

Inverurie Academy



S3

Personalisation of Learning Information Booklet

February 2017

Pupil name:

Class:

Personalisation of Learning for S3

As you will be aware, learning in the Broad General Education phase takes place across all 8 curriculum areas. In S3, pupils are able to personalise their curriculum within these 8 curriculum areas. We believe this may enhance motivation whilst allowing some in-depth skills development at CfE levels 3 and 4 prior to selection of qualification subjects at the end of S3.

All pupils will continue with English, Mathematics, a Modern Language, PE, RMPS and PSE. Pupils will then select one subject from each of the Expressive Arts, Sciences, Social Studies and Technologies areas. Further personalisation is then made by opting for four further subjects from the full range of those available. This allows pupils to keep a wide range of curricular experiences or to begin to personalise based on areas of interest or preference. This booklet aims to give you some information about the focus of each aspect of the curriculum that is available within S3.

In accordance with national policy statements on a Curriculum for Excellence, no personalisation made at S3 can pre-determine qualifications options in S4, so this process should be seen as an opportunity to try out some specialisation at this point in time. While we will do our very best to accommodate as many requests as possible, we may have to negotiate alternative course combinations in due course. You will be kept fully informed of this should that need arise.

Principal Teachers of Guidance will support all S2 students in this process over the coming weeks, and you will be asked to discuss this at home. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Personalisation of Learning Forms must be returned to your Guidance Teacher no later than Friday 25 February 2017.

Subjects Available

All pupils will follow a common core of subjects as below.

Subjects	
CORE	English
	Mathematics
	Modern Languages
	Physical Education
	RMPS
	PSE

Pupils are then asked to select 8 further subjects, writing these in priority order in the personalisation form.

	Curriculum Area	Subjects Available
PERSONALISATION	Expressive Arts	Art & Design, Drama, Music, Music Technology, Physical Education
	Science	Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Science
	Social Studies	Business, Cinema Review, Geography, History, Modern Studies, Philosophy
	Technologies	Accounting with Business, Admin & IT, Computing Science, Engineering Science, Graphic Communication, Health and Food Technology, Practical Metalwork, Practical Woodwork
	Modern Languages	French, German, Spanish

Please note:

- Every effort will be made to provide pupils with their highest priority options.
- Parents/carers will be contacted to discuss alternative combinations if pupils are not able to study the subjects indicated on their form.

Core Curriculum

English

Language and literacy skills are crucial both within the school and later within the world of work. As you develop your literacy skills, you will be able to process information more easily and apply knowledge of language in practical and relevant contexts. You will become more confident in taking on new and more challenging tasks in a variety of situations, as well as studying a diverse range of exciting subjects.

Mathematics

Mathematics is a rich and stimulating subject and plays an important part in everyday life. It uses a universal language of numbers and symbols, letting us communicate ideas in a brief, clear and concise way. Mathematics forms the basis of a number of school subjects. Mathematics will improve your reasoning, analytical and problem solving skills. It will help you think in more creative and abstract ways. This means it gives you many valuable qualities when you go to look for work.

Modern Languages

Learning a language helps you to connect with different people and their cultures. It also helps you understand how your own language works. Being able to communicate with speakers of other languages even at a basic level, and understand how they live their lives can make a difference in work situations as well as for leisure purposes.

Physical Education

Physical Education gives you the opportunity to develop your sports performance skills and improve your fitness. You will develop your movement ability by taking part in team games and solo sports. You will learn about the link between fitness and good health. It is particularly suitable for those who love physical activity and enjoy learning in practical ways.

Personal and Social Education (PSE)

In Personal and Social Education you will learn about a wide range of topics from key health messages to the consideration of future careers. Work is done with a variety of outside agencies and visiting speakers to ensure that pupils develop knowledge of organisations and opportunities which are relevant now, and will be useful in post school life. Pupils become more self-aware through participating in the PSE programme, and will have the opportunity to begin to explore future training and employment options.

RMPS

This course will enable you to appreciate the value of each individual as you develop your understanding of diversity in our society and your own role in it. You will be involved in the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative – a project based study with a broad focus on responsible citizenship, working with a local community based charity. The Inspire to Aspire programme will help provide an opportunity for self-discovery and personal development, encouraging you to develop aspirations for your life.

Curricular Personalisation

Curriculum Area - Expressive Arts

Experiences in the Expressive Arts are based on the practical activities of creating and presenting. Evaluating and appreciating creative work enhances enjoyment and develops knowledge and understanding.

