



Lenzie Academy
Moving Forward – The Senior Phase
2024-2025

S4 information booklet

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February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Our S3 pupils are about to embark on the next step of their educational journey - the Senior Phase in Lenzie Academy.

Throughout the Broad General Education (S1-S3) there have been opportunities for personalisation in choice of subjects leading to increased specialisation in curricular areas. This takes on increased significance as pupils enter the Senior Phase and National qualifications.

Within Lenzie Academy, our framework for Senior Phase involves pupils in reducing from nine subjects in S3 to six in S4. This allows additional time for study (five periods a week) in the subjects pupils have chosen. This increased subject time in S4 helps ensure our pupils are well equipped to achieve strongly at National level in S4 and begin the preparatory work for Higher qualifications in S5.

Ensuring that all pupils select the most appropriate courses is key to achieving potential and we provide a number of supports to assist choice at this time.

1. **February PSE lessons** – Focus on Personalisation and Choice
2. **Thursday 1st of February** - Issue of S3 Reports
3. **Week beginning the 5th of February** – S3 Assembly explaining the process
4. **Monday 5^h of February** – Moving Forward Booklet on website
5. **Tuesday 20th of February** – Curricular Information Presentation in the evening in school.
6. Guidance Interviews **commence 15th of February**
7. **Friday 1st of March** return of completed GLOW FORM personalisation and choice applications

We hope you find the information available in this booklet and on our website useful. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Mrs J Hutton

Depute Head Teacher (S3)

Curriculum for Excellence to Senior Phase

1. Courses

At the beginning of S3, pupils reduced their curriculum to nine subjects and, in S4, this will reduce further to enable pupils to undertake coursework in more depth. Pupils will **study six subjects** and will be allocated five periods in each of their subjects in S4 and S5. In addition, the core subjects of PE, PSE and RMPS will continue to be studied. Pupils can opt to complete Higher courses over two years (over S4 and S5) or complete one year National 5 or National 4 courses in S4 with a view to selecting further National courses in S5. Pupils can choose to undertake a mix of two year Higher courses and one year National courses. Regardless of course selection, all S4 pupils will be presented for the appropriate qualification (National 5 or National 4) at the end of S4. This includes pupils who are working toward a two year Higher course at the end of S5; these pupils will be presented for National 5 exams at the end of S4.

2. Assessment









All courses will be assessed and marked throughout the session by teachers and may include a combination of practical work, case studies, subject tests and examinations.

How will qualifications be graded?

- National 4 is internally assessed with SQA verification. These will be Pass or Fail.
- National 5 and Higher pupils will also sit an external examination. Some courses incorporate a folio or project. These courses are graded A to D.

3. What can a pupil do after S4?

There are natural progression routes for pupils in S5 and S6. The diagram below sets out typical progression routes.

PROGRESSION ROUTES Learner Journeys							S4 Personalisation and Choice Form
S3 CfE level Achieved	Expected Progression	S4		S5		S6	Select
Level 3 or Level 4 Achieved	Nat 5- Higher	National 5/ begin Higher		Higher for most		Advanced Higher	ROW 1 Higher
Level 3 Achieved and coping well with Level 4	Nat 5- Recourse	National 5		Higher for some. New National 5 subject for some		Higher * New National 5 subject for some	ROW 2 National 5
Level 3 Achieved and struggling with Level 4	Nat 4 – Nat 5	National 4		National 5 for some		Higher * New National 5 subject for some	ROW 3 National 4
Level 2 Achieved	Nat 3 – Nat 4	National 3		National 4		National 5 or New subject	ROW 3 National 4

(* in S6 there will be the opportunity to study Higher courses in 1 year as most Higher subjects will have a 6th period allocated)

In addition, the EDC Senior Phase Partnership Programme is available to pupils in S5 and S6. This offers opportunities provided by partner Further Education colleges.

