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# S3 Learning Pathways

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Option Booklet

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Dalkeith High School:  
November 2025

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## **Making Choices for S3 and Beyond – Advice and Information**

As learners at Dalkeith High School move from S2 into S3 there is an opportunity for them to exercise personalisation and choice, whilst maintaining access to the full range of curricular areas to which they are entitled. It is quite correct that young people should look back to S1 and S2 and choose the subjects that they most enjoy. However, at this point in secondary education it is also important that young people look forward to what they would like to do on leaving school and choose accordingly.

Learning in the Broad General Education (S1-S3) takes place in

- Health and wellbeing
- Languages
- Mathematics
- Religious and moral education
- Expressive arts
- Sciences
- Social studies
- Technologies

Within these areas, young people have access to specialists across a wide range of discrete subjects. Pupil support staff also support young people through the Personal and Social Education programme.

Pupils in S3 continue with the core subjects of English, Maths, a modern language or a course that focuses on, personal and social education, physical education and religious and moral education. Beyond that, young people choose a subject from each of Expressive arts, Sciences, Social studies and Technologies. Further personalisation and choice, and a degree of specialisation, comes with the final two choices that young people make from any of the curricular areas. When pupils tick one subject from each curricular area, this should be their first choice. In addition, subjects in the free choice box should be entered in preference order, with 1 being the top choice.

Moving on to S4, all young people continue with English and Maths. In addition, a further five subjects are taken forward from S3 into S4. As young people move into S4, they are highly encouraged to only continue with subjects already studied in S3 as this will ensure that young people are fully prepared for the demands of the S4 course. For ease of transitions and the continuity of learning, it is anticipated that most young people will select their S4 qualifications from those they are undertaking in S3.

Within this booklet, the senior phase option sheet appears. Young people are encouraged to plan their pathway through S3 and into the senior years, discussing option choices with parents and teachers before making final decisions. Attention should be paid to school reports; to departmental recommendations and to advice given at the Careers Convention and Curriculum Evening.

The school's Careers Adviser is Barbara Moir. Mrs Moir is able to provide valuable advice about making subject choices that fit with future career plans. Mrs Moir can be contacted by young people and parents at [barbara.moir@sds.co.uk](mailto:barbara.moir@sds.co.uk) or 07887 831027.

Also worth a look is the Skills Development Scotland website, My World of Work. On this website a subject choices tool allows young people to see how choices relate to future careers. For parents, the website offers clear, relevant advice on supporting young people in their lives at big decision times. The website can be found at: [www.myworldofwork.co.uk](http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk) .

### Core Subjects

There are certain subjects that are important for all young people to have on their timetables – the core subjects.

Health and wellbeing is the responsibility of all and is a key entitlement of the Broad General Education. All pupils in S3 undertake PSE (Personal and Social Education) and PE (Physical Education). For these subjects, young people are taught in their register classes, providing continuity as the young people begin to pursue different pathways.

English and modern languages are the subjects that deliver within the curricular area of Languages, though literacy is the responsibility of all areas and a key entitlement of the Broad General Education. Young people make a choice between French and Spanish as a core subject, but with the free choice available, it is possible to study two languages in S3. In English, young people are allocated to the sets which best meet their learning needs.

Numeracy is also the responsibility of all areas and another key entitlement of the Broad General Education. The subject of mathematics focuses on numeracy and mathematics outcomes. Again, young people are allocated to the set that best meets their learning needs.

Religious and moral education is a statutory provision to which all young people are entitled. As with PSE and PE, RME is taught in register classes, meaning young people already know each other well.

### Enrichment Opportunities

In recognition of the needs and interests of a range of different learners, Dalkeith High School runs a number of vocational options in S3. Places on these courses are limited. The courses benefit those who thrive in environments beyond that of the traditional classroom. Pupil support leaders will discuss these options with suitable pupils as part of the ongoing coursing arrangements.

## Making Choices for S3 and Beyond – Timeline 2025

Date	Event
Mon 29th Sept	S2 report issued
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	S2 coursing information posted home and on school website
Thu 6 <sup>th</sup> Nov	S2 Parents and Carers meeting
Tues 11 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Careers convention and curriculum evening
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> Nov	S2 coursing interviews take place during PSE
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup> Dec	S2 coursing interviews during PSE complete

## Course Descriptors

### Health and Wellbeing

#### Personal and Social Education

As part of the entitlement of young people to personal support, pupils in S3 have two lessons per week taken by their Pupil Support Leader (PSL). Topics such as relationships, drug and alcohol use, mental wellbeing, good study habits and more are covered. Young people are encouraged to engage in discussion and to consider differing points of view. Pupil support leaders get to know their young people very well and have an overview of their experiences in school.