Art & Design

Through art and design, learners have rich opportunities to be creative and to experience inspiration and enjoyment. They explore a wide range of two and three-dimensional media and technologies. Through practical activities, learners develop their ability to create, express, and communicate ideas. In studying the works of artists and designers they enhance their enjoyment and deepen their knowledge and understanding.

Drama

Through drama, learners have rich opportunities to be creative and to experience inspiration and enjoyment. Creating and presenting are prominent activities for all learners. Their acting and presenting skills are developed through participating in scripted or improvised drama. Exploring real and imaginary situations helps learners to understand and share their world. They develop their capacity to enjoy drama and their knowledge and understanding through evaluating technical aspects and scripts, and commenting on their work and the work of others.

Music

Through music, learners have rich opportunities to be creative and to experience inspiration and enjoyment. Performing and creating music will be the prominent activities for all learners. Through these activities they develop their vocal and instrumental skills, explore sounds and musical concepts, and use their imagination and skills to create musical ideas and compositions. They can further develop their understanding and capacity to enjoy music through listening to musical performances and commenting on them. They use ICT

to realise or enhance their composition and performance, and to promote their understanding of how music works.

Music Technology

Studying music technology allows you to express yourself through music while becoming more creative, confident and independent in using technology. It will help you to develop other important skills needed in the music industry, such as planning and organising, research, critical thinking and decision making and communicating with others.

Physical Education

The S3 Introduction to Sports Analysis Course will allow pupils to investigate and experience a number of activities in more depth than in the Core PE Course. Pupils will gain an understanding of how to analyse and improve performance through a number of different methods, including focussing on fitness improvement, skill development and tactical awareness. Pupils should be aware that Swimming is a compulsory element of this course.

Curriculum Area – Modern Languages

Modern Languages

Learning another language helps you to connect with different people and their cultures. It also helps you understand to how your own language works. Being able to communicate with speakers of other languages (even at a basic level) can make a difference in work situations as well as for leisure purposes. German and Spanish are offered as an optional addition to the study of French.

Curriculum Area - Sciences

Science is an important part of our heritage and we use its applications every day in our lives at work, at leisure and in the home. Science and the application of science are central to our economic future and to our health and wellbeing as individuals and as a society. Scotland has a long tradition of scientific discovery, of innovation in the application of scientific discovery, and of the application of science in the protection and enhancement of the natural and built environment. Children and young people are fascinated by new

discoveries and technologies and become increasingly aware of, and passionate about, the impact of science on their own health and wellbeing, the health of society and the health of the environment.

Through learning in the sciences, children and young people develop their interest in, and understanding of, the living, material and physical world. They engage in a wide range of collaborative investigative tasks, which allows them to develop important skills to become creative, inventive and enterprising adults in a world where the skills and knowledge of the sciences are needed across all sectors of the economy.

Biology

Biology is the study of all living things, from the tiniest organisms to the largest lifeforms. You will learn how nature and the human body work, and how different forms of life eat, make energy and reproduce. You will also find out how Biology is helping to find solutions to world problems.

Chemistry

Chemistry is important to everyday life. No matter what you look at, a chemist has probably been involved in manufacturing or developing it. Chemistry is a very practical subject and you will have the opportunity to carry out experiments and practical investigations. Through work in Chemistry you will learn how to think in a scientific and analytical way.

Physics

Physics is the study of the universe, from the largest galaxies to the smallest subatomic particles. Physics leads to discoveries, like computers and lasers that change our lives. Physics is at the root of technologies that help solve problems – from curing disease to developing sustainable energy solutions.

In studying Physics you will use important skills such as analytical thinking and problem solving.

Science

Science is vital to developments in medicine, industry, health and the environment, to name but a few. As a scientist you need to be good at solving problems and to be able to explain your work to other people. The Science course is made up of elements from Physics, Chemistry and Biology. You will learn how to think in a scientific and analytical way, and you will learn how to carry out practical investigations in a safe and scientific manner.

Curriculum Area - Social Studies

Through social studies, children and young people develop their understanding of the world by learning about other people and their values, in different times, places and circumstances. They will also develop their understanding of the environment and of how it has been shaped. Knowledge and experience will be

broadened using Scottish, British, European and Worldwide contexts for learning, while maintaining a focus on the historical, social, geographic, economic and political changes that have shaped Scotland. Children and young people learn about human achievements and about how to make sense of changes in society, of conflicts and of environmental issues. With greater understanding comes the opportunity and ability to influence events by exercising informed and responsible citizenship.

Business

We all rely on business and entrepreneurs to create wealth and employment. This experience helps you to develop skills in numeracy, employability and enterprise. You will also learn how to communicate effectively by working with others, as well as how to work independently, and how to lead activities when appropriate.

