖ Subject departments will continue to detail the curriculum on offer and the progression available within the subject
- ❖ All S2 pupils will meet with student mentors from Glasgow Caledonian University on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January and will spend a morning learning about programmes on offer at GCU, skills and qualifications required, and will participate in workshops with the students from a range of courses such as Psychology, Journalism, Law, Internet Security, Radiography and many more
- ❖ There will be a **Parents' Consultation Meeting with class teachers on 5<sup>th</sup> March** to discuss progress in Curriculum for Excellence so far and there will be an opportunity for parents/carers to meet with the DHT to learn more about the curriculum on offer. Prior to this, there is a **Curriculum Information evening on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January** where staff, local industry, Glasgow Caledonian University students and former students to name only a few, will be available to talk to pupils and parents about the subjects and links to courses and industry
- ❖ Each pupil will have a one-to-one interview with their Pupil Support Teacher where they will discuss the reasons for their decisions and the appropriateness of them with regard to the pupil's abilities, strengths and interests
- ❖ Pupils will then bring home their Subject Decision form to discuss with parent/carer
- ❖ The form should then be returned to their Pupil Support teacher who interviewed them with the decisions finalised and signed by the parent/carer.



This programme will help all of our young people to make the right decisions about the subjects which interest and inspire them to reach their full potential and to develop skills for learning, skill for life and skills for work.

## **What about Certification in the Senior Phase?**

As Curriculum for Excellence has been rolled out, the nature of the courses which students will undertake in the Senior Phase has changed quite significantly. By S4, many pupils will progress to National Qualifications as appropriate to their needs, following the range of courses which allow them to specialise, while still providing a sufficiently broad range within their curriculum. In addition, a range of alternative certificated courses are available in a number of other areas.

- ❖ Courses at National 2, 3 and 4 will be assessed as Pass/Fail
- ❖ National 5 and Higher courses will be graded A to D
- ❖ Only National 5 qualifications and above will have external examinations
- ❖ Details of the National 4 and National 5 courses are given in Appendix 2
- ❖ You can view the National Parent Forum of Scotland website about Assessment on their website: <https://www.nfps.org.uk/>

### **What subjects and courses will be on offer?**

#### **Summary Curricular Provision 2020-2021**

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Accounting</li><li>• Administration &amp; IT</li><li>• Art &amp; Design</li><li>• Biology</li><li>• Business Management</li><li>• Chemistry</li><li>• Design &amp; Manufacture</li><li>• English</li><li>• Geography</li><li>• Graphic Communication</li><li>• Health &amp; Food Technology</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• History</li><li>• Mathematics</li><li>• Modern Studies</li><li>• Music Technology</li><li>• Music Performance</li><li>• National Progression Awards Science &amp; Health</li><li>• Personal Development</li><li>• Physical Education</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Physical Education (with dance)</li><li>• Physics</li><li>• Practical cookery</li><li>• Practical Wood Working</li><li>• Spanish</li><li>• Travel and Tourism</li></ul> |
|---|--|---|

You can find out more by visiting the subject pages on the SQA website  
<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa>

The National Parent Forum of Scotland has produced a series of summaries about the National Qualifications, '**Nationals in a Nutshell'**  
<https://www.nfps.org.uk/>

## **What about progression through the Senior Phase?**

It is important to consider the different routes of progression which learners can have on their learning journey. It should be noted that some courses are not offered at all levels and this may impact on decisions made by young people as they seek to ensure the most suitable pathways beyond school and for any career choices in the future.

All of the above courses will be offered at National 4 and National 5, with the exception of those courses marked as (\*) which are part of the alternative certification courses. In addition, Accounting is not offered at National 4 level.

Most of the above can also progress to Higher level. Appendix 1 identifies the Stages of Progression available for each of the courses offered in the Senior Phase. We will, of course, continue to review and develop choice for students as they move into the Senior Phase.

