

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have now concluded our consultation process regarding the S3/4 curriculum structure. This involved:

- Discussion at Parent Council meetings
- Assemblies with S1 and S2 year groups
- Online survey for parents/carers
- Parent/carers information evening
- Discussions with pupils in Personal and Social Education lessons
- Online survey with pupils

The consultation received significant support from both parents/carers and pupils. We will therefore proceed with the proposed revised curriculum structure in S3/4.

This means that from session 2026/27, new S3 pupils will be on a two-year pathway, towards National Qualifications, as detailed below:

- all S3 pupils continue with their core lessons in Physical Education and Personal and Social Education.
- all S3 pupils continue to study Mathematics and English in S3. Modern Languages will no longer be a mandatory subject for all pupils. Young people can select Modern Languages as an option in S3/4.
- S3 pupils will also make 5 other subject choices. These choices will be made during the young person's time in S2. Therefore, young people study 7 courses in total in S3, in addition to their core periods described above.
- when S3 pupils move from S3 into S4, they continue to study those same 7 courses, taking these through to examinations and assessments at the end of S4. Young people would not change course between S3 and S4.
- RME will be delivered via a planned calendar of activities, lessons and experiences across S3 and S4.

The first year group to experience this new curriculum structure will be the current S2. Pupils currently in S3-6 are not affected by this change.

A very small number of parents/carers and pupils noted during the consultation process their concern over how the initially proposed curriculum change would reduce the number of periods studied by S3 pupils in English and Mathematics each week from 5 periods to 4 periods. Although this was raised only in a small number of responses, we will be taking heed of this feedback. In the new structure, across S3 and S4, young people will still have the same amount of lesson time in English and Mathematics that pupils currently have.

At present, S3 pupils have 5 periods each of English and Mathematics in S3, and 4 periods of each in S4.

In the new structure, the period allocation is noted below:

Year	Mandatory	Choice	Core
S3	English (4 periods) Mathematics (5 periods)	5 selected subjects (4 periods each)	PE (2 periods) PSE (1 period)
S4	English (5 periods) Mathematics (4 periods)	Continuation of the 5 selected subjects above (4 periods of each)	PE (2 periods) PSE (1 period)

As ever, we will ensure young people in S2 are well supported in making their course choices. More information about the course choice process and the supports available for young people and families will be forthcoming.

We would thank parents/carers and young people for their input into this process, and look forward to seeing our pupils continue to progress well in their studies as we move forward.

Yours faithfully,

Iain Livingstone