

MONIFIETH HIGH SCHOOL



Preparing for S3

Session 2018-2019

A guide for S2 pupils and their parents



Preparing for S3

This booklet is designed to help you understand what the S3 Curriculum is about and to provide the information to enable you to select certain focus areas to help you personalise your S3 timetable.

As it is the final year of Broad General Education, S3 is particularly important, because during it:

- You will continue to develop key skills to a much higher level than previously. Many of these skills are developed right across all your subjects. They include the ability to
 - analyse, evaluate and create
 - communicate, prioritise and work effectively in teams
- You will continue to study English, Maths and Modern Languages
- You will continue to work across the full breadth of curriculum areas, but will start to personalise your learning in some subject areas
- You will develop skills and understanding which relate to specific subjects or groups of subjects (sciences, technology, social subjects and the arts).
- In addition to English, Maths, French and Spanish, and the selection of a subject from each of the main curricular areas (Expressive Arts, Science, Social Subjects and Technologies), you will be able to choose 4 further subjects, 11 subjects in total.
- In addition to 'traditional' subjects, you will be able to select subjects that will provide opportunities for wider achievement and the development of key skills for learning, life and work.
- You will continue with English, Maths and up to four of the other subjects into S4 so it is important that you think carefully about which subjects to choose. If you are fairly certain what kind of course/job/career you would like to pursue on leaving school, you should be investigating what subjects you need to take. If you really have no idea at this stage then it makes sense to choose a wide breadth of subjects in order to keep your options open in S4-6
- It is important that you understand what you will be learning in the subjects on offer therefore you must ensure that you are well informed. Your class teachers will talk to you about the subjects in S3 and you will complete the S3 Personalisation form in SE with your PC&S teacher. More information about the S3 curriculum can be found on our school website <http://www.monifiethhighschool.com>

Dr C Matthew
Acting Depute Head Teacher

February 2018

The Curriculum in S3

The curriculum in S3 in Monifieth High School closely follows guidance from the Scottish Government and Angus Council for the final year of Broad General Education. You will develop your skills to the highest possible level in order to be fully prepared for the Senior Phase examination courses (see pages following).

All-important skills are developed in a wide variety of contexts, including sports and clubs, links made between subjects and, for many, hobbies and activities outside school. The most familiar context for learning, however, is still the classroom. You will all study the core areas of English, Mathematics, French, Spanish, Religious and Moral Education, PE and Social Education.

In addition to English, Maths you will choose a subject in each of the following broad curricular areas: sciences, technology, modern languages, social subjects and the arts (see S3 Personalisation Choice Sheet). e.g. In Social Subjects you will be able to select Geography, History or RMPS. This will also provide an opportunity to study the subject in greater depth. You will be able to choose 4 further subjects, 11 subjects in total.

In addition to the 'traditional' subjects you will be able to choose subjects that will enable you to broaden your knowledge and develop other key skills e.g. Duke of Edinburgh Award. Whilst these may not be 'subjects' as such, you will develop essential skills which most certainly will be of great value when studying SQA subjects in the senior phase. Another example such as 'Young Engineers', will provide an opportunity to compete in national engineering competitions, developing a range of skills for learning, life and work.

In S4 you will continue with English and Mathematics and will choose 4 other subjects. In most cases these will be four of the subjects you study in S3. However, there will be the option for you to choose some entirely new subjects in S4 which were either not offered in S3, or you did not select them.

Most pupils will start National 4/5 English and Mathematics part-way through S3 and continue throughout S4. Pupils studying English/Maths at National 5 will sit an exam at the end of S4. National 4 courses are assessed by internal assessment.

All other subjects will cover some learning (knowledge and skills) which matches with the content of the National 4/5 courses in S3, and this will provide a solid platform for taking 6 of these subjects (English/ Maths and four others) into S4.

Please note that Duke of Edinburgh Award involves an additional cost to the pupils (approximately £130).

Completion of the Course Choice Form

Last term, all S2 pupils completed a 'trial run' of course choice for S3. This allowed the school to do some forward planning for next year's timetable. Pupils will now be reissued with the course choice form to discuss options with PC&S teachers and parents/carers and make a final choice for subjects that will be studied in S3.

The completed course choice form should be returned to your PC&S teacher before **Friday 16th February**.

**Monifieth High School
S3 Personalisation**

Pupil Name: _____ Form Class: _____ PC&S Teacher: _____

The following six subjects are compulsory: English 4 periods, Maths 5 periods, PE 2 periods, RME 1 period, SE 1 period, Personal Support 1 period.

Choose one subject from each of the four columns in the table below.

Curricular Area	Languages 3 periods	Expressive Arts 2 periods	Sciences 2 periods	Social Subjects 2 periods	Technologies 2 periods
Subjects	2 periods French/ 1 period Spanish or 2 periods Spanish / 1 period French	Art and Design Music Design and Graphics Drama	Biology Chemistry Physics	Geography History RMPS	Business Management Computing Science Engineering Science / Practical Craft skills Home Economics
Subject Choice					

Read the following notes of guidance, before turning the page to select your additional FOUR choices.