## **Supporting Transition from the Junior Phase Broad General Education into the Senior Phase**

Our young people have now been following the Broad General Education (BGE) which is the framework of Benchmarks (Experiences and Outcomes) which shape the teaching and learning of our pupils from S1-3. As S3 ends, pupils begin to work towards the aims of the National Qualifications which chime with the skills they have been developing in the BGE. Pupils will not be identified at this stage as a National 4 or 5 candidate. Instead, in S3, pupils work towards achieving levels 3 and potentially level 4 of the BGE, which will allow them to continue these transferable skills in their subject choices into S3. As our young people have been well supported through the range of professionals working with them which has offered insight and information regarding their interests, this should facilitate a smoother transition for them as they move from S2 to S3 and beyond into the Senior Phase.

## **What subjects can be studied?**

A varied curriculum path is encouraged, with pupils building on their learning in the different curricular areas as they progress through the Broad General Education. However, in order to increase personalisation and choice, pupils are given a greater scope in terms of the subjects which they can choose to further study in S3.

Pupils will study NINE subjects (plus PE and RE). This is broken down as follows -

- ❖ Maths
- ❖ English
- ❖ Languages for Life and Work (S3 only)
- ❖ Remaining SIX subjects will be made up by
  - Choosing at least ONE Science (can be more than one)
  - Choosing at least ONE Social Science (can be more than one)
  - Choosing at least ONE Expressive Art (can be more than one)
  - Choosing at least ONE Technology (can be more than one)
  - Remaining TWO choices to be made from across the curricular areas dependent on personal choice

**At the end of S3, pupils will move to 7 subjects to further specialise in their studies.**

## What about Vocational Qualifications?

Vocational Qualifications will be available in the Senior Phase for those pupils who are interested in this route. During the S2 Subject Decision interview, pupils will be asked to indicate whether they may be interested in this when they reach S5.

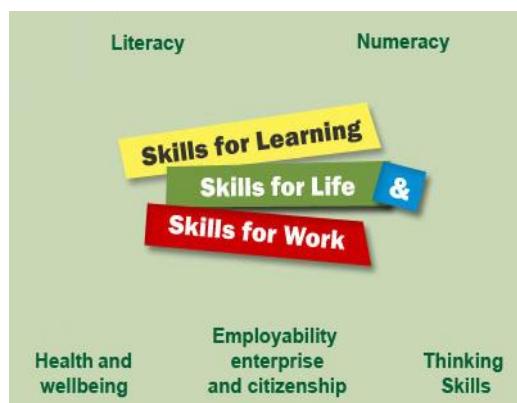


This will only be an indication at this stage and it should be noted that the subjects on offer can vary from year to year.

## How will skills continue to be developed?

*Curriculum for Excellence* provides young people with the knowledge, skills and attributes they need to thrive in a modern society and economy.

In the Junior Phase, pupils have already developed a range of subject specific skills through the Experiences and Outcomes in each of their courses. They have also been developing transferable generic skills which will help them to cope with the challenges which they will face in the future – skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work. Indeed, these skills are considered so important that literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing skills remain the responsibility of all within the school.



As pupils move through the final year of their Broad General Education and on into the Senior Phase, they will continue to develop this broad range of transferable skills. With skills development being at the very heart of progression, the move from the Junior to the Senior Phase will continue to focus directly on the skills being developed, integrated and embedded into all programmes, activities and assessments. In addition to skills for learning, life and work, all National Qualifications will have the Core Skills of Communication, Numeracy, Problem Solving, Information Technology and Working with Others embedded into their courses and assessments. These Core Skills are detailed below:

Core skill	Examples
Communication	Taking part in discussions, writing letters and reports, understanding written information
Numeracy	Using tables, diagrams, graphs and symbols, and working with money and measurements
Problem solving	Analysing a situation, planning a strategy, obtaining resources, using information and evaluating procedures
Using information technology	Using the internet and e-mail, preparing documents and presentations
Working with Others	Planning and carrying out a task in cooperation with other group members

## What if I need further help or advice about subject choices?

For any additional information or advice, please do not hesitate to contact Pupil Support or the S2 Curriculum Depute Head. There is also a wealth of information available online –



[www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk)



