



Kirkcudbright Academy

S2/3 Subject Information Booklet

May 2005

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Introduction

This term in S1 is a particularly important time as pupils chose subjects to study in S2/3. Whereas all pupils covered the same subjects in primary and in the first year of secondary school, pupils now decide which subjects they will study for the next two years. This booklet contains important information to guide that choice. The first section is devoted to information about each of the subjects on offer in S2/3. The second section deals with “Core Subjects”, that is subjects which all pupils will study for one or two periods per week.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ABOUT SUBJECT CHOICES

This booklet is only one source of information designed to help pupils and their parents make subject choices. Others currently being provided by the school include:

- Discussion in Personal and Social Education classes
- Access to the careers library
- Information from the Careers Advisory Service
- S1 Subject Reports
- One to one interviews for pupils with Guidance teachers
- The S1 Parents’ Evening on Tuesday 14th June 2005.

WHICH SUBJECTS TO CHOOSE?

The programme outlined above provides more specific information and advice about choosing subjects. However, in general terms pupils should consider choosing subjects which:

- They enjoy
- They are good at
- They would like to get better at
- Will keep their options open
- Might be required for a specific career (this is true in only a small number of cases)

RETURN OF OPTION FORM

Please note your child’s final subject choices on the accompanying form and return it to school by Friday 17th June.

STANDARD GRADE , INTERMEDIATE or ACCESS

You will notice that some departments offer Standard Grade while others offer Intermediate 1 or 2 courses. The reason for this, is that some departments consider the Intermediate courses to be more appropriate than Standard Grade while others prefer to continue to offer Standard Grade. See table on page 3 for further information.

Standard Grade

In most, but not all, subjects Standard Grade is offered at three levels; Foundation, General and Credit. Most pupils sit two of the three levels.

Intermediate 2 and Intermediate 1

Intermediate 2 was designed to be studied by children who had achieved a General level award at Standard Grade but some departments have found it to be a more appropriate course and therefore offer it instead of Standard Grade.

The Intermediate 2 course is usually made up of three separate units. Pupils must pass assessments for each of these three units and the final exam before they can receive an award at Intermediate 2 level.

Similarly, Intermediate 1 was designed to be studied by children who had achieved a Foundation award at Standard Grade but some departments have found it to be a more appropriate course, and offer it instead of Intermediate 2 or Standard Grade.

The Intermediate 1 course is usually made up of three separate units. Pupils must pass assessments for each of these three units and the final exam, before they can receive an award at Intermediate 1 level.

Access

Access courses vary in their composition – see individual subject entries for more information.

PARENTS' EVENING

Parents are invited to attend a Parents' Evening on Tuesday 14th June where they will have the opportunity to meet with the subject teachers, careers staff, Guidance teacher and members of the Senior Management Team. Staff will be happy to discuss pupil performance in S1 and make recommendations for future study.

We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 14th of June.

Mrs. A. Gold
Depute, Junior School.
May 2005.

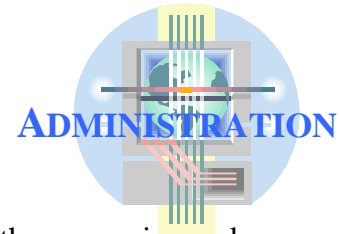
This table illustrates the various different levels of qualifications available in the Scottish system.

The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework.

SCQF Level	SQA National Units, Courses and Group Awards	Higher Education	Scottish Vocational Qualifications
12		Doctorates	SVQ 5
11		Masters	
10		Honours Degree Graduate Certificate	
9		Ordinary Degree Graduate Certificate	
8		Higher National Diploma Diploma in Higher Education	SVQ 4
7	Advanced Higher	Higher National Certificate Certificate in Higher Education	
6	Higher		SVQ 3
5	Intermediate 2 Credit Standard Grade		SVQ 2
4	Intermediate 1 General Standard Grade		SVQ 1
3	Access 3 Foundation Standard Grade		
2	Access 2		
1	Access 1		

Certificate Subjects

Administration Standard Grade



Introduction

Administration aims to develop the skills and knowledge associated with the processing and communication of business information.

Course Content

Administration is set in the context of the modern business environment. It is important that administrative procedures reflect current business practice. The subject focuses on the ways in which information is accessed, processed and communicated in the business environment through the use of ICT. Pupils are encouraged to produce work to the standard of accuracy, quality and presentation required to provide a finished article that is fit for its purpose.

Classroom Activities

Pupils mainly work on practical skills and techniques required to support business administration during this course, but do have to consider and evaluate the role of the administrative services which provide the support essential to the effective management of a business organisation.

Assessment

The assessable elements of the course are:

Knowledge and Understanding
Problem Solving
Practical Abilities

Grades in KU and PS will be based on an external examination, while grades in PA will be externally set, completed in class over a set period of time and externally marked.

Homework

The nature of the course means that homework can be set at certain points and cannot be set at others because of the need for hardware and software at home.

There is little homework set at the start of S2, as this is when the consolidation of practical skills is made. However, towards the end of S2 and into S3, there will be regular homework set on the KU units in preparation for the test at the end of S2 and their S3 examination.

Progression

This course may lead to Higher Grade Administration.

Art and Design Intermediate 1 and 2

Introduction

What is it like to be a creative person, expressing your own ideas as an artist or imagining how to solve problems like a designer? Where do artists and designers set their imaginative ideas? Is it possible to learn the skill and techniques they use and invent some of your own?



Am I capable of observing something so that I discover surprising new things about it? Can I gradually build up a vocabulary so that I can discuss and think more clearly about the visual world?

The course consists of both art and design activities, which allow you to answer these questions through practical experience.