Cinema Review

In Cinema Review pupils will explore a variety of topical issues and ideas through an examination of a range of popular films. The films will be selected by a combination of school led film choices and by requests from pupils within the group. Pupils will develop observational and note taking skills together with the ability to review a range of films and issues. Pupils will also be involved in producing two projects – one on a topic related to the American Civil War and the second on a film industry topic selected on an individual basis.

Geography

The study of Geography allows pupils to appreciate the ways in which people and the environment interact on a local, national, international and global scale. Pupils will become more aware of spatial relationships and will develop an understanding of the changing world in a balanced, critical and sympathetic way, and will acquire a geographical perspective on environmental and social issues. Pupils studying Geography may develop an interest in and the environment and may learn more about sustainable development.

History

History is the study of things that have happened in the past. This matters because the past influences the present, and so the future. You will learn about other people and their values, in different times, places and circumstances. It helps you to develop important skills such as investigation, problem solving, communication and critical thinking.

Modern Studies

The aim of this course is to enable learners to develop and understand knowledge of local, national and global society. This is done through the study of social, economic and political issues. Pupils will gain a

knowledge of their position in society. This will involve looking at different views on a number of key issues before deciding on their own point of view. As well as gaining knowledge about the topics studied, pupils will learn how to investigate a current issues. This will give pupils the confidence to assess the positives and negatives of the sources of information that they use in their everyday lives.

Philosophy

The critical, creative and collaborative thinking skills used in philosophy will help learners to develop as members of society who can express themselves confidently and appreciate the values of others. Pupils will learn and develop skills in philosophical enquiry, enabling them to explore questions and ethical issues from a philosophical standpoint, presenting their own ideas and opinions in a reasoned and structured manner.

Curriculum Area - Technologies

Learning in the technologies enables children and young people to be informed, skilled, thoughtful, adaptable and enterprising citizens, and to develop understanding of the role and impact of technologies in changing and influencing societies. They will also gain the skills and confidence to embrace and use technologies now and in the future, at home, at work and in the wider community

Accounting with Business

Accountants help organisations to succeed. This experience will help you develop skills of numeracy and handling money to record whether a business is successful or not. The course will also allow you to understand the place of finance in businesses and give you an understanding of different types of business that accounts are prepared for. You will learn from real-life situations that develop your accounting skills. You can then apply your skills to communicate how well the organisation is doing using the information gathered and analysed.

Admin & IT

Administration and IT are essential skills in our society. This course looks at the practical uses of administration and IT (Word Processing, Spreadsheets and Databases) and will help you to develop your skills in organising tasks, communicating with people and processing information.

Computing Science

Computing Science is vital to everyday life. It shapes the world we live in and its future. Almost every kind of business and organisation depends on computers, and many people now rely on these (not to mention the latest handheld devices) at home. Rapid advances in new technology now mean that there is even more demand for people with computing experience.

Engineering Science

Engineering is vital to everyday life. It shapes the world in which we live and will shape our future. Engineers play key roles in meeting the needs of society in areas such as climate change, medicine, IT and transport. Engineering Science is a good experience as engineers are always in demand. This is especially true for young people who have up to date knowledge and techniques. Engineering Science classes will give you a broad introduction to engineering and the role of engineers in society. It brings together elements of technology, science and mathematics, and applies these to real world challenges.

Graphic Communication

Graphic Communication in all its forms influences all of society. It is a means of communicating powerful messages through visual displays and presentations. Graphic Communication influences many aspects of life including education, industry and commerce. This experience aims to increase your awareness of how graphics are used, and to learn about the technology used to create them. You will create 2D, 3D and pictorial graphics with visual impact or that transmits information, digitally and on paper.

Home Economics

This experience encourages you to make informed decisions about food, health and wellbeing which sustain you in future life. As part of the S3 Home Economics course you will develop the practical skills required to prepare a variety of tasty, healthy dishes. The course will also enable you to make informed decisions about food for health and independent living. The S3 Home Economics course is a predominantly hands on, practical experience which is supported by an element of written theory work.

Practical Metalwork

Practical Metalwork will give you a broad introduction to practical workshop skills. You will learn the correct way to use tools and equipment, and a range of materials, processes and techniques. You will learn how to read simple diagrams, and how to work safely in a workshop setting. You will get to use some creative skills, and plan your activities through to completing a finished metal product.

Practical Woodwork

Practical Woodwork will give you a broad introduction to practical workshop skills. You will learn the correct use of tools and equipment, and a range of materials, processes and techniques. You will learn how to read simple diagrams, and how to work safely in a workshop setting. You will get to use some creative skills, and plan your activities through to completing a finished wood product.