Choosing Subjects – A Guide for Parents

In principle there is no compulsion to choose any specific curricular areas, however East Dunbartonshire Council does expect that **all pupils will study English and Maths until at least the end of S4**. This then dictates that these subjects must be included in the choices made.

- Pupils **must choose a subject in each column** of the course application form (copy on page 10).
- Use the Expected Progression in your February Report to guide you to which level you should study.
- Pupils are **strongly** advised to choose the subjects that will provide the best opportunity of attaining the highest qualifications possible.
- If choosing a subject at **Higher** Grade only, one choice is needed in **row one** of the appropriate column.
- If studying at **National 5 in S4** and **re-coursing in S5**, then pupils should indicate their choice in **row two**.
- If studying at National 3 or 4 level, then pupils should indicate their choice in **row three**.
- Some pupils may also be offered the option of **Learning across the Curriculum/ Prices Trust XL** as one of their six choices. This is **not** an open choice and the appropriate pupils will be contacted by the Support for Pupils department.
- If there is a clash of subjects or a specific combination of choices is not possible, this should be noted at the bottom of the glow form. This will be reviewed as the timetable is constructed. While we may be able to resolve some issues, unfortunately there can be no guarantees. We will make every effort to ensure pupils are coursed as they choose but this will depend on staffing, timetable configuration, time constraints and pupil choice patterns. Consequently, if indicating an issue with choice, pupils should select another subject in the column where the issue is identified in case the problem cannot be rectified.
- Choices should be made **from the nine subjects** being studied in S3 to facilitate clear progression. Pupils will **not** at this time be allowed to choose new subjects.
- New subjects may be possible in S5/6.
- On the following pages, guidance is given to pupils on how to choose subjects. This will be supported by interviews with Guidance staff, PSE lessons and presentations at Assembly.



Choosing Subjects – A Guide for Pupils

You have reached an important stage in your secondary education as you approach the Senior Phase. You will now be given an opportunity to exercise even greater personalisation and choice by reducing your current nine subjects. This will allow you to focus and specialise more in the subjects of your choosing.

You **must** choose from the subjects you have already been studying and you must choose **English and Maths** in one of the available columns. This is because East Dunbartonshire Council requires that every pupil study English and Maths until the end of S4.

The Final Decision

Before making any final choices you should look carefully at the course descriptions on the school website for S4-6 pupils. The course descriptions may be updated in light of any new SQA information received. Course Descriptions can be located on the website by selecting the tabs below:

- Learning
- Subject options
- S4-6 Course Descriptions (please scroll down)

Please also note that there is no guarantee all courses will run. This will depend of staffing and timetabling efficiency.

How do I decide?

When choosing your subjects consider the following:

1. **Do I need it for a possible future career?**
2. **Is it an area of strength for me and offer me the best chance of success?**
3. **Am I interested in it and will I enjoy the subject and be motivated to study effectively?**

Support with Course Choice

As a wide range of subject options are available, it might be difficult for pupils and parents/carers to decide which to choose. The school supports pupils by providing information via:

- The “Moving Forward” booklet
- Assemblies/PSE inserts
- Reporting and links with Guidance staff
- Individual interviews with Guidance staff
- Lenzie Academy website

Length of Course

Pupils recommended for National 4 or National 5 will complete the course at the end of S4. Those pupils recommended for Higher Grade will finish work for National 5 probably around January/February of S4. After this point, subjects will embark on Higher Grade work as well as ongoing revisiting and revision of National 5 work for consolidation purposes. The nature of the work undertaken will vary from subject to subject and more details will be available from the relevant principal teachers. Pupils studying the Higher Grade across S4/5 will sit the National 5 examination in S4 and, if they are successful, will be presented for the Higher Grade examination at the end of S5.

Pupils must complete all courses to the end of S4. At this time, we will review progress and where necessary choices can be reconsidered. Please note, that where reselection is taking place, all pupils will study six subjects. Moreover, pupils will not be permitted to opt into a new higher course at the start of S5 as they will have missed some of the required work in S4. More advice regarding this will be available at the necessary time.