1. Make sure that you are clear about what the course involves and what you will be doing/studying.
2. The choices must be different to the choices you have already made.
3. Choices should be entered in 'Rank order' from '1st choice' (main priority) to '4th choice' (lowest priority). A 'back up' choice should also be chosen.
4. While every effort will be made to grant a chosen course, it may become necessary to ask you to choose again if demand exceeds available spaces, or sections are non-viable.
5. All courses are subject to the availability of staff.

Choose four subjects from the lists below and also pick a 'back up' choice. Remember to number your choices in order of preference (1= first choice, 4 = fourth choice) and identify one 'back up' subject.

Subject	Choice (1,2,3,4)	Reserve
Art and Design		
Drama		
Music Technology		
PE		
Home Economics		
Biology		
Chemistry		
Physics		
Geography		
History		
RMPS		
Spanish		
French		
Business Management		
Computing		
Engineering Science/ Practical Craftskills		
Design and Graphics		

Subject	Choice (1,2,3,4)	Reserve
Administration/IT		
Bridge		
Young Engineers		
Creative Cupcakes		
Fashion		
Health and Fitness		
Dance		
Duke of Edinburgh Award		
Travel and Tourism		
Classics		
Creative Writing/ Book Club/ Debating		
German		

Pupil Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Carer Signature: _____

Date: _____

Senior Phase Curriculum (S4-S6)

The Senior Phase at Monifieth High School is a 3 year curriculum for S4-6 which provides a range of learning opportunities designed to meet different the needs of all our senior pupils. Opportunities within the Senior Phase for Monifieth High School include:

- Achieving SQA National Qualifications
- Achieving qualifications through other Award bearing institutions including vocational qualifications
- Achieving accreditation for personal achievement
- Vocational/work based experience
- Developing personal leadership skills e.g. Prefect teams, Sports Leaders

Senior Phase Qualifications



The diagram above shows how the likely stages when qualifications will be taken. However, it is important to see the Senior Phase as a 3 year stage and qualifications can be achieved throughout this time.

The Senior Phase curriculum has been designed to be flexible and provide a range of 'learner pathways' that aim to meet the needs and aspirations of all our senior pupils. Progression routes through every curriculum area can be accessed on the 'Learning' section of the School Web site:

<http://www.monifiethhighschool.com/#!admissions/c1y1q>

Course Structure and Assessment

National Qualifications (N1-N7) require 160 hours of study.

National Qualifications are divided into course units and outcomes.

At National Level 1-4 schools will carry out all the assessment required including the 'Value Added Unit'. National Level 5-7 course assessment is through an external examination and externally assessed course work such as a port-folio or assignment. There are a small number of National 5 courses for which there is no external examination.

Much more detailed information on all aspects of National 4 and National 5 courses can be found at the following:

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45625.html>

<http://www.npfs.org.uk/nationals-in-a-nutshell/>

Example Learner Journeys

Most learners will study six National 5 and/or National 4 qualifications in S4, some pupils studying a combination of N4, N5 and Vocational qualifications, and, a few working at National 1-3. A route through this senior phase is illustrated for three 'typical learners'. These offer a learner's perspective of the senior phase in the new curriculum and the range and level of qualifications gained.

Jane

Jane has enjoyed considerable success in her S1-3 broad general education. She is keen to go on to study at university on leaving school at the end of S6. She thinks she may want to study English or Social Subjects. She is also interested in Music and Art.

Jane's choices and progression

S4	S5	S6
English (National 5) Maths (National 5) Art (National 5) Music (National 5) History (National 5) French (National 5)	English (Higher) Music (Higher) Art (Higher) History (Higher) French (Higher)	English (Adv Higher) Product Design (Higher) History (Adv Higher) French (Adv Higher)

John

John is a motivated pupil who enjoys school. He has progressed well through his S1-3 broad general education. He likes Maths and Science but finds English and Languages more challenging. He knows English is particularly important. He is not sure whether he wants to move on to further study at college or perhaps university on leaving school – probably at the end of S6.

John's choices and progression

S4	S5	S6
English (National 4) Maths (National 5) Physics (National 5) Computing (National 5) Chemistry (National 4) Geography (National 4)	English (National 5) Maths(Higher) Physics (Higher) Chemistry (National 5) Geography (National 5)	PE (National 4) Maths (Adv Higher) Biology (National 5) Geography (Higher) Chemistry (Higher)

Karen

Karen is a confident and hard working girl who has made steady progress through her S1-3 broad general education. She enjoys practical subjects and has developed a range of skills particularly in PE and Technical. She had considered leaving at the end of S4 but decided to return to school and apply for an engineering apprenticeship, possibly in the Oil and Gas industry, at the end of S5.

Karen's choices and progression

S4	S5
English (National 4) Maths (National 4) Hospitality (National 4) PE (National 4) Design & Manufacture (National 4) Geography (National 4)	English (National 5) Maths (National 5) Practical Engineering Skills (National 5) PE (National 5) Hospitality (National 5)

There will be increasing opportunities for pupils to combine 'school based' subjects with vocational experience/qualifications in school, at local colleges and in the work place. For example, a pupil may choose to do a Foundation Apprenticeship in S5 which involves studying at college and in the work place for part of the week, and studying for other qualifications in school for the rest of the week.