Course Content

The course units deal with a wide range of topics and include: Natural Environment, Human Figure, Architecture and Design, Fantasy and Imagination, Graphics, Interiors, Jewellery, Fashion and Product Design including Design your Own Business.

Classroom Activities

Art and Design covers a stimulating variety of methods, skills, materials and ways of thinking.

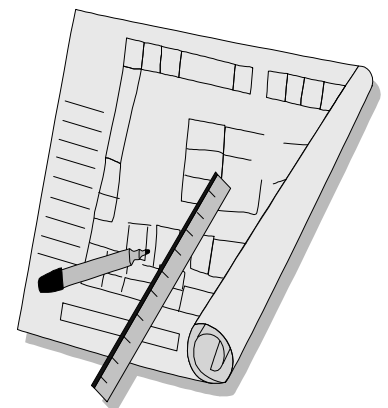
Each course (Int 1 and 2) develops all the essentials of visual study providing measured provision at each level. Activities vary from: inventive thinking, planning creative processes, using computer applications such as 'Adobe Photoshop' or 'Paintshop Pro'; Digital photography; Ceramics (clay work); 3D construction; Architectural Design, Painting and Drawing; Graphic Design

Homework

All students have a 'home book' to develop their interests and to do set activities related to current unit work. Work is set at regular intervals, no more than one per week. Homework can be practical or written.

Progression

Some students move on to Higher and Advanced Higher courses. Others leave the course with important life skills for dealing with the very image and media conscious world of the 21st Century where we are all challenged to respond to a flood of visual stimuli.



Biology Intermediate 1

Introduction

Biology is offered at Intermediate 1 and Standard Grade. Pupils opting for Biology will follow the course which is most appropriate to them.

The Intermediate 1 course is a hands-on course. The emphasis is on problem solving and applications of Biology rather than recalling information. Pupils will gain an insight into the importance of Biology in areas such as health care, biotechnology and growing plants.

Course Content



Health and Technology

40 hours

The relationship between technology and health, fitness, diet and having a healthy heart and lungs.

Biotechnological Industries

40 hours

Micro-organisms in the dairy industry, baking and brewing, detergents and pharmaceuticals.

Growing plants

40 hours

Growing plants from seeds, cuttings and the conditions required for their growth.



Classroom Activities

A variety of teaching and learning approaches are used throughout the course including individual pupil work, group work and whole class work. Practical work is a major part of the course and pupils will be given the opportunity to carry out experiments and complete investigations.

Assessment

Each topic has a unit assessment testing problem solving and knowledge and understanding. Practical abilities are assessed throughout the course by investigations. Pupils must pass all unit assessments and the final exam, before they can receive the course award. The final exam covers knowledge and understanding and problem solving. In preparation pupils will sit a prelim paper for this.

Homework

Homework is given throughout the course in the form of consolidation questions to reinforce work done in class.

Progression

Pupils who pass with an 'A' may progress to Intermediate 2 Biology in S4.

Biology Standard Grade

Introduction

Biology is offered at Intermediate 1 and Standard Grade. Pupils opting for Biology will follow the course which is most appropriate for them.

The aim of the Standard Grade course is to increase students' understanding of the plants and animals in the natural world in which they live. Students will also gain an insight into the importance of Biology in the modern world in areas such as health care, environmental management, technology and leisure pursuits.

Course Content

World of Plants	- how plants reproduce and make food
The Biosphere	- a study of the environment and its care
Cells	- structure and function inside living cells
Animal Survival	- feeding, reproduction and responding
Body in Action	- human skeleton, muscles, organs and nerves
Biotechnology	- microbes producing food and reducing waste
Inheritance	- how characteristics pass to successive generations

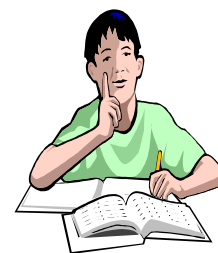


Classroom Activities

A variety of teaching and learning approaches are used throughout the course including individual pupil work, group work and whole class work. Practical work is a major part of the course and pupils will be given the opportunity to carry out experiments, work with microscopes and investigate the local environment.

Assessment

Pupils will sit seven end of topic tests designed to assess knowledge and understanding of the topic and ability to solve problems related to it. Practical abilities are assessed throughout the course by investigations and practical techniques. The final exam covers knowledge and understanding and problem solving. In preparation pupils will sit a prelim paper for this. Standard Grade Biology is available at General and Credit levels only. There is no Foundation course in Biology.



Homework

Homework is given regularly throughout the course. It will mainly take the form of question booklets for each section to reinforce the work covered in class and help prepare pupils for exam type questions. Completing notes or writing up investigative work may also be given. It is important to stress that a weekly review of class work and learning of work is an essential part of Biology Homework.

Progression

Pupils who achieve a Credit pass in Knowledge and Understanding and Problem Solving may progress to Higher Biology or Higher Human Biology. Pupils who achieve a General pass may progress to Intermediate 2 in Biology.

Chemistry Standard Grade and Intermediate 1

Introduction

This subject is currently offered at both Intermediate 1 and Standard Grade and pupils opting for Chemistry will follow the course which is most appropriate for them. Chemistry aims to develop skills in the following areas:

- knowledge and understanding of the chemistry of everyday life
- problem solving set in a chemical context
- a positive attitude to study and attainment

Course Content

In Standard Grade Chemistry there are fifteen topics which range from acids and metals to carbohydrates and fertilisers.

Intermediate 1 is made up of three 40 hour units, including Chemistry in Action, Everyday Chemistry and Chemistry in Life.