[www.myworldofwork.co.uk](http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk)



[www.educationscotland.gov.uk/parentzone](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/parentzone)



[www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk](http://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk)



[www.planitplus.net](http://www.planitplus.net)



[www.blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/NPF](http://www.blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/NPF)

Stages of Progression			Appendix 1			
Awards	Nat 3	Nat 4	Nat 5	Higher	Advanced Higher**	OTHER
SCQF Level	3	4	5	6	7	
Accounting			✓	✓		
Administration & IT		✓	✓	✓		
Art & Design		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Biology		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Business Management		✓	✓	✓		
Chemistry		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Design and Manufacture		✓	✓	✓		
Drama		✓	✓	✓		
English		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Geography		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Graphic Communication		✓	✓	✓		
Health & Food Technology		✓	✓	✓		
History		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Hospitality/Practical Cookery	✓	✓	✓			
Mathematics	✓ (Lifeskills Maths)	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Modern Studies		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Music		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Physical Education	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Dance			✓			NPA level4
Physics		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Practical Wood Working		✓	✓			
Practical Cookery	✓	✓	✓			
Spanish		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Travel and Tourism		✓	✓			

The Courses below offer an alternative to National Qualifications (NQs). They have an equivalent level to National Qualifications as indicated below, with completion of the course requirements leading to certification at the chosen level.

Awards	Access 3	Nat 4	Nat 5	Higher	Advanced Higher**	Other
SCQF Level	3	4	5	6	7	
Personal Development Award		✓	✓	✓		

**\*\*All Advanced Higher courses are subject to staffing and consortia arrangements**

## **Developing Scotland's Young Workforce**

Our government has made clear that education which is relevant and fully equips young people for the potentially varied and unpredictable workplace is a significant element of the work to be undertaken by schools. The aim is to develop a prosperous and fair country in which all citizens help to shape with a society in which everyone can play their full part and share the benefits of success. A critical element of achieving this is in equipping our young people for employment.

This has required a fundamental examination of the pathways we provide for young people and how we promote and value a range of learning which leads to a wide variety of jobs. It also means ensuring that all young people, whatever the barriers they face, have fair access to these opportunities.

Fundamentally, this is about ensuring a work relevant educational experience for our young people. It is about all of us valuing and understanding what a rich blend of learning, including vocational education, can offer. It is about employers playing an active role, both shaping and benefiting from Scotland's education system by helping to create the talent pool they need and recruiting young employees. Ultimately, it is about the future workforce, our young people, making informed and ambitious choices about jobs and careers, ready to take their place in the world as effective contributors.

In St Ambrose, we are well on our way to achieving many of these outcomes and already partnerships with many companies and stakeholders have begun to emerge, with the intention of this leading to employment and training for a number of our young people. For our current S2, this will mean real experiences in the workplace and real training which will blend with their course work in the Senior Phase. This will facilitate more confident and capable young people to leave school with better career prospects and a realistic understanding of what is required in the world of work.

To this end, we already have a number of businesses working in partnership with our school as detailed below:

Linsini Group; MD Builders, QA Apprenticeships; BOSCH (LAGTA); Street League are our developing business partnerships from 2020 onward, with solid links already having been forged with JP Morgan; Police Scotland; Sky; NHS and Robertsons' Homes. Support ranges from visits on site to talks from representatives of these companies, to work placements and work experience.

All of the subject decisions S2 pupils make now will be the start of the pathways which may lead to these opportunities in S4 and beyond.

However, the attainment of National Qualifications is essential for our pupils to help them be fully equipped for the future, and detailed below are the courses and the levels at which they are presented. Currently, as we go to print in this document, the nature of assessment for these courses is changing as emphasis is placed more on the external exams for National 5 and there is no necessity to pass internal units as has been the case until recently. National 4 courses remain the same with no external exam and unit forming the assessment elements of the courses.