School Courses Offered to S4 2024-2025

Administration	English	Modern Studies
Applications of Maths	Fashion and Textile	Music
Art	French	Music Technology
Biology	Geography	Physical Education
Business Management	Graphic Communication	Physics
Chemistry	Health and Food Technology	Practical Cookery*
Computing	History	Practical Woodwork*
Dance	Human Biology	Princes Trust XL*
Engineering Science	Maths	Spanish

(*Does not continue to Higher)

Remember

1. You must choose **6 subjects**.
2. You must choose a subject in **all columns** (even if a problem is highlighted in the box).
3. If choosing Higher, circle one subject in row one.
4. If choosing National 5 choose in row two.
5. If choosing National 3 or 4, choose in row three.
6. Raise any concerns with your Guidance teacher during interview.
7. Parents are welcome to attend the guidance interview. Specific times will be allocated to all pupils.
8. Further enquiries can be directed to Mrs Hutton (DHT S3) or Ms Sinclair (DHT S4).
9. A copy of the Course Choice form is on the next page. Please note that course choice selections must be submitted by **GLOW FORM**. A link to this form will be emailed to you. The final date for submission of the completed Glow form is **Friday the 1st of March**.

S4 Course Personalisation and Choice Form 2024/2025 **Name:** _____ **Guid Group:** _____

- You must choose one option from all 6 columns (A-F). Circle your choice.
- In each column (A-F) pupils choose either a subject in row 1 (the 2 year option to Higher) **OR** row 2 (1 year N5 in S4) **OR** row 3 (1 year N4 in S4). Choices can include different levels but you can only have one choice in each column. (For example: 4 Highers from Col A-D and 2 N5's from Col E & F.)
- If there is a problem noted in the problem box, indicate a 2nd choice in the column in case the problem cannot be resolved. Mark it (2nd) and explain below.
When indicating a choice, please note classes will only run where staffing and numbers are viable.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1 Higher (2 year course: National 5 S4, Higher S5)	Art & Design Biology English Geography History Music Technology Physics	Business Management Chemistry Geography Engineering Science Mathematics Modern Studies	Biology English French Human Biology Music Physical Education	Business Management Dance Fashion and Textile Technology French Graphic Communication Mathematics	Art & Design Biology Chemistry Computing Health and Food Technology History Human Biology	Administration Engineering Science Modern Studies Physical Education Physics Spanish
2 National 5 (1 year S4: Recourse S5)	Art & Design Biology English Geography History Music Technology Practical Cookery Physics Princes Trust XL	Applications of Maths Business Management Chemistry Geography Engineering Science Mathematics Modern Studies	Biology English French Music Physical Education Princes Trust XL	Business Management Dance Fashion and Textile Technology French Graphic Communication Mathematics Practical Cookery	Art & Design Biology Chemistry Computing Health and Food Technology History Practical Woodwork	Administration Engineering Science Modern Studies Physical Education Physics Practical Woodwork Spanish
3 National 4 (1 year S4: National 5 S5 or Recourse S5)	Art & Design English Geography History Music Technology Practical Cookery Princes Trust XL	Business Management Geography Mathematics Modern Studies	Biology English French Music Physical Education Princes Trust XL	Business Management Dance Fashion and Textile Technology French Graphic Communication Practical Cookery	Art & Design Chemistry Computing Health and Food Technology History Practical Woodwork	Administration Engineering Science Modern Studies Physical Education Physics Practical Woodwork Spanish
Unable to choose a subject you want to take? Please write subject in the next box and detail the clash preventing choice.						

<p>PT Guidance Signature: _____</p> <p>Comment: _____</p>	<p>Parent Signature: _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p>	<p>Pupil Signature: _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p>
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Return date: 1st of March 2024