Classroom Activities

Activities are varied and appropriate for a wide range of abilities and learning styles. Practical work takes place on an individual, small group and whole class basis.

Assessment

Problem Solving and Knowledge and Understanding are assessed in Standard Grade. A practical grade is also awarded. In S3 there is a formal prelim and in the final SQA exam, 20% of the marks are available for practical activities. The Intermediate course includes three end of topic tests and a final exam.

Homework

Homework is issued on a regular basis and is an integral part of the course at Standard Grade and Intermediate 1 level.

Progression

Standard Grade pupils who complete the course with a Credit Level grade may go on to study the subject at Higher.

Intermediate 1 candidates who earn a good pass may opt to follow the subject at Intermediate 2 level.



Craft and Design Standard Grade

Introduction

Craft & Design provides opportunities to think creatively and inventively, and to create items which are unique to the pupils. In addition, through the study and application of design principles, pupils will learn to be more discriminating with regard to their choice of manufactured products.



Course Contents

The course involves the design and manufacture of a range of articles in wood, metal and plastics. In particular, emphasis is placed on developing an understanding of the key aspects of design such as graphical skills, ergonomics, and aesthetics. This will help pupils to gain an understanding of the contribution and influence of design on their own lives and on society.

Classroom Activities

The course uses a practical 'learning-by-doing' approach. Initially pupils work their way through a series of restricted design projects but in 3rd year they are given the chance to design and manufacture a major project of their own choice. Most of the work undertaken by pupils will be of an individual nature.

Assessment

During the course pupils are tested on the work undertaken at the end of each course unit. The final project and its associated design folio are used to assess the pupil's practical abilities and designing skills. There is also an external examination, which assesses the knowledge and understanding of the materials and processes used during the course.

Homework

Homework is used to consolidate the pupil's knowledge of the tools and processes encountered on the course. The completion of design exercises at home may also be required at times.

Progression

Having completed the Standard Grade course pupils with grades 1, 2 or possibly 3 may progress straight to Higher Grade. For those with grades 3 or 4 the Intermediate 2 course is available to help develop the necessary skills needed to tackle Higher. Intermediate 2 Practical Craft Skills may also be available to all pupils.

Standard Grade Computing Studies



Introduction

There is a widely held view that young people should know about and be able to use computers since they play an important part in economic, social and political life.

The aim of the course is to

- Gain knowledge and understanding of how computers operate and their effect on society.
- Find solutions to problems by applying knowledge and understanding of computer facts.
- Use computers to solve practical problems.

Course Content

Computer Applications

- General Purpose Packages
- Communications & Networks
- Commercial Data Processing
- Industrial Applications

Computer Programming

- Problem Analysis
- Design Solutions
- Practical Implementation using Visual Basic
- Evaluation

Computer Systems

- Systems Software
- Operating Systems
- Low Level Machines
- Hardware

Coursework

- Evidence is gathered throughout 2nd and 3rd year of practical skills. The coursework mark will form part of the final grade.

Project Work

- A project is undertaken near the end of the course bringing together all the skills the student has acquired over the 2 years.

Classroom Activities

This course has both practical and theoretical aspects. The practical work will involve learning how to use application packages on the computer and then using these skills to solve problems. The theoretical side of the course is to look at the ways in which computers are used in the real world and their effects on society. There will be a mixture of class activities, teacher demonstrations and class discussions.

Assessment

The assessable elements of the course are:

Knowledge and Understanding	}	External assessment is a written exam.
Problems Solving	}	Project work is used for internal assessment of practical work.
Practical Abilities	}	

Homework

The nature of the course means that homework can be set a certain points and cannot be set at others because of the need for hardware and software at home.

Progression

This course may lead to Intermediate 2 Information Systems/Higher Information Systems.

English Standard Grade

Introduction

The Standard Grade English course continues to develop what pupils have been working on in S1 in the four elements of Reading, Writing, Talking and Listening. Pupils will also prepare for exams and assessments in S2 and S3. We also hope they will continue to enjoy personal reading and build on skills that will help them communicate with the world around them.

Course Content

The course comprises a wide variety of activities, which can be based on a text or a theme and includes the teaching of language. At the end of S1, pupils will be placed in a Credit/General or General/Foundation section so that they can work at the most appropriate level. However, everyone follows the same course and depending on a pupil's progress he/she can move between the levels.

Classroom Activities

Activities are varied and designed for balance between the four elements. Pupils will write on non-fiction, personal and creative topics as well as about texts that have been studied. Texts studied will include novels, short stories, plays, poetry and non-fiction writing. Pupils will also take part in group discussion and present solo talks.

Assessment



Assessment is based on Reading, Writing and Talking. By the end of the course, all pupils will have completed Folios of their best work in Reading and Writing and will have grades for Talking. Pupils' Folios are sent to the SQA along with assessments of Talk grades given by class teachers. At the end of S3 pupils will sit examinations in Close Reading and Writing.

Homework

All pupils can expect increasing amounts of homework in S2 and S3 and will be expected to take responsibility for ensuring that all work is up to date and handed in on time. This will not always involve written work, but could be the preparation of a talk or project research. We also expect pupils to continue with their personal reading and urge all to read as widely as possible.

Progression

Pupils who pass Standard Grade English at Credit level may go on to take the subject at Higher; those who pass at General and Foundation, Intermediate 2 or 1.



Geography Standard Grade

Introduction

Geography enables pupils to gain a greater understanding of the world in which we live. It encourages pupils to think about the physical and human environments, the relationships that exist between them and how people use and misuse the planet. The course also introduces pupils to the wider world and the differences that exist globally.