#### Physical Education

Throughout their school education, young people need to access at least two lessons per week of physical activity. The core PE course enables young people to experience a range of indoor and outdoor PE options. In so doing, the course promotes teamwork and personal target setting as well as physical fitness.

## Languages

### English

In keeping with the Curriculum for Excellence Guidelines, the department offers all S3 pupils a full English programme designed to develop their:

- confidence, competence, enjoyment and challenge in the use of language for a variety of purposes and their appreciation of aesthetic, emotional, social and moral issues.

The aim is to consolidate and build upon skills acquired by pupils in S1 and S2 and provide a clear link to national qualification courses in S4. The course:

- develops pupils' skills in close reading and in writing for a variety of purposes
- encourages an interest in personal reading
- fosters the development of talking and listening skills
- develops pupils' skills in responding imaginatively and critically to literature.

The study of literature is the catalyst for many of the assessed outcomes.

**Progression** from S3 English is into national qualifications courses at levels 4 to 7. English develops the skills of communication, time management, problem solving, team working, analysis and evaluation. These skills are useful in **areas of employment** including the media, journalism, teaching and law; however, skills of literacy and communication are essential in virtually all areas of employment.

### French

In S3, pupils build on previous knowledge and further develop skills in reading, writing, listening and talking. As well as learning about the life and culture of French speaking countries, pupils communicate in French within real life contexts. Pupils learn, for example, to order in a restaurant, to ask for directions or to do basic shopping in a market.

Through the study of another language, pupils come to understand the interconnected nature of languages and reach a better understanding of their own. Students of languages are prepared well to operate as global citizens. Finally, the acquisition of a foreign language is increasingly beneficial in a highly competitive global economy.

## Spanish

In S3, pupils build on previous knowledge and further develop skills in reading, writing, listening and talking. As well as learning about the life and culture of Hispanic countries, pupils communicate in Spanish within real life contexts. Pupils learn, for example, to order in a restaurant, to ask for directions or to do basic shopping in a market.

Through the study of another language, pupils come to understand the interconnected nature of languages and reach a better understanding of their own. Students of languages are prepared well to operate as global citizens. Finally, the acquisition of a foreign language is increasingly beneficial in a highly competitive global economy.

## Mathematics

Pupils continue the work started in S1 and S2, building knowledge and skills that prepares them for national qualifications courses in S4 and beyond.

All levels of mathematics look at mathematics within everyday life. Young people are taught to interpret data and deal with real-life problems. The courses develop skills relevant to learning, life and work in an engaging and enjoyable way. Young people working at all levels develop confidence in the subject and a positive attitude towards further study in mathematics and other subjects in which mathematics plays a big part.

The table shows possible progression routes through S3/4 in maths for 2026-27:

S2 Current Teacher	S2 Current Course	S3 Course	S4 Course
Mr Hope Ms Colmerauer	Pentagon	Nat 5 Maths	Nat 5 Maths
Mr Robinson Mr May/Mr Gibbs	Rectangle	Nat 4 Apps	Nat 5 Numeracy <b>Or</b> Nat 5 Apps
Mr Stirling/Mr May Mr Norby/Mr Hope	Triangle	Nat 4 Apps	Nat 4 Apps And Nat 5 Numeracy
Ms Colmerauer Mr Stirling	Circle	Nat 3 Apps	Nat 4 Numeracy <b>Or</b> Nat 4 Apps

N.B. See the coursing section of the school website for an explanation of the difference between Applications Mathematics and Mathematics.

Mathematics knowledge is of benefit to any young person who intends studying a course at university that has mathematical content. In addition, the development of good numeracy skills is crucial to managing personal financial affairs on leaving school. Most **areas of employment** at some point benefit from good numeracy skills, with many jobs dependent upon a knowledge of mathematics.

## **Religious and Moral Education**

The core RME course teaches young people about moral issues faced in the world and helps them explore their own beliefs and values. They also explore various religious and non-religious views on moral issues. Pupils are also given the opportunity to research a moral, religious or philosophical issue they are passionate about, which helps to develop their knowledge on the topic and develop the necessary skills for National courses. Core RME helps to promote the appreciation and understanding of differing worldviews, helps to develop young people's own values and skills for lifelong learning.