# National Qualifications Assessment Information

## Appendix 2

Course Available	National 4	Unit Assessments	National 5	Assessment
<b>Art &amp; Design</b>	Art & Design - Expressive	Pass /Fail within Centres	Art & Design - Expressive	External
	Art & Design - Design	Pass /Fail within Centres	Art & Design - Design	External
	Added Value Unit	Practical Activity		
<b>Accounting</b>	No course available at this level		Preparing Financial Accounting Information	External
			Preparing Management Accounting Information	External
			Analysing Accounting Information	External
<b>Administration and IT</b>	Administrative Practices	Pass /Fail within Centres	Administrative Practices	External
	IT Solutions for Administrators	Pass /Fail within Centres	IT Solutions for Administrators	External
	Communication In Administration	Pass /Fail within Centres	Communication In Administration	External
	Added Value Unit	Administration & IT Portfolio		
<b>Biology</b>	Cell Biology	Pass /Fail within Centres	Cell Biology	External
	Multi Cellular Organisms	Pass /Fail within Centres	Multi Cellular Organisms	External
	Life on Earth	Pass /Fail within Centres	Life on Earth	External
	Added Value Unit	Assignment		
<b>Business Management</b>	*Courses for Business Management are different in Nat 4 and 5 but still offer progression			
	*Business National 4		*Business Management National 5	
	Business in Action	Pass /Fail within Centres	Management of People and Finance	External
	Influences on Business	Pass /Fail within Centres	Management of Marketing and Operations	External
	Added Value Unit		Understanding Business	External
<b>Chemistry</b>	Chemical changes & Structure	Pass /Fail within Centres	Chemical changes & Structure	External
	Nature's Chemistry	Pass /Fail within Centres	Nature's Chemistry	External
	Chemistry in Society	Pass /Fail within Centres	Chemistry in Society	External
	Added Value Unit	Research project Pass/Fail		

<b>Course Available</b>	<b>National 4</b>	<b>Unit Assessments</b>	<b>National 5</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
<b>Design and Manufacture</b>	Design	Pass /Fail within Centres	Design	External
	Materials & manufacture	Pass /Fail within Centres	Materials & manufacture	External
	Added Value Unit	Project Pass/ Fail		
<b>Drama</b>	Drama Skills	Pass /Fail within Centres	Drama Skills	External
	Production Skills	Pass /Fail within Centres	Production Skills	External
	Added Value Unit	5 minute acting performance or production area folio		
<b>English</b>	Analysis & Evaluation	Pass /Fail within Centres	Reading for Analysis, Understanding and Evaluation (RUAE)	External
	Creation & Production	Pass /Fail within Centres	Critical Reading	External
	Literacy	Pass /Fail within Centres	Portfolio	External
			Spoken Language	Internal-Achieved/Not achieved
	Added Value Unit	Pass /Fail within Centres		
<b>Graphic Communication</b>	3D Graphic Communication	Pass / Fail within Centres	3D Graphic Communication	External
	3D Pictorial Graphic Communication	Pass / Fail within Centres	3D Pictorial Graphic Communication	External
	Added Value Unit	Project Pass/Fail		
<b>Geography</b>	Physical Environments	Pass / Fail within Centres	Physical Environments	External
	Human Environments	Pass / Fail within Centres	Human Environments	External
	Global Issues	Pass / Fail within Centres	Global Issues	External
	Added Value Unit	Open book outcomes	Assignment	External
<b>History</b>	Historical Study: Scottish	Pass / Fail within Centres	Historical Study: Scottish	External
	Historical Study: British	Pass / Fail within Centres	Historical Study: British	External
	Historical Study: European & World	Pass / Fail within Centres	Historical Study: European & World	External
	Added Value Unit	Open book outcomes	Assignment	External
<b>Health &amp; Food Technology</b>	Food for Health	Pass / Fail within Centres	Food for Health	External-Practical Assignment
	Food Product Development	Pass / Fail within Centres	Food Product Development	
	Contemporary Food Issues	Pass / Fail within Centres	Contemporary Food Issues	External- Exam paper
	Added Value Unit	Portfolio		