As well as increasing knowledge, the course progressively develops skills of enquiry and independent learning, i.e. interpreting, extracting and presenting geographical information using a variety of sources, e.g. electronic, map, text and video.



Course Content



The course contains many interesting topics covering the Scottish, European and World scales, e.g. climatic regions, glaciation, industry, land use conflicts, threatened environments, trade and weather.

Classroom Activities

Class work is teacher-directed to ensure accuracy, quality and relevance of learning, with pupils working largely independently. Knowledge and understanding is consolidated through question and answer activities and discussion. Course work focuses on developing pupils learning and answering skills thereby enabling pupils to do their best in the final exam.



Assessment

Performance and progress is measured by end-of-topic tests - every 5 to 6 weeks - which cover the elements of knowledge and understanding and enquiry skills. A prelim in S3 prepares pupils for the final SQA exam.

Homework

Homework is given approximately once a fortnight and uses questions mainly from past papers. Success in this course depends greatly on learning parts of it therefore pupils are expected to spend 10-15 minutes at home, three times a week, reading and learning coursework.



Progression

Depending on final exam grade, pupils may choose from Intermediate or Higher Geography.

Graphic Communication Standard Grade

Introduction

The ability to communicate effectively is an important skill. Very often communication requires more than just the use of the written or spoken word. Drawings, sketches and colour illustrations are often needed for clear efficient communication to take place. Graphic communication is a truly international language as it allows communication without the use of the spoken word.



Course Content

The course will introduce pupils to a wide range of presentation methods used in graphical communication. It includes elements such as computer aided graphics and draughting methods, together with illustration and presentation techniques, formal drawing board skills and sketching. Emphasis is also placed on the ability to interpret graphical information e.g. from assembly diagrams.

Classroom Activities

Throughout the course, emphasis is placed on individual pupil work in the creation of drawings enabling pupils to exercise imagination, creative ability and logical thinking. Wherever possible real situations are used as a basis for the work to be undertaken. Where items are to be included in the pupil's portfolio, sufficient time is given to achieve satisfactory results.

Assessment

Unlike many other Standard Grade subjects the course does not make use of a project as part of the final assessment. Instead, pupils are required to produce a portfolio of work selected from the different topic areas covered in the course.

Homework

During the course pupils will be given homework on a regular basis. The exercises used are designed to complement course work topics. Ample time will be allowed for the completion of these exercises.

Progression

Having completed the Standard Grade course pupils with grades 1, 2 or possibly 3 may progress straight to Higher Grade. For those with grades 3 or 4 the Intermediate 2 course is available to help develop skills necessary to tackle Higher.

History Intermediate 1 and 2

Introduction

Pupils will study History at Access 3, Intermediate 1 or Intermediate 2 level as appropriate. These courses will build on the knowledge and skills which have been developed in S1.

Course Content

○ **William Wallace and Robert The Bruce – The Wars of Independence 1286 - 1328**

This unit allows pupils to examine the reasons for the Wars of Independence and the exploits of Wallace and Bruce including the Battles of Stirling Bridge, Falkirk and Bannockburn



● **The Cold War 1945 – 1985**

In this unit pupils will examine the causes of the Cold War, the threat of nuclear war and important flashpoints in Berlin, Cuba and Vietnam. They will learn about attempts to end the Cold War through ‘détente.’

● **Lenin and the Russian Revolution**

In this unit pupils will find out what Russia was like around 1900 and why there were three Revolutions. The impact of World War One on Russia will be studied, including the downfall and execution of the Russian Royal Family and the coming to power of Lenin and the Bolsheviks.



Classroom Activities

Pupils are encouraged to draw conclusions from historical evidence presented in books, videos and CD-ROMS. There are numerous websites which relate closely to the course. Pupils may also visit places of interest outside school (eg Kirkcudbright museum, Stirling area)

Assessment

Pupils will be assessed regularly to check progress. There will be internal assessments and an external assessment at Intermediate 1 and 2. Pupils being presented for Intermediate 2 are required to complete an ‘extended response’. This is an individual investigation on any topic chosen from the course which the pupil must research and then write up in class time.

Homework

In addition to set homework exercises, pupils will have to spend time at home reviewing class work and preparing for assessments.



Progression

Successful completion of Intermediate 2 provides preparation for Higher History. It may also be possible for a high achieving Intermediate 1 pupil to undertake Higher History over two years.

Home Economics Standard Grade

Introduction

Home Economics is an interesting and enjoyable course. It will equip pupils with the knowledge, and a range of skills, which will prepare them for life in our ever-changing world.

Course Content

Our course has a high practical content mainly relating to food preparation.

The knowledge element of the course covers:-

- Nutrition, healthy living, dietary targets, food choices and meal planning.
- Consumer Issues which include labelling, budgeting, payment for goods, legislation and consumer rights.
- Design of food, clothing and equipment. Environmental issues.
- Food safety, hygiene and the food handler, preservation of food.
- Home safety, family and community issues.

Classroom Activities

As well as the traditional practical skills associated with Home Economics pupils are involved in:

- analysing problems
- planning what to make
- evaluating what they have done.

Pupils learn by:

- watching demonstrations and videos
- completing worksheets, projects and handling information exercises
- carrying out a wide range of practical activities.

Assessment

There are three assessable elements in the course:

Knowledge and Understanding

Handling Information

Practical and Organisational Skills

- Pupils are awarded a grade for each element but the overall grade is weighted towards practical work. 50% is given to practical and organisational skills and 25% is given to each of the others.
- The final grade for Practical and Organisational Skills is assessed internally. The grade is based on several exercises and assignments carried out by pupils between October and early March in the final year of the course.
- The other two elements are assessed in a written exam at the end of the course.