## **Expressive Arts**

### Art & Design

Learners who opt to study Art and Design in S3 have opportunities to exercise personalisation and choice in relation to a variety of more challenging projects, all of which allow pupils to build on the skills developed in S1 and S2. In addition to engaging with expressive work, pupils will produce a design unit (exploring fashion, graphics, architecture etc.) and develop basic photography skills including editing techniques. These experiences provide a useful link with upcoming national qualifications in the senior phase and allows learners to develop vital skills such as problem solving and evaluating.

Learners are assessed through ongoing classroom observation and feedback. In addition, in preparation for national qualification courses, and in order to improve critical analysis skills, pupils will be required to undertake written analysis exercises.

Learners in Art and Design develop a variety of skills as they are encouraged to think independently, to share and explore ideas with their peers and to take responsibility for their own learning. The course is ideal for all those who want to develop their creativity and challenge themselves to work in new ways.

**Progression** from S3 Art and Design is into national qualifications courses at levels 3 to 7. In addition, the National Progression Award (NPA) course in Photography at level 4 and 5; the National Progression Award (NPA) course in Art and Design; and the Higher Level 6 course in Photography provide alternative progression routes

### Design and Manufacture

The S3 course gives pupils the opportunity to develop their design skills as well as their craft skills through undertaking more advanced and specialised projects than in S2.

Pupils will extend their knowledge of product design issues and will develop techniques to improve their creative thinking. Sketches, drawings, models and manufacturing plans are organised and collated as a design folio, with an emphasis on pupils' illustration and communication skills.

Pupils make products using a wide range of materials, tools and equipment with the aim of enhancing their practical skills. They also develop their skills in reading and interpreting project drawings and manufacturing plans, building increasing confidence in constructing self-designed products.

**Progression** from S3 Design and Manufacture is into national qualifications courses at levels 4 to 6.

## Drama

In preparation for senior phase, S3 pupils focus on developing skills across three specialisms; acting, directing and design. Pupils have the opportunity to create their own piece of theatre, devising and developing their work as a group. They will also create work from the perspective of a director and designer, allowing them to learn more about the technical elements of Drama. Throughout these units, learners will build skills in collaboration, teamwork, leadership, problem solving, time management, resilience and determination. This course also allows learners to access a National 3/4 qualification at the end of their third year, preparing them for progression to National 5 in S4.

**Progression** from S3 Drama is into national qualifications courses at levels 3 to 7. In addition, the NPA course, Acting and Performance is also an option in the senior phase.

The study of drama develops a variety of skills including those of problem solving, time management, communication, teamwork, creativity, responsibility, resilience and determination.

**Areas of employment** served by the study of drama include acting, directing, theatre design, producing, stage management, teaching and drama therapy.

## Music

In S3, there is a strong emphasis on the performance element of the course. To develop their skills, pupils choose two instruments, or one instrument and voice. Pupils learn about the compositional techniques used by composers and have the opportunity to create their own music. Pupils expand their music literacy knowledge, learning musical signs and symbols relating to the treble clef. They work in both solo and group settings on a variety of performance and composition projects, including a 'Music Through the Decades' unit that examines the development of popular music from Rhythm and Blues to Electronic Dance Music. An array of listening activities complements all these activities.

**Progression** from S3 Music is into national qualifications courses at levels 3 to 7. In addition, the level 6 NPA courses in Music Business and Sound Production are available through the Schools College Partnership arrangement.

The study of music develops a variety of skills including those of problem solving, time management, communication, teamwork, resilience, listening, creativity, leadership and the capacity to self-motivate.

**Areas of employment** served by the study of music include journalism, performing, blogging, events management, talent scouting, music management, songwriting, teaching, venue management and conducting.

## Sciences

### Biology

Biology is the study of all forms of life from single celled organisms, such as bacteria, through to multicellular organisms, like animals and plants. In S3, using a variety of different strategies, pupils develop a wide range of science skills, learning about the processes that help maintain life and studying how living organisms interact with each other and the environment.

Pupils look at three areas in S3 biology: Cell Biology, Multicellular Organisms and Life on Earth.

In the first area of study, pupils learn about DNA, cell division and how cells are used in treatments and therapies. They then study enzymes and microorganisms, and their use in industry. Investigation follows into how animals and plants make and use energy and, finally, pupils are encouraged to form their own opinions through the debate of controversial biological procedures.

In Multicellular Organisms, pupils learn about reproduction and the passing on of genetic information from parents to offspring. Pupils look at the growth and development of organisms and how these organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environment.

