

Newbattle Community High School

Which Course? 2017

A Guide to Courses in S3



> RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS

> EFFECTIVE CONTRIBUTORS

SUCCESSFUL LEARNERS

CONFIDENT INDIVIDUALS



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Choosing Courses for S3

Pupils in S2 have some very important decisions to make this term. Assisted by their parents/carers and teachers, they will have to choose the courses that they will take in S3.

In S1 and S2 they have been learning in the full range of subjects across all the eight curriculum areas: Languages, Mathematics, Health and Well Being, Social Studies, Sciences, Expressive Arts, Technologies, and Religious and Moral Education.

In S3 they will still be learning in all eight Curriculum Areas but will be able to choose two subjects to take further in each of Social Studies, Sciences, Expressive Arts and Technologies.

The courses which pupils choose will form the framework for the rest of their time in High School. There will be the opportunity in a year's time to choose qualifications courses for S4. Success in those courses will depend on the foundations which are laid in S3.

This booklet contains information that will help pupils and parents to make informed decisions. Guidance staff will also be supporting pupils through this process in school.

On the evening of **Thursday 23rd February** there will be a Careers event for parents and pupils from S2 to S5.

Experiences and Outcomes & National Qualifications

Curriculum for Excellence has changed Scottish education. From Nursery to the end of S3 pupils' learning is planned using Experiences and Outcomes. These are organised in eight Curriculum Areas: Languages, Mathematics, Health and Well Being, Social Studies, Sciences, Expressive Arts, Technologies, and Religious and Moral Education.

Curriculum for Excellence has also changed qualifications. Standard Grade and Intermediates 1 and 2 have been replaced by National 4 and National 5 as shown in the table below.

PREVIOUS QUALIFICATIONS	NEW QUALIFICATIONS
Foundation and Access 3	National 3
General and Intermediate 1	National 4
Credit and Intermediate 2	National 5
Higher	Higher (revised)
Advanced Higher	Advanced Higher (revised).

Because Curriculum for Excellence is a coherent curriculum from age 3 to 18 years, pupils in S3 will be learning in courses which are planned using Experiences and Outcomes, but will also prepare them for qualifications in and after S4.

Fourth level Experiences and Outcomes are broadly equivalent to courses at National 4.

Pupils who are secure at Third Level by the end of S3 should be ready to start National 4 courses in S4.

Pupils who are secure at Fourth Level by the end of S3 should be ready to start National 5 courses in S4.

The School Week in S3

There are 29 periods in the school week which are divided as shown below.

1. All pupils will study:

English	3 periods
Mathematics	4 periods
Modern Languages	2 periods
Personal and Social Education	1 period
Physical Education	2 periods
Religious and Moral Education	1 period

2. Pupils have to choose two subjects from each of the other four Curriculum Areas:

Social Studies
Sciences
Expressive Arts
Technologies

They will get two periods per week of each subject.

The choices available are shown on the Course Planner Sheet overleaf.

Course Information

English Curriculum Area – Languages

English teaches learners how to get the most out of reading, writing, listening and talking. Through their studies they will become familiar with the richness of literature as well as gaining vital skills. Learners will develop their abilities to communicate their thoughts and feelings and to respond to those of others. A wide range of texts – literature, non-fiction and media will be studied to develop language awareness. There will also be a focus on Scottish literature and language.

Pupils will be working on Experiences and Outcomes at Second, Third and Fourth Level. The course prepares pupils for qualifications in English and Literacy at National 3, National 4 or National 5 level in S4.

Mathematics Curriculum Area – Mathematics

The course will continue to develop pupils' understanding of number, algebra, shape, measurement and statistics. We will explore how the ideas and concepts already learned are used in the world around us. Pupils will continue to use their understanding and knowledge to solve problems.

Pupils will be working on Experiences and Outcomes at Third and Fourth Level. The course prepares pupils for qualifications in Lifeskills Mathematics or Mathematics at National 3, National 4 or National 5 in S4.

Modern Languages

French or German or Spanish Curriculum Area - Languages

In Newbattle, we feel strongly that knowledge of other languages is an important part of being an educated citizen of the 21st century, particularly as we live in a multilingual world. We must take account of other languages and cultures. We also know that knowing a language is a valuable subject in its own right, which can also help in the study of English.

