

Dyce Academy - S3 Options 2020-2021

The rationale for our course design for S3 is aimed to equip our young people with knowledge, confidence and skills that will be delivered through a broad, deep general education. There will be more focus on knowledge *and* skills – including vital skills: Literacy and Numeracy which underpin all learning and are critical in life. At the end of S3 your son/daughter will move into the Senior Phase to specialise, go on to further study and to take SQA National Qualifications. You will see that our model allows scope for choices including specialism, and this should provide a strong basis for moving on to study in S4.

Please note that your son/daughter is not choosing their subject options for the Senior Phase (S4-S6) at this stage.

All pupils will take the following curriculum areas: Languages (English **and** a Modern Language); Mathematics; Core PE ; RMPS ; PSE; Skills for Work.

Aberdeen City Music School (ACMS) pupils will follow a negotiated timetable with time allocated to specialist music provision.

For some pupils who may find 8 full courses difficult to cope with, the time which would be spent on one full course would be given over to an alternative curriculum which will encourage and provide opportunities for pupils to develop confidence in skills useful in both life and work. Pupils who are being offered this opportunity will receive a separate letter explaining the arrangements.

We always try to maximise choice for pupils. However, there may be some constraints in allocating first choices to all pupils. In these circumstances, course allocations will be made using the order of priority and reserve choices given on the choice form. **It is therefore, very important that careful thought is given to the reserve choices and their order of priority.** You will, of course, be informed of the subject allocations made to your son/daughter.

To help assist this process the school has produced a subject information booklet that details information from every department the expectations / demands of the course as well as progression routes for the subjects into the senior phase. This booklet is available to view on the school's website but if a hard copy is required please contact the school office and a paper copy will be printed out and handed to your son / daughter.

If you require more advice / guidance please do not hesitate to contact your son / daughter's Guidance teacher.

Please complete the attached choice form, following the above instructions and return it to school by **Friday 21st February 2020**.