The work of Life on Earth explores the relationship between animals and plants - about adaptations for survival, learned behaviour and the impact of human population growth and behaviour on biodiversity. Finally, pupils learn about the importance of the nitrogen cycle to survival.

**Progression** from S3 Biology is into national qualifications courses at levels 3 to 7. In addition, the Skills for Work (SfW) course in Laboratory Science offers alternative progression at level 5.

Studying any science develops a range of transferable skills, including those of problem solving.

**Areas of employment** served by the study of biology include research, pharmacology, biological engineering, ecology, conservation, biotechnology, forensic science and medicine.

## Chemistry

Chemistry is about the interactions that occur between the molecules that surround us.

Pupils look at three areas in S3 chemistry: Chemical Changes and Structure, Nature's Chemistry and Chemistry in Society.

In the first area of study pupils examine rates of reactions; bonding and the classification of elements; the energy status of reactions and the relationships between acids and bases. Pupils conduct a number of practical investigations designed to develop an enquiring mind.

In Nature's Chemistry, pupils focus on the use of chemistry to create products. Fuels and fossil fuels are examined and research is conducted into the impact of fossil fuels on the environment. Pupils also study hydrocarbons, everyday consumer products such as food and the use of plants to make products.

The work of Chemistry and Society looks at metals, their uses and the processes of corrosion and rusting, and at materials such as plastics and polymers. In tune with the times, there is a focus on biodegradable plastics and the impact of these materials on the environment. Finally, pupils explore the use of fertilisers and the procedures involved in chemical analysis.

**Progression** from S3 Chemistry is into national qualifications courses at levels 3 to 7. In addition, the SfW course in Laboratory Science offers alternative progression at level 5.

Studying any science develops a range of transferable skills, including those of problem solving.

**Areas of employment** served by the study of chemistry include analytical chemistry, chemical engineering, teaching, forensic science, geochemistry, hazardous waste chemistry, materials science and pharmacology.

## Physics

Physics is a natural science that, along with related concepts such as energy and force, is about the study of matter and its motion through space and time.

Pupils look at three areas in S3 physics: Waves and Radiation, Electricity and Energy, and Dynamics and Space.

In the first area of study, pupils investigate different types of waves and wave characteristics. They then move on to look at sound waves, investigating noise cancellation and its importance in protecting hearing. Pupils also learn about the electromagnetic spectrum and nuclear radiation, covering the use of nuclear power and the hazards associated with radioactive materials.

In Electricity and Energy, pupils focus on electricity generation, electrical power, electromagnetism and gas laws. Pupils also explore practical uses of electricity and complete investigations on electronic circuits.

The work of Dynamics and Space looks at the relationship between speed and acceleration, and the relationship between forces, motion and energy. Finally, pupils learn about satellites and cosmology, considering the requirements for an exo-planet to sustain life.

**Progression** from S3 Physics is into national qualifications courses at levels 3 to 7. In addition, the SfW course in Laboratory Science offers alternative progression at level 5.

Studying any science develops a range of transferable skills, including those of problem solving.

**Areas of employment** served by the study of physics include applications engineering, data analysis, design engineering, teaching, IT consultancy, laboratory work, laser engineering.

## Science

The purpose of the course is to develop learners' curiosity, interest and enthusiasm for science in a range of contexts. The key skills of scientific inquiry and investigation are integrated and developed throughout the course. The relevance of science is highlighted by the study of the applications of science in everyday contexts. This will enable learners to become scientifically literate citizens.

The course provides the opportunities for learners to develop the ability to think analytically, creatively and independently, and to make evaluations. The course covers a variety of contexts relevant to science's impact on the environment and society. It covers the topics Fragile Earth, Human Health and Applications of Science.

In Fragile Earth, learners will develop their scientific skills and carry out practical activities related to the planet earth. There are opportunities for personalisation and choice. Learners will focus on energy, metals, water and food. They will investigate these resources through activities related to their source, origin, production and extraction. Uses and benefits will be explored. Conflicts and also possible local or national, solutions will be identified. Learners will gain knowledge of how science can overcome environmental issues.

In Human Health, learners will develop their scientific skills and carry out practical activities related to health. Learners will develop an understanding of factors which contribute to a healthy lifestyle, through a personal, community based and global approach. Learners cover procedures to measure physical fitness, investigate mental/social health issues and research media reports of national and international health areas.

In Applications of Science, learners will develop their scientific skills and carry out practical activities related to applied sciences. Learners will explore science's contribution to communication technologies and the impact that these have had on society or the environment. They will also research the production and use of new materials and how science helps the understanding of risk and how it can be reduced in modern life.