Homework

- Pupils are assessed at regular intervals throughout the course and they are given a revision programme before each written assessment. The week before an assessment pupils should spend twenty minutes each evening on this revision.
- On a regular basis pupils are also given a homework question, which will take around 20 minutes to complete.

Progression

Standard Grade Home Economics

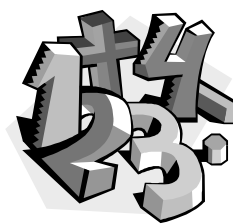
Intermediate 2 Hospitality Practical Cookery

Intermediate 2 Health and Food Technology

Higher Health and Food Technology

Advanced Higher Health and Food Technology

Mathematics Standard Grade



Introduction

Mathematics has an important part to play in preparing our children for a successful future. The ability to think logically and the skills of effective organisation are necessary for success in any walk of life.

Course Content

All S2 and S3 courses are designed to meet the needs of the different ability levels which exist within the year groups. In a typical year there are four ability sets. The top group follow a course which is designed to meet the requirements for a pass at Intermediate 2 level. The second and third groups will be aiming for a pass at Intermediate 1. The fourth group will follow a course which is designed to prepare them for a Standard Grade examination at Foundation level. Basic Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry and Statistics which pupils study in S1 will be extended in S2 and S3. Trigonometry will be introduced in S2 and extended in S3.

Classroom Activities

Whilst a large proportion of the work covered is teacher led with pupil interaction, many other strategies are employed. Modern technology, in particular, provides stimulating new approaches which complement more traditional methods. Where possible work is presented in real life situations so that pupils can see the relevance of the work that they are doing.

Assessment

Within the course, assessment takes two forms. Topic tests are given on the completion of a unit of work and formal examinations are given towards the end of S2 and S3. The end of S2 examination is used to gauge progress and to determine the suitability of the courses which pupils are following. If necessary, some pupils will move into a more appropriate class at this stage. The end of S3 Preliminary examination is more important in that it is used to provide the exam board with our estimate of each pupil's ability. In Mathematics there are two assessable elements, Knowledge and Understanding (KU) and Reasoning and Enquiry (RE). These elements contribute equally to the overall award. All school tests and examinations are designed to follow the format set by the Scottish Qualifications Authority.

Homework

Day to day homework will be given on a regular basis to complete and consolidate work covered in class. This work is gone over by the teacher with the pupils who then mark their own work. Formal homework exercises, revising topics previously taught, are issued about once a fortnight. These are handed in by pupils and marked by the teacher.



Progression

Pupils may progress to Intermediate 1, 2 or Higher.

Modern Language Standard Grade

Introduction

Pupils study French at Standard Grade to progress the language skills that they have been acquiring since at least P6. We hope, too that pupils' interest in and understanding of French speaking countries will also be stimulated.



Course Content

Topics covered during the course include family, town/country, school, descriptions, clothes, food and drink, travel, holidays, the environment. Through these topics pupils are introduced to points of grammar so that their language skills develop in context. Through the Topics covered, pupils learn more about life in French speaking countries.

Classroom Activities

Classroom Activities are based around the four skills of Speaking, Reading, Listening and Writing. Through Reading and Listening activities, pupils' vocabulary increases, allowing them to use the language in either Speaking or Writing tasks. ICT is an integral part of the course, as a tool for teaching and learning.

Assessment

Assessment is part of learning. Pupils chart their progress against a recognised national standard. Thus, in Listening and Reading tasks are set at Foundation, General and Credit levels. Speaking is much more open-ended, with pupils able to achieve at any level. Assessment for Speaking is on-going throughout the 2 year course, the final grade being based on work covered in S3. Tasks will be varied: a presentation, discussion/conversation role-play. For the final award, Writing is assessed by means of a folio of the 3 best pieces of work produced in S3.

Homework

Learning words, phrases and grammar notes is a crucial element of language learning and features regularly as homework tasks. Pupils will also be asked to prepare for Speaking assessments, do some Reading or Writing tasks and prepare for Writing assessments.

Progression

Pupils may progress to a Higher or Intermediate 2 course, depending on the level of award gained at Standard Grade.

Music Standard Grade

Introduction

The aim of the course is to develop the pupil's skills in the three elements of music ie: Performing, Inventing and Listening and to prepare them for the Standard Grade examination in S3.



Course Content

Pupils will develop their skills in Solo Performing, Group Performing, Inventing and Listening.

Solo and Group Performing

This will involve a solo performance on one instrument and performance in a group on a different instrument. Each pupil will select the two instruments he/she wishes to study. They may include instruments such as a recorder and keyboard, or an instrument being studied privately such as a piano, organ, guitar, bagpipes or an orchestral instrument.

Inventing

Pupils will learn how to compose music for a range of instruments and add suitable accompaniments. They will also learn how to set words to music.

Listening

Pupils will listen to a wide variety of music, noting features such as style, mood, the vocal and instrumental forces used, structure and design and the historical background of the works studied. In particular, pupils will study the development of music in the 20th Century and the music of Scotland.

Classroom Activities

In the three periods allocated per week, pupils will spend one period on each of the elements ie Performing, Listening and Inventing.

Assessment

Solo Performing is assessed externally by a visiting examiner in February/March of S3. The examiner will listen to each pupil giving a recital lasting 4-10 minutes.

The Listening element is assessed in a written paper during the main diet of examinations. Candidates will listen to 40-50 short extracts on an audiotape and answer related questions, in a multiple choice format. The Group Performing and Inventing elements are assessed internally. Tape recordings will be made of the pupils' inventions and performances on their second instrument, and these will be assessed to conform to national standards.