<b>Course Available</b>	<b>National 4</b>	<b>Unit Assessments</b>	<b>National 5</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
<b>Modern Studies</b>	Democracy in Scotland & UK	Pass / Fail within Centres	Democracy in Scotland & UK	External
	Social Issues in the UK	Pass / Fail within Centres	Social Issues in the UK	External
	International Issues	Pass / Fail within Centres	International Issues	External
	Added Value Unit	Open book outcomes	Assignment	External
<b>Mathematics</b>	Expressions & Formulae	Pass / Fail within Centres	Expressions & Formulae	External
	Relationships	Pass / Fail within Centres	Relationships	External
	Numeracy	Pass / Fail within Centres	Numeracy	External
	Added Value Unit	Closed book test consisting of 2 papers : non calculator paper (20 mins) & calculator paper (40 mins)	Applications	
<b>Music Performance</b>	Composing skills	Pass / Fail within Centres	Composing skills	External
	Understanding Music skills	Pass / Fail within Centres	Understanding Music skills	External
	Performing skills	Pass / Fail within Centres	Performing skills	External
	Added Value Unit	8 minute performance programme 2 instruments		
<b>Music Technology</b>	Music Technology Skills	Pass / Fail within Centres	Music Technology Skills	External
	Understanding 20 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Music	Pass / Fail within Centres	Understanding 20 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Music	External
	Music Technology in Context	Pass / Fail within Centres	Music Technology in Context	External
	Added Value	Music Technology Assignment		
<b>Physics</b>	Electricity & Energy	Pass / Fail within Centres	Electricity & Energy	External
	Waves & Radiation	Pass / Fail within Centres	Waves & Radiation	External
	Dynamics & Space	Pass / Fail within Centres	Dynamics & Space	External
	Added Value Unit	Research project Pass/Fail		
<b>Physical Education</b>	Physical Education Performance 2 Activities	Pass / Fail within Centres	Physical Education Performance 2 Activities	Internal 2 Practical Performances
	Factors Impacting on Performance	Pass / Fail within Centres	Factors Impacting on Performance	Internal created externally marked portfolio

<b>Course Available</b>	<b>National 4</b>	<b>Unit Assessments</b>	<b>National 5</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
<b>Physical Education (with Dance)*</b>  *Pupils who opt for this course can move onto National 5 Physical Education or National 5 Dance	NPA Level 4 Dance Award	Dance Performance  Dance Choreography  Pass/ Fail within Centre	Performance  Chirography Choreographic Review	Dance Performance  Dance Choreography  Written Exam
<b>Practical Woodworking</b>	Practical Woodworking: Flat-frame Construction	Pass / Fail within Centres	Practical Woodworking: Flat-frame Construction	Internal-Practical Element
	Practical Woodworking: Carcase Construction	Pass / Fail within Centres	Practical Woodworking: Carcase Construction	External-Exam paper
	Practical Woodworking: Machining and Finishing	Pass / Fail within Centres	Practical Woodworking: Machining and Finishing	
	Added Value Unit	Making a Finished Product from Wood		
<b>Practical Cookery</b>	Cookery Skills, Techniques and Processes	Pass/Fail within centres	Cookery Skills, Techniques and Processes	Internal-Practical Assignment
	Understanding and Using Ingredients	Pass/Fail within centres	Understanding and Using Ingredients	External- Exam paper
	Organisational Skills for Cooking	Pass/Fail within centres	Organisational Skills for Cooking	External planning booklet
	Added Value Unit	Producing a meal		
<b>Spanish</b>	Understanding Language (Read and Listen)	Pass / Fail within Centres	Understanding Language	External
	Using Language (Talk and Write)	Pass / Fail within Centres	Using Language	External
	Added Value Unit	Assignment		
<b>Travel and Tourism</b>	Units: 1. Employability Skills 2. Travel and Tourism: Scotland 3. Customer Service 4. Travel and Tourism: UK and Worldwide	Pass / Fail within Centres	Units: 1. Employability Skills 2. Travel and Tourism: Scotland 3. Customer Service 4. Travel and Tourism: UK and Worldwide	Pass / Fail within Centres