**Progression** from S3 Science is into the SCQF level 4 NPA Science & Technology. In special circumstances, the Skills for Work Laboratory Science offers an alternative progression at SCQF level 5 if appropriate.

Studying any science develops a range of transferable skills, including those of problem solving.

**Areas of employment** served by the study of Science & Technology include: Laboratory Technician, Research Assistant, Healthcare Professional, Animal Technician and Social Care Assistant.

## Social Studies

### Business Education

S3 Business Education is about what makes businesses successful and the skills required for work in a successful business organisation.

Pupils take part in an enterprise event, focus on sustainability issues within businesses and evaluate the importance of finance and business plans.

**Progression** from S3 Business Education is into national qualifications courses at levels 3 to 6. The level 6 Foundation Apprenticeship in Business Skills offers alternative progression. Beyond school, young people can pursue stand-alone business courses but degree studies often combine business study with courses in, for example, modern languages or events management.

A range of employability skills are developed through the study of business including skills in communication, customer service, time-management and team working.

**Areas of employment** served by the study of business include human resources, the finance sector, project management, administration, business consultancy, business development, the economy, health service management, hospitality management, office management, product management and risk management.

### Geography

Geography in S3 prepares pupils for study in the senior phase through the development of skills in research, fieldwork, GPS systems, analysis, mapping and report writing. The major topics covered in S3 include Oceans, Development and Rivers. Pupils may have the opportunity take part in river fieldwork as well as to apply to take part in our incredible Geography field trip to Iceland which we aim to run every 2 years. Pupils will also research climate change, evaluating the effectiveness of current efforts to slow the rate of worldwide temperature increase.

**Progression** from S3 Geography is into national qualifications courses at levels 3 to 7. The level 5 Skills for Work course in Travel and Tourism offers alternative progression. Beyond school, studies in geography continue on pure geography courses, as well as on courses in travel and tourism, environmental science and international development.

**Areas of employment** served by the study of geography include tourism, architecture, planning, renewable energy, countryside management, conservation, ecology and geology. The range of skills that geographers acquire often lead into managerial roles that require a rounded individual.

## History

**The aim** of the S3 History course is to continue to inspire pupils and open up the world of the past to them. Through an examination of the past, pupils gain a better understanding of their own communities, their country and the wider world. The impact of key events is assessed across the context of Scottish, British, European and world history. In preparation for the work of the senior phase, pupils develop presentation, research and analysis skills.

**Topics studied in S3** are Mary Queen of Scots which follows the events of Mary's life and reign from her birth to eventual execution. the Era of the Cold War which includes topics such as the Berlin Wall, the Cuban Missile Crisis, President John F Kennedy's assassination, the space race and the Vietnam war. Finally, pupils will begin their first National topic on the Era of the Great War. This topic aligns with the BGE curriculum but the content of the course will also be a focus of examination if pupils choose to progress with History in S4. The Era of the Great war covers the causes of the war, the Western Front as well as domestic challenges and changes including the campaigns for Votes for Women.

**Progression** from S3 History is into national qualifications at levels 3 to 7. Pupils can also choose to study Higher Classical Studies in S5 or S6. We align many of our topics in History with outdoor learning opportunities both locally and abroad including trips to Holyrood Palace, Hadrian's Wall, Berlin and London.

Those who study history develop critical and analytical skills valued in a number of excellent career pathways. **Areas of employment** served by the study of history include the media, the government, heritage organisations, conservation, teaching, archiving, museums and galleries, the police and law.

## Modern Studies

Modern Studies is about what is going on in the world. The study of current affairs within a worldwide context encourages pupils to be thoughtful, responsible citizens. The skills developed in the S3 course prepare pupils for senior phase study and include those of research, analysis, decision-making, bias identification and report writing.

Pupils learn about conflict and terrorism, the impact of social media and the problem of knife crime.

**Progression** from S3 Modern Studies is into national qualifications courses at levels 3 to 7. Beyond that, modern studies students often move on to degrees in politics, criminology, international relations and law.

Those who follow a course in modern studies develop transferable skills in communication, time-management and teamwork. **Areas of employment** served by the study of the subject include law, policing, criminology, court services, social work, trade unionism, journalism, the armed forces, politics, local government, political research, international relations, the civil service, social administration, health care and opinion poll research.

