



Lenzie Academy

Moving Forward – The Senior Phase

2021-2022

S4 information booklet

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March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Your child will soon be embarking on their path into the Senior Phase in Lenzie Academy. This constitutes the next step along their educational journey leading to a positive destination for them post-school. Throughout the Broad General Education (S1-S3) there have been progressive opportunities for personalisation in choice of subjects, more specialisation in certain curricular areas and additional experience of subjects that are not core. This has been a challenging year for everyone and we have changed the process to support personalisation and choice, moving from face to face to virtual meetings. Pupils will still be guided and supported to choose appropriate subjects from those they have been studying in S3 to pursue National Qualification that are appropriate to their strengths, abilities and future aspirations.

Lenzie Academy, through discussions with pupils, staff, parents and officers within East Dunbartonshire has developed a framework that will afford additional time to S4 pupils in the subjects in which they will sit National Qualifications. For those of our pupils working towards Higher Grade qualifications in S5, this will facilitate additional time to study at this level providing a more support and less stress in the study for qualifications. For those pupils not progressing towards Higher Grade exams, there will more time to ensure stronger National 5 qualifications with the opportunity for lateral progression to a broader suite of qualifications in S5. Those pupils sitting Higher Grades in S5 will still sit National 5 qualifications at the end of S4.

There is an understanding that choices of this nature need significant support and there are a number of events that support this process.

1. **Monday 15th March** – Moving Forward Booklet on website
2. **Monday 15th March** – Curricular Information Video on website
3. **Monday 15th March** – S3 year group assembly
4. **Weeks of 8st and 15th March** – PSE focus on Personalisation and Choice
5. Telephone Parent Meeting with selected staff –
Friday 19th March, selected times 8.45 am - 3.30 pm
6. Guidance Interviews via Teams **22nd – 30th March** – parents are welcome to join the meeting
7. **Wednesday 31st March** return of completed GLOW FORM personalisation and choice applications

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Mrs M Elliott
Depute Head Teacher (S3)

Curriculum for Excellence and National Qualifications

1. Courses

In S3 pupils reduced their curriculum to nine subjects and from these will reduce yet further to enable them to study in more depth towards the appropriate National Qualification. They will **study six academic subjects** and a **wider achievement qualification** and will be allocated five periods in each of their academic subjects in S4 and S5. In addition, the core subjects of PE, PSE and RME will continue to be studied. Pupils determined to be working at National 4 and 5 levels will be presented for the appropriate exam at the end of S4. Pupils working towards a Higher Grade qualification at the end of S5 will begin the work for their Higher Grades during S4 but will still stop off and 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 in determination of the grade. 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	S3 February Report	S4		S5		S6	Select
Level 3 or Level 4 Achieved	National Progress 1	National 5/ begin Higher		Higher for most		Advanced Higher	ROW 1 Higher
Level 3 Achieved	National Progress 2	National 5		Higher for some New National 5 subject for some		Higher * New National 5 subject for some	ROW 2 National 5
Level 2 Achieved	National Progress 3	National 4		National 5 for some		Higher * New National 5 subject for some	ROW 3 National 4

(* in S6 there will be the opportunity to study Higher courses in 1 year as now with 6 periods allocated to each subject)

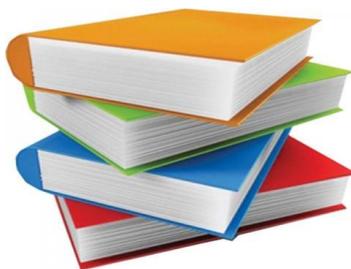
In addition, the EDC vocational programme is available to pupils in S5 and S6. This offers opportunities provided by partner Further Education colleges.

Choosing Subjects – A Guide for Parents

Now that pupils are entering the Senior Phase, there is a greater degree of freedom of choice afforded to them. 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 (illustrated on page 9).
- Use the National Progress in your Monitoring and Tracking 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 then only one choice is needed in **row one** of the appropriate column.
- If studying at **National 5 in S4** and **recoursing 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** as one of their six academic 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 in the box on the bottom left of the form. This will be reviewed as the timetable is constructed and may be able to be accommodated, though there can be no guarantees in this regard. Pupils should **still indicate another subject in the column** where they have an issue in case the problem cannot be rectified. We will endeavour to make every effort to ensure pupils are coursed as they choose but staffing, timetable configuration, time restraints and pupil choice patterns can deem some choices not being possible to deliver.
- 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 via Teams, PSE and 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 academic 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 columns have been populated taking into consideration the subjects already being studied, results from a previous technical exercise and the staffing that we have available within the school.

The Final Decision

Before making any final choices you should look carefully at the course descriptions on the school website for S4-6 pupils, please note these may be updated following the pandemic. The information can be located on the website following the steps below:

- Learning
- Subject options
- S4-6 Course Descriptions

The course descriptions will be updated in light of any new SQA information received. Please note there is no guarantee all courses will run.

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 will offer me the best chance of success?**
- 3. I am 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
- Parent meeting with selected staff
- 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. The 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 a review can be made and further selection made if necessary. However, if this occurs then a pupil will be required to reselect another subject to maintain a full timetable of six subjects to study. Pupils will not be permitted to opt into a new higher course at the start of S5. More advice regarding this will be available at the necessary time.

School Courses Offered to S4 2021-2022

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

(*Does not continue to Higher)

Remember

1. You must choose **6 subjects**.
2. All pupils will also work towards a **SQA Wellbeing Award**.
3. You must choose a subject in **all columns** (even if a problem is highlighted in the box).
4. If choosing Higher, circle one subject in row one.
5. If choosing National 5 choose in row two.
6. If choosing National 3 or 4, choose in row three.
7. Raise any concerns with your Guidance teacher during interview.
8. Parents are welcome to attend the guidance interview. Specific times will be allocated to all pupils.
9. Further enquiries can be directed to Mrs Elliott (DHT S3).
10. All course GLOW FORMS must be submitted by **Wednesday 31 March**.

S4 Course Personalisation and Choice Form 2021/2022 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 English Geography History Physics	Chemistry Geography Graphic Communication Mathematics Modern Studies Music Technology	Biology English French Human Biology Modern Studies Music Physical Education	Business Management Dance French Graphic Communication Mathematics	Art & Design Biology Business Management Chemistry Computing Drama Geography History	Administration Engineering Science Fashion and Textile Technology History Modern Studies Physical Education Physics Spanish
2 National 5 (1 year S4: Recourse S5)	Art & Design English Geography History Practical Cookery Physics	Chemistry Geography Graphic Communication Mathematics Modern Studies Music Technology	Biology English French Modern Studies Music Physical Education Princes Trust XL	Business Management Dance French Graphic Communication Practical Cookery Mathematics	Art & Design Biology Business Management Chemistry Computing Drama Geography History Practical Woodwork	Administration Engineering Science Fashion and Textile Technology History Modern Studies Physical Education Physics Spanish
3 National 4 (1 year S4: National 5 S5 or Recourse S5)	Art & Design English Geography History Practical Cookery	Geography Graphic Communication Mathematics Modern Studies Music Technology	Biology English French Music Physical Education Princes Trust XL	Business Management French Graphic Communication Practical Cookery Mathematics	Art & Design Business Management Chemistry Computing Drama History Practical Woodwork	Administration Engineering Science Fashion and Textile Technology Modern Studies Physical Education Physics Spanish
Unable to choose a subject you want to take? Please write subject in the next box and detail the clash preventing choice.						
PT Guidance Signature: _____ Comment:				Parent Teams Interview _____ Date: _____		Pupil Teams Interview _____ Date: _____