Pupils have a choice of either doing French, German or Spanish at the end of S1, and continue with the same language in S3.

The courses will continue to cover all skills: Reading, Writing, Listening and Talking. As in S1 and S2, a topic-based approach is used to study employability and cultural aspects of languages. Each child will be given the opportunity to complete the Language for Life and Work SQA awards at level 3 or 4 whilst working on Experiences and Outcomes at Third and Fourth Level. The courses prepare pupils for qualifications in French, German and Spanish at National 3, National 4 or National 5 in S4.

Personal and Social Education (PSE) Curriculum Area – Health & Well Being

In Personal and Social Education pupils will explore the following topics:

Anti Social Behaviour; Healthy Living and Eating; Sexual Health and Relationships; Study Skills; Anti Bullying; Heart Start Training; and Self Esteem and Mental Health.

At the end of each topic pupils should have sufficient knowledge to allow them to have a well founded opinion and to make informed choices about their lifestyle and future. Pupils will benefit from input from a number of external agencies such as the Community Police, MYPAS and Careers Scotland.

Physical Education (PE) Curriculum Area – Health & Well Being

Being Active and feeling well physically , mentally and emotionally allows every child in our school to have a happy ,active and fulfilling life in school burning energy, learning new skills, and meeting new people from different groups. The PE department plays a vital part working together with Home Economics department to ensure a strong ethos of Health & Well Being for every pupil and our community.

In PE we have excellent facilities with a swimming pool, Games Hall, Dance studio, full size Astro Turf pitch , and grass Football and Rugby pitches. The school is situated in extensive grounds excellent for all Outdoor Learning , with views over Midlothian. The department is staffed by experienced and highly motivated staff with a wealth of knowledge in many sports to assist you in your Learning and activity.

In S3 pupils take courses in the PE department for 2 periods per week.

Pupils will be working on Experiences and Outcomes at Third and Fourth level. The course prepares pupils for qualifications in PE at National 4 or National 5 in S4.

All pupils will be active and require kit for outdoor, indoor and swimming .

RME Curriculum Area – Religious and Moral Education

In core RME we try to make sense of the modern world that we live in by exploring our beliefs and those of the people around us. We also look at the reasons people give for their behaviour. Pupils will learn to give reasons for their opinions in clear, relevant and factual ways. Topics such as Making Moral Decisions, Capital Punishment, and The Holocaust are just some of the areas of controversy that we will research and debate.

Pupils will be working on Experiences and Outcomes at Fourth Level. The course prepares pupils for qualifications in RMPS at National 4 and National 5 in S4.

Curriculum Area - Social Studies

Business Enterprise

This course is practical and develops a wide range of skills for learning, life and work. These include: essential employability skills, including working with others, numeracy, literacy and the effective use of IT within a business context.



The content of this course will cover:

- Starting up a business – advice available; creating a business plan using IT; finance options
- Different types of business organisations in the Private, Public and Third sectors
- Stakeholders within and external to an organisation
- Working practices in modern working environments
- The functional areas of business – Marketing, Finance, Operations and Human Resources
- Using IT to support business decision-making – creating spreadsheets to record sales, purchasing, budgets and present financial information in the form of graphs and charts
- External and internal factors affecting the survival, success and growth of a business

The design of the course gives pupils opportunities to develop their enterprise and employability skills by partaking in business projects, using IT to present the results of investigative tasks, and developing IT skills that aid business organisation and decision making.

The course content will relate mainly to businesses located in Scotland, but will also investigate the implications of locating and/or trading in a world-wide market, due to the multi-national nature of many large businesses today.

Pupils will be working on Experiences and Outcomes at Third and Fourth Level. The course prepares pupils for qualifications in Business at National 4 or National 5 in S4.

Geography

Geography is the study of people and places. It opens up the world to our pupils and allows them to see the impact we have on Earth. Local and global issues of topical concern are covered. Geography gives pupils the opportunity to develop a variety of skills which will help them in many ways both in school and in the wider world beyond. Describing places and explaining links aids their literacy. Handling figures and processing data helps their numeracy. Drawing maps and interpreting them develops their visual and artistic skills. Looking at places in the past also gives them a historical perspective. By also fostering in our pupils a caring attitude towards our environment hopefully Geography can develop successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.