## Technologies

### Graphic Communication

Graphic Communication is a STEM (Science, Technologies, Engineering and Maths) subject which incorporates Technical Graphics and Graphic Design. Technical Graphics are essential in our modern world, allowing new designs or engineering concepts to be planned through production drawings allowing these to be realised through manufacturing or construction firms.

Graphic Design is visible in everyday items such as logos, website / magazine design, infographics and advertising.

The S3 course is practical, exploratory and experiential in nature. It combines creativity and communicating for visual impact, with the importance of adhering to technical standards in a global manufacturing world. It provides pupils the opportunity to develop confidence in applying Graphic Communication skills and techniques, producing preliminary, production, promotional and informational graphics to suit a wide variety of audiences.

Pupils will practice manual sketching and rendering. They will also practice industry standard Computer Aided Design (CAD) modelling and rendering. Orthographic, isometric and perspective drawings will be produced to convey information in accordance with British Standards, with Desktop Publishing (DTP) and image manipulation software also being used to produce promotional work.

Studying this course allows senior phase **progression** into National 5 Graphic Communication in S4, and on to Higher and Advanced Higher Graphic Communication in S5 and S6. This course progression gives pupils the chance to generate a broad portfolio of completed work showcasing key skills and techniques which are directly transferable into other technical design courses, such as Product Design or Architecture, enabling pupils to gain confidence in analysis, problem solving and time management.

**Areas of employment** served by the study of Graphic Communication include those in the fields of communication, business, industry, education and creative industries, such as advertising, publishing, manufacturing, web-design, architecture and the Arts.

## Engineering Science with Computing

Engineering and computing are central to our daily lives. Engineering and computing systems are common place in our homes, in our places of work, where we go to be entertained and how we travel. These all rely on hardware and software. At every turn, how we access and control modern technological systems is determined through engineering and computing principles.

In this STEM course pupils will gain experience of engineering disciplines, namely mechanical, structural, programmable and electronic systems. There will be practical activities as well as theory lessons, which incorporate some mathematical principals, as pupils explore existing and emerging technologies and apply their skills in analysis, design, problem solving, construction and evaluation.

A range of computing tasks and activities are incorporated into the course allowing pupils to increase their understanding of website design and production using HTML and CSS coding. Computer programming skills and concepts are also developed through using visual software editors and PBASIC coding techniques to control microcontrollers.

**Progression** from S3 Engineering Science with Computing leads into National Qualifications courses in Engineering Science at levels 3 to 7 and Practical Electronics at 4 and 5. In addition, there are a number of level 5 and level 6 college courses available through the Schools College Partnership agreement. Also, depending on arrangements with neighbouring schools, possibly into National Qualifications courses in Computing Science at levels 3 to 6. College courses in Digital Media Editing, NPA levels 5 and 4 and also Computer Games NPA level 5, provide alternative progression as does the 2-year Foundation Apprenticeship in IT: Software Development.

**Areas of employment** served by the study of Engineering Science and Computing Science include those in the fields of science, engineering, communication, education, business and industry.

## Home Economics

In S3, pupils consolidate and improve on the basic cookery skills learned in S1 and S2. In addition, many of the topics covered prepare pupils for courses in the senior phase. Lessons rotate between theory and the practical application of skills. Pupils design and make cakes; hone their planning and organisational skills through cooking tasks; look at food produce development and examine consumer issues.

**Progression** from S3 Home Economics is into national qualifications courses in Practical Cookery, levels 3, 4 and 5. Also available is the Skills for Work course in Hospitality, levels 4 and 5 and Fashion and Textiles at Level 5.

The S3 Home Economics course encourages pupils to work independently and to develop a range of transferable skills.

## Music Technology

Music Technology is for pupils interested in the behind-the-scenes side of the music industry. Pupils learn about recording techniques used in podcasts and radio broadcasts, gaming and film productions, and in live music performance. Pupils learn how to record, mix and edit using Mix Craft software. This course is ideal for those pupils who have an interest in developing their technological knowledge and skills.

Pupils have exciting practical opportunities to work with animation; create a radio broadcast; produce their own sound for a computer game; create an audio book for young children and carry out the role of a music producer, editing tracks post-recording.

**Progression** from S3 Music Technology is into national qualifications courses at levels 3 to 6. In addition, the level 6 NPA courses in Music Business and Sound Production are available through the Schools College Partnership arrangement.

The S3 Music Technology course encourages pupils to be able to work independently to a brief. Essential transferrable skills such as problem solving, time management, communication, resilience, listening, creativity and the ability to self-motivate are honed and all prepare young people for challenges after school.