Homework

Pupils following a Standard Grade course in Music will be expected, where possible, to:

Practise the instrument/s being offered in the Performance element.

Develop work done in class on their inventions

Consolidate the work done in the Listening element of the course by regularly revising their notes at home.

Progression

Intermediate 2

Higher Grade Music

Physical Education Standard Grade



Introduction

The main aim of the Standard Grade PE course is to improve the individual's physical performance in a range of activities. They will also develop other abilities (see below).

Course Content

Practical performance – pupils take part in a range of core sport activities e.g. athletics, badminton, basketball, indoor hockey, kayaking, windsurfing, orienteering, fitness and cross country, social dance and swimming – there are also activities to opt into such as football, gymnastics and racket sports.

Knowledge and Understanding – Pupils develop knowledge about various activities, the body and how it works and about how sports skills and fitness are developed.

Evaluation – Pupils develop the ability to analyse their own and others performance in a range of sports.

Classroom Activities

Pupils experience active learning where they work in teams, groups, pairs and individually to practise skill and perform in activities.

Pupils use video analysis to view and evaluate their own and others performances.

Pupils work in groups or pairs to discuss some of the key features of sport performance.

Assessment

Assessment is based on three elements:

Practical Performance: 50%

Knowledge and Understanding: 25%

Evaluation: 25%

Practical Performance (how good you are at each sport) is assessed by the class teacher with assessment standards checked by the SQA.

Knowledge and Understanding (of the body, skills and activities) is assessed in a written exam at the end of S3.

Evaluation (observing and describing skilled performance) is also assessed in the written exam at the end of S3.

Homework

Homework will feature throughout the course building up gradually as pupils move towards the final exam. In S2 probably no more than 20-minutes task per week e.g. a worksheet on the area of course work that week. In S3 homework is more like 30-40 minutes per week throughout the year.

Progression

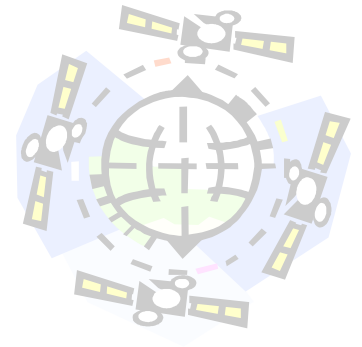
The PE department offers course at two levels – Higher and Intermediate. Pupils achieving a Grade 1 or 2 at Standard Grade may be able to follow the Higher Grade course. Pupils gaining a Grade 3 at Standard Grade may follow the course at Intermediate level. In all cases pupils and parents should discuss their options for progression with the PE staff.

Physics Intermediate 1/Access 3

Introduction

Physics is offered at Intermediate 1/Access 3 and Standard Grade. Pupils opting for Physics will follow the course which is most appropriate to them.

The Intermediate 1/Access 3 course aims to show how knowledge of physics can help us understand some of the important uses of science in the modern world. The topics are chosen to be interesting and relevant and throughout the course practical work is used to develop skills in problem solving and handling information. The course is suitable for those pupils who might find Standard Grade Physics too demanding.



Course Content

- Telecommunications - (Radio, TV, Satellites, Telephone)
- Practical Electricity - (Circuits, Resistance, Mains Electricity)
- Radiations - (Light, X and Gamma Rays, Infrared and Ultraviolet)
- Sound and Music - (Frequency, Speed, Amplifiers)
- Movement - (Forces, Speed and Acceleration)
- Electronics - (Input-process-output, Logic Gates)

Classroom Activities

Most of the lessons involve some practical work – either group experiments or demonstrations. Pupils are encouraged to make their own notes helped by the teacher. There are some completion worksheets and other activity sheets. Video and computer simulation are used to help with understanding the physics and applying it to everyday situations. Summary notes are issued for each topic.

Assessment

There is a test at the end of each unit. To gain an award at Access 3 Level pupils must pass all the unit assessments. To gain an award at Intermediate 1 pupils must pass the unit assessments at a higher level and in addition pass the final exam.

Homework

Homework is set regularly and involves answering questions from a problem booklet and revision for end of topic tests.

Progression

The next step may be Intermediate 2 Physics.

Physics Standard Grade

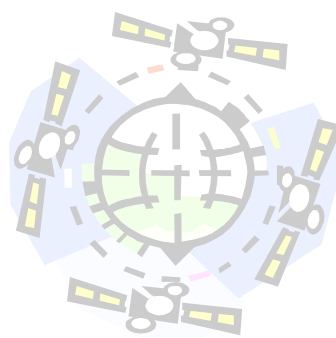
Introduction

Physics is offered at Intermediate 1/Access 3 and Standard Grade. Pupils opting for Physics will follow the course which is most appropriate to them.

The Standard Grade Physics course shows how a knowledge of physics can help us to make sense of the world we live in, from the smallest particles in an atom right through to the stars and galaxies in our universe. The course also helps us to see how physics lies behind many modern developments such as TV, radio, mobile phones and the sophisticated equipment used in hospitals. Problem solving skills are developed through experimental work and it is hoped that the course will spark an interest in physics so that some pupils will want to take the subject further.

Course Content

- Telecommunications
- Using Electricity
- Health Physics
- Transport
- Electronics
- Energy Matters
- Space Physics



Classroom Activities

Pupils work from a Study Guide which gives the detailed learning outcomes for each topic. As much practical work as possible is built into the course. Pupils are expected to develop their skill in making their own notes from a variety of sources such as teacher input, computer simulations, videos, textbooks etc.