The course is split up into three main areas. Physical Environments focuses on landscape and scenery and how people use these areas. Human Environments looks at topics such as population, development and change through comparisons between developed and developing areas of the world. Global Issues considers topics such as climate change, environmental hazards, trade, globalisation, tourism, development and health communicators. Pupils will be working on Experiences and Outcomes at Third and Fourth Level. The course prepares pupils for qualifications in Geography at National 3, National 4 or National 5 in S4.

History

History aims to get you to think: about why things happened and what and why was different. Our S3 course gives you a way in to some of the big questions we ask at National 4 and 5: Why do girls get to go to school? What happened to the 'jobs for life' in the mines? Were we right to use the nuclear bomb on Japan? Why do wars start? Was World War I that bad? Do we owe Africans compensation for slavery? Is it ever ok to attack a policeman? Should only rich people vote? Should Scotland be independent?

We will also develop your skills such as the ability to think, to make judgements, to take decisions, and to carry out research and present information. You will also learn how to tell if someone is lying, and explain why they might want to!

Pupils will be working on Experiences and Outcomes at Third and Fourth Level. The course prepares pupils for qualifications in History at National 3, National 4 or National 5 in S4.

Curriculum Area - Sciences

Biology

Biology is the study of living things. It gives us an understanding of ourselves and the world in which we live. Biology is an increasingly important subject in the modern world and advances in new technologies have made Biology more exciting than ever. Biology affects everyone through medical science and helps us find solutions to many of the world's problems.

Some of the key areas pupils will study are: plant and animal cells, DNA and genes, reproduction and body systems.

Careers with a Biological basis include Veterinary Medicine, Sports science, Dentistry, Microbiology, Nursing, Beauty Therapy, Conservation, Teaching and many more.

Pupils will be working on Experiences and Outcomes at Third and Fourth Level.

This course prepares pupils for qualifications in Biology at National 4 or National 5 in S4.



Chemistry

Chemistry helps us understand the world around us by looking at how substances interact with each other. In everyday life, Chemistry is used to make new substances by carrying out chemical reactions.

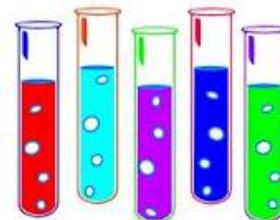
Chemists help provide us with essential products for example, plastics, fuels, metals, dyes, flavourings for foods and medicines.

The key areas pupils will study are: chemical reactions and rate, atomic structure and bonding, acids, fuels, metals and plastics.

Careers with a Chemical basis include Laboratory Work, Medicine, Hairdressing, Beauty Therapy, Oil and Gas Industry, Veterinary Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Teaching and many more.

Pupils will be working on Experiences and Outcomes at Third and Fourth Level.

This course prepares pupils for qualifications in Chemistry at National 4 or National 5 in S4.



Physics

Physics is the science that tries to explain everything happening in the universe. In Physics we study everything from the tiniest particle inside an atom to the vastness of space. Physics appeals to people who are curious about the world that we live in and beyond. Physics is a subject which has a vast range of real-world uses from industry and construction, to environmental research and medicine.



The key areas pupils will study are: energy, electricity and electronics, space, speed and acceleration, sound and the electromagnetic spectrum.

Careers in Physics include Engineering, Mechanics, Astrophysics, Construction, Electronics, Plumbing, Electrician, Astronomer, Teaching and many more.

Pupils will be working on Experiences and Outcomes at Third and Fourth Level.

This course prepares pupils for qualifications in Physics at National 4 or National 5 in S4.

Curriculum Area - Expressive Arts

Art & Design

The Art and Design course allows pupils to explore a wide range of creative techniques and skills providing them with the building blocks to become independent and thoughtful learners with the ability to explore personal themes and projects. S3 will see the pupils cover a range of expressive disciplines such as, portrait, still life and landscape, whilst learning to handle a wide range of media, drawing and painting techniques. Pupils will also thoroughly explore design, learning to develop ideas, experiment with a range of materials, and create mood boards for different themes. They will have the opportunity to problem solve a wide range of design briefs such as costume, graphics, animation and product design. In order to deepen their understanding of both design and expressive art, pupils will explore the work of artists and designers within the context of small research projects and presentations related to themes and projects undertaken in class. I.T also plays an important role in the S3 course.