**Areas of employment** served by the study of music technology include producing, sound engineering, journalism, blogging, events management, music management, talent scouting, songwriting, teaching and venue management.

## **Free choice**

Pupils may choose another two subjects from the Free Choice section on the option form. Young people will be asked to choose 4 subjects, ranking their choices from 1 to 4.

Subjects not yet explained are covered below.

### Administration

Administration and IT is a growing sector which offers employment opportunities across all sectors. The key aims are to develop pupils' ability to contribute to the effective functions of organisations in an administrative capacity. They will achieve this by developing an understanding of administration in the workplace investigating key concepts such as legislation, customer care and events management. They will also develop a range of IT skills including the use of word processing, spreadsheets, databases, desktop publishing, the internet, e-diaries and email. The course provides a firm foundation for National 4 and 5 Admin and IT. Embedded throughout are employability skills and applications for not only employment, but at home, in the wider community and further studies.

S3 Admin & IT Course covers the following topics:

Administrative practices: Skills and Qualities of the Administration Assistants, Health and Safety in the Workplace, Functional Departments, Office Layout, Safety and Security in the Workplace, Customer Service and Events Management

IT Skills: Word Processing, Desk-Top Publishing, Databases, Spreadsheets, IT Communication Skills, Email, E-Diary, Internet and PowerPoint

There will be a combination of formative and summative assessment covering the theory and practical aspects of the course.

**Progression** from S3 administration is into national courses from level 4-6.

#### **Areas of employment:**

HR Officer/Manager, Events Manager, Recruitment and Training, Administrative Assistant, Receptionist, Administrator, Executive PA, Data Entry Clerk, Administrator in any organisation in any field. Develop skills which will help in Managerial positions, Financial Clerks, Accounting and IT specialists.

Skills developed in Admin help our pupils greatly as they progress into college or university.

## Dance

S3 Dance is a preparation course for those interested in studying dance in the senior phase. Pupils develop their technical skills in jazz, commercial and contemporary dance, and respond to group and solo choreography tasks. Pupils also study musical theatre and complete regular self-evaluation and video analysis tasks. Whilst the course is mainly practical, pupils will also complete a written test on their knowledge of the history of jazz dance.

In order to enjoy this course, pupils should have a basic level of strength, flexibility and aerobic endurance.

Pupils are encouraged to wear appropriate dance clothing for which there is a cost. Financial assistance may be available through the school's inclusion fund. Contact should be made with a young person's guidance teacher to explore.

**Progression** from S3 Dance is into national qualifications at levels 5 and 6. Beyond school, pupils moving on to courses in the performing arts will benefit from studying dance.

**Areas of employment** served by the study of dance include exercise science, sport psychology, education, coaching, gym instruction, personal training, musical theatre, professional dancing and choreography.

## Performance PE

This physical education course improves fitness and develops performance skills. It is for pupils who want to understand how physical, mental, emotional and social factors impact on performance in sport and for pupils who enjoy carrying out a training programme and analysing performance. Analysis is carried out orally and as a written project. In preparation for the theory aspects of senior phase physical education, one of the three periods in S3 is devoted to classroom work.

The course develops pupils' skill level and performance in basketball, volleyball, fitness activities, water polo and lacrosse. Pupils choosing S3 Performance PE will benefit from an already-established interest in a particular sport – in terms of training, competition or as a committed spectator.

**Progression** from S3 Performance PE is into national qualifications courses at levels 3 to 6. The Skills for Work course in Sport and Recreation at levels 4 and 5 provides additional progression. Qualifications in physical education prepare young people for courses at both college and university.

Physical education courses develop organisation, communication, problem solving and teamwork skills and lead to **areas of employment** including exercise science, sport psychology, education, coaching, gym instruction and personal training.

## Enrichment Opportunities

Pupils who are interested in the courses below should discuss their suitability with their pupil support teacher. **Pupils should make course choices excluding Enrichment opportunity courses in the first instance and changes will be made if appropriate.**

### Cookery Skills

In the S3, course pupils consolidate and improve on the basic cookery skills learned in S1 and S2. This course will focus on cookery skills and will have a high level of practical work. The course will focus on leadership and working as a team. A big focus of the course will be to work on employability skills and to look at the Hospitality sector as a career.

**Progression** from S3 Home Economics is into national qualifications courses in Practical Cookery, levels 3, 4 and 5, and Practical Cake Craft, level 5. Also available is the Skills for Work course in Hospitality, levels 4 and 5.

The S3 Home Economics course encourages pupils to work independently and to develop a range of transferable skills.