Assessment

Elements assessed

- | Elements assessed | % of final grade |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| • Knowledge and Understanding | (40%) |
| • Problem Solving | (40%) |
| • Practical Abilities | (20%) |

% of final grade

The grades for Knowledge and Understanding and Problem Solving are based on performance in the final SQA exam. The grade for Practical Abilities is based on class work involving eight practical techniques and two practical investigations

Pupil progress is checked by tests at the end of each unit. There are also two class exams, one in each year of the course.

Homework

Homework is set weekly. It may involve any of the following-

- Writing up notes.
- Mastering learning outcomes and formulae
- Written exercises from problem sheets or questions from past papers
- Revision for tests

Progression

The natural progression for pupils who achieve a Credit grade would be to Higher Physics. For pupils achieving at General Level, Intermediate 2 would be the next step.

Science Access 2

Introduction

Science is only offered at Access 2 level. Pupils will be advised if this is the most appropriate course for them.

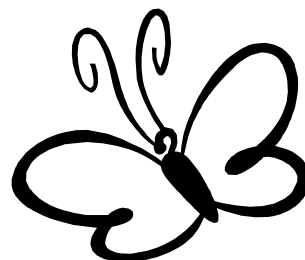
This course allows pupils the opportunity to continue with the study of science through investigation based lessons in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

The course practical based with a strong emphasis on practical work, problem solving and developing skills rather than recalling information.

Course Content

Pupils will complete investigative and practical work selected from Biology, Physics and Chemistry topics.

- Unit 1 Biology topics are plants, healthy bodies and detergents
- Unit 2 Chemistry topics are drugs, metals, acids and alkalis
- Unit 3 Physics topics are forces, magnetism and earth and space.



Classroom Activities

A variety of teaching and learning approaches will be used throughout the course including individual pupil work, group work and whole class work. Most of the work will involve practical activity with pupils being given the opportunity to carry out investigations. Reports will be completed with support from the class teacher.



Assessment

Access differs from courses at other levels in that there is no external assessment.

For successful completion of the course pupils must complete and write up three Biology, three Chemistry and three Physics experiments.

Homework

Homework may be given throughout the course and will take the form of collecting information and small exercises to consolidate work done in class.



Progression

Pupils who successfully complete the course may progress to Access 3 in Biology, Chemistry or Physics.

Core Subjects

This section deals with the Core Subjects that pupils will cover in S2/S3.

All pupils will do the following:

- Personal and Social Education (PSE) for 1 period per week
- Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies (RMPS) for 1 period per week

There are also some subjects that all pupils must cover:

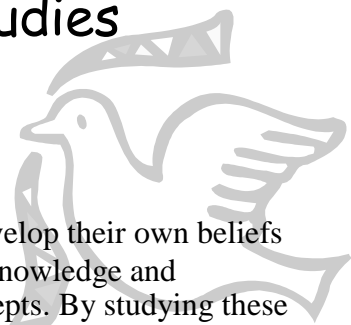
- If pupils do not opt for Standard Grade Physical Education (PE), they will do Core PE for 2 periods per week
- If pupils do not opt for Standard Grade Administration, Computing or Graphic Communication, they will do Core IT in either S2 and S3 or S3 only.

The above means that some pupils have a 'slot' on their timetable where they can fit in an extra subject. In some cases this is for one period in S2 and two in S3 and in others it is only one period in S3. The subjects available are:

- Music – Electronic Keyboards
- Home Economics: Practical Cookery
- Art & Design - Ceramics

Once pupils have chosen their 7 Standard Grade/Intermediate subjects, Mrs Dobson will work with them individually to work out the rest of their timetable.

Core Religious Moral and Philosophical Studies



Introduction

All pupils have one period of RMPS each week. They will be encouraged to develop their own beliefs and to develop tolerance towards the beliefs of others. They will develop their knowledge and understanding of key religious, moral and philosophical words, issues and concepts. By studying these they will develop the skills of understanding, analysing and evaluating different opinions.

Course Contents

In S2/S3 most pupils will begin by looking at key issues such as is there life after death, and the problem of suffering. These pupils will then go on to study a unit called Making Moral Decisions at Intermediate 1 or 2 levels. In this unit they will look at different moral stances and apply them to medical issues in S2 and human rights issues in S3.

Other pupils will study two units at access 3 level. In second year they will study the unit Questioning Belief. In which they will think about the difference between facts and beliefs, study the importance of beliefs and how they influence people, and they will evaluate beliefs. In S4 they will study the unit Questioning Morality. In which they will, identify the terms relating to moral behaviour, demonstrate a basic understanding of how moral behaviour affects people and evaluate a moral situation.

Course Content

In S2 most pupils will study a unit called Nature of Belief at Intermediate 1 or 2 levels. In this unit they will study evidence for and against the existence of God. Other pupils will study the unit Questioning Belief at Access 3 level. In this unit they will think about the difference between facts and beliefs, study the importance of beliefs and how they influence people, and they will evaluate beliefs.

In S3 most pupils will study a unit called Making Moral Decisions at Intermediate 1 or 2 levels. In this unit they will look at different moral stances and apply them to human rights issues. Other pupils will study the unit Questioning Morality at Access 3 level. In this unit they will, identify the terms relating to moral behaviour, demonstrate a basic understanding of how moral behaviour affects people and evaluate a moral situation.

Classroom Activities

Pupils can expect a variety of methodologies and activities including, debates, written worksheets, games, videos, dramas, guest speakers, group work, pair work, individual presentations and research projects

Assessment

Pupils will be assessed according to SQA guidelines.