### Salon Skills

Students will be introduced to a broad range of skills and experiences in the Salon Skills Foundation course within our salon on campus facility. Our 'real life' salon floor provides opportunities for learners to experience what a workplace can be like. The Salon Skills course covers a wide range of topics including Health and Safety, Customer Care, Hand Massage, Mini Facials, Haircare and Makeup. Throughout these topics, learners will build skills in collaboration, teamwork, leadership, problem solving, time management, resilience and other work life skills they can take forward to their chosen career path.

**Progression:** National 4 or 5 Hairdressing and/or Level 5 Long Hair Design and Makeup.

## Duke of Edinburgh's Award

A life-changing experience. A fun time with friends. An opportunity to discover new interests and talents. A way of developing essential skills for life and work. A recognised mark of achievement, respected by employers. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is all of these things and more. Most importantly, pupils improve self-esteem and build self-confidence in preparation for the challenging senior phase years to come.

Pupils undertake a programme of volunteering, skills work and physical training. Pupils maintain the environment around the school and keep in good order the school's fleet of bicycles. Skills tasks include devising recipes and cooking on camp stoves. The physical training requires pupils to learn how to mountain bike safely. The development of camp craft skills, fitness and navigation skills leads to participation in an expedition of two days, including an overnight stay in a tent.

The school meets most of the cost of undertaking this course. Further financial assistance may be available through the school's inclusion fund. Contact should be made with a young person's guidance teacher to explore.

**Progression** from the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award is on to the Silver and Gold levels available in the senior phase.

Achieving a Duke of Edinburgh's Award develops the skills and confidence that gives the edge over others when applying for a job, or college and university entrance. In addition, pupils make a difference to the lives of others, get fit and healthy, make new friends and create memories to last a lifetime.

## Personal Development Award

In this course, pupils develop the skills that employers are looking for. Importantly, pupils work towards their own development needs by following a programme which helps them to improve in these areas.

Pupils do voluntary tasks to develop their interpersonal and team-working skills. Task management improves as a vocational project is undertaken. Furthermore, pupils learn how to handle information, communicate effectively and deliver a product or service.

A range of wider achievement courses are available in the senior phase allowing **progression** from PDA. The Support for Learning Department offers Scottish Studies.

## Outdoor Skills

Pupils participating in the outdoor skills course will engage with learning in three areas: Beekeeping; Horticulture; Forest and Outdoor Learning.

- Beekeeping

This element of the course requires you to manage a colony of honeybees in our school apiary. You will learn how to handle bees, control swarming, rear new queens, treat the bees for pests and diseases and harvest honey. You will also learn some of the basic theory behind beekeeping.

- Forest and Outdoor Learning

Pupils will complete a FOLA Level 4 Award. As part of this award, you will learn how to: use tools such as hatchets and saws safely in the outdoors to make tools, objects and shelters; build open fires and cook meals on them; tie useful knots; as well as learning how to identify common woodland plants and animals.

- Horticulture

This course teaches pupils how to: grow, harvest and use a variety of food crops; how to maintain managed landscapes; grow plants healthily and propagate them; create and protect habitats for wildlife.

**Progression** from S3 Horticulture is into the level 5 National Progression Award in Beekeeping. Beyond school, horticulture experience leads to college courses in horticulture, landscaping, gardens and green space management, garden design and then on to degree level study.

Pupils develop the practical skills required for work in the outdoors but also the core skills of problem solving and working with others that are important to so many jobs.

**Areas of employment** served by experience of horticulture include landscaping and garden design; farming; floristry; fruit production; teaching; green space management; research and development; forestry management; nursery plant production; sales and gamekeeping.

## Football Development Skills

This course is for learners who have a keen interest in football. Throughout this course learners will look to improve their football skills through drills and practices, conditioned games and large competitive games. They will also work towards improving their fitness. All learners will plan and carry out their own training programme which will be specific to their own development needs. They will also be able to analyse their own performance and target areas of development that are relevant to improving their own footballing ability. Analysis is carried out orally and as a written project for the fitness unit.

**Progression** from S3 Football Development Skills is into national qualifications courses at levels 3 to 6. The Skills for Work course in Sport and Recreation at levels 4 and 5 provides additional progression. Qualifications in physical education prepare young people for courses at both college and university.

Physical education courses develop organisation, communication, problem solving and teamwork skills and lead to **areas of employment** including exercise science, sport psychology, education, coaching, gym instruction and personal training.

Please note, a young person cannot pick both Performance PE and Football Development Skills.