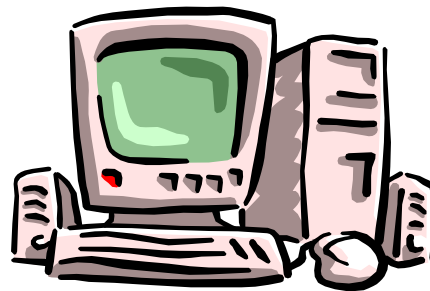
Homework

There will be three pieces of homework per unit. For the access 3 units the homework will be in the form of multiple-choice questionnaires. For the Intermediate 1 and 2 unit the homework will involve writing about the part of the unit that they have studied. Homework will be issued during the last week of each part of a unit. Pupils will have 1 week to complete the homework.

Progression

The skills that they will develop and the words, concepts and issues studied correspond with courses in RMPS, which will be offered in S4-S6. They can complete the Access 3 course, or they can opt into the New Higher Still course at Intermediate 1, 2, Higher or advanced Higher level.

Core Information Technology



Introduction

The course will continue from S1 to further develop pupils' ICT skills using a range of software and hardware.

Course Contents

There will be further work on:

- Word Processing
- Spreadsheets
- Introduction to Databases
- Presentation software (Powerpoint)
- Internet

Classroom Activities

Pupils will spend the majority of their time using the computer on individual tasks, progressing at their own pace.

Assessment

Each unit will be assessed using National Assessment Bank materials. These assessments will be mainly practical based and will include observation. A NAB will be attempted at the end of each unit.

Homework

No homework will be given due to the need for hardware and software at home. Pupils will be required to revise for NAB assessments.

Progression

This course may lead to S3 Core Skills in Information Technology.

Core PE

Introduction

The main aim of Core PE is to foster in pupils an enjoyment of physical activity; to develop the skills and fitness appropriate to selected activities; to develop an acceptable social and sporting attitude.



Course Contents

All S2 pupils who don't opt for Standard Grade will follow a course in physical education for two periods per week. The course will offer the following activities: Football, Rugby, Hockey, Basketball, Cross Country, Social Dance, Gymnastics, Badminton, Athletics and Tennis.

Classroom Activities

Classes will occasionally be mixed-sex but, more often, single-sex. Pupils will experience active learning where they work in teams, groups, pairs and individually to practise skills and perform in activities. Pupils are encouraged to take more responsibility in organisational tasks ie setting up equipment, warming up, refereeing/officiating etc.

Assessment

In Core PE pupils are assessed on their practical performance in each of the activities.

Homework

There is no written homework in Core PE as the pupils are not working towards a final exam in this part of the curriculum.

Progression

The PE department offer a Higher/Intermediate 2 Course and a PE Practical Units course in Senior School. Pupils who only do Core PE in S2/3 are most likely to follow a Units course in senior school, however, in some cases, access to an Intermediate2 or a Higher Course may be appropriate following advice from PE staff.

Music - Electronic Keyboards



Introduction

This is a course in which pupils will have the opportunity to develop the keyboard skills acquired in S1.

Course Content

The course consists of **five** units, covering a wide range of performance skills from beginner to advanced. Each pupil will complete the unit appropriate to his/her level of ability.

Classroom Activities

Each pupil will work at his/her own pace, on a selection of music of graded difficulty, and in various styles e.g. Pop, Scottish, Classical, Folk etc.

Assessment

Pupils will keep a record of all the pieces they have successfully performed throughout the course. An audio recording of a selection of the pieces is required for the final assessment for each unit.

Homework

There is no formal homework involved in this course, but pupils will be expected to practise the keyboard at home, if they have access to an instrument.

Progression

Units 3, 4 and 5 cover the performance level for Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2 and Higher Grade Music respectively. Successfully completing any one of these three units would therefore exempt a pupil from the Performance element of these courses, should they decide to follow one of the courses in later years.

Hospitality, Practical Cookery, Intermediate 1

Introduction

This is a course in which pupils acquire a range of basic practical skills as well as learning to organise and plan their own work.

Course Content

- The course consists of **THREE** units.
- Food Hygiene for the Hospitality Industry (½ unit)
- An introduction to Food Preparation Techniques (1 unit)
- An introduction to Cookery Processes (1 unit)
- Organisation of Practical Skills (½ unit)

Classroom Activities

As well as the traditional skills linked with Home Economics pupils learn to plan and organise their practical work.

Pupils learn by:-

- watching demonstrations and videos
- planning practical tasks
- carrying out a range of practical activities
- completing worksheets related to practical activities e.g. food safety



Assessment

- pupils must pass an assessment for each unit
- these assessments are graded internally
- pupils must pass all unit assessments and the final exam before they can receive the course award
- for the course award pupils must undertake a practical assignment which involves planning and cooking a two course meal for four people in 1½ hours
- there is no written exam for the course award

Homework

There is no formal homework involved in this course but pupils are expected to arrive in class well prepared for practical lessons. On occasions pupils may be asked to complete planning tasks in their own time.

Progression

If pupils gain the course award at the end of S3 they may opt for Practical Cookery, Intermediate 2 in the senior school timetable.

Art and Design - Ceramics



Introduction

This course will enable pupils to acquire skills in handling clay and designing and creating objects in clay.

Course Content

The course consists of one unit over S2/S3 and focuses on practical skills and basic theories for clay processing.

Classroom Activities

This is a very practical course with pupils creating a range of clay products using a variety of methods.

Assessment

Assessment is part of the ongoing teaching process: the teacher will give feedback to the pupil to assist in creating the product and practical skills will be assessed on an ongoing basis. In addition, the end product is also assessed.

Homework

There is no homework due to the practical nature of the course.

Progression

It is to be hoped that the course will stimulate pupils' interest in design and 3D skills. It can also lead to further studies in Art & Design in S4 and beyond.

This course also complements the Intermediate course in Art & Design which is offered in S2/S3.