This course links very well with **Graphics, Design & Manufacture** in the Technologies column.

Pupils will be working on Experiences and Outcomes at Third or Fourth Level.

The course prepares pupils for qualifications in Art & Design at National 4 and National 5 in S4.

- Art and Design (progresses to Advanced Higher)

Dance

This course is aimed at those pupils (male and female) who wish to take dance to a very high level. The course will focus on skills and techniques and will prepare dancers for a high level award working with PE staff and visiting staff. Pupils must be committed to their two periods of dance each week, and be prepared to perform their work in front of others.

Pupils will be working on Experiences and Outcomes at Third and Fourth Level. The course prepares pupils for the National Progression Award qualification in Dance in S4.

Drama

Drama is an ideal subject for pupils who want to build their confidence and who enjoy working with others. In Drama pupils get the opportunity to create their own plays, analyse others and work on various aspects of theatre design. They will have the opportunity to perform in front of other pupils and parents. Part of the course involves trips to the theatre, makeup and lighting as well as creative work and Dance-Drama.

Pupils will be working at Third and Fourth Level.

The course prepares pupils for qualifications in Drama at National 4 or National 5 in S4.



Music Performing

In Music Performing pupils will be working both independently and in groups in a variety of styles of music.

They will develop the skills gained in S1 and S2 in both of their instruments as well as working on writing their own music.

They will analyse music by learning music concepts and then identifying concepts in the music they listen to.

Pupils will be working at Third and Fourth Levels.

The course prepares pupils for qualifications in Music Performing at National 4 or National 5 in S4.



Music Technology

In Music Technology pupils work using either Mixcraft or Garageband. They learn to work mixing desks, preparing original and pre-existing pieces of music for their folio. Pupils will cover the following areas:

- Popular Music
- Mixing/DJ skills
- Production skills
- Sound Engineering – working with live recordings
- Film Scores
- Radio Programmes
- Dance Music



Please note that as part of this course there will be no requirement to play any instruments. This course is mainly practical with a study of popular music and technology concepts to complement project work.

Pupils will be working at Third and Fourth Level.

The course prepares pupils for qualifications in Music Technology at National 4 or National 5 in S4.

Curriculum Area - Technologies

Business and IT

Information Technology (IT) impacts on our lives, no matter which career path we decide to follow.

With increasing use across all types of employment and business, it is important that young people are able to enter into employment or further education with skills and knowledge of IT systems and their use.

This course provides the necessary IT skills to enable our young people to cope with existing and ever changing technology used in business today.

The content of this course will cover:

- Word Processing applications
- Spreadsheet applications
- Database applications
- PowerPoint applications
- Desktop Publishing applications
- Use of a range of media, for example, Internet, E-mail, E-diaries and Glow
- Use of specialist equipment to undertake administrative and managerial tasks
- Working practices available to employees
- The working environment, including layout/ergonomics and health and safety



This course is practical and places a strong emphasis on IT and employability skills.

Pupils will be working on Experiences and Outcomes at Third and Fourth Level. The course prepares pupils for qualifications in Administration and IT at National 4 or National 5 in S4.

Computing Science

Computer Scientists play a key role in meeting the needs of our modern society, in fields such as science, communications, entertainment, education, business and industry.

Our society needs more Computer Scientists and for all young people to have the relevant skills for use in the IT industry and an understanding of how they contribute to the Scottish economy.

The content of this exciting course will cover:

- Creating Graphics using a variety of Graphics Editors
- Making and Editing Animations
- Creating PodCasts
- Making websites using Dreamweaver
- Creating computer games, by using Scratch and other modern programming environments
- Investigating current technologies
- Recording our work onto blogs
- Investigating different types of computer security threats
- Basic computer hardware
- Databases



Knowledge and skills will be developed throughout this course using a variety of problem solving, investigative and practical tasks and activities.

Pupils will be working on Experiences and Outcomes at Third and Fourth Level. The course prepares pupils for qualifications in Computing Science at National 4 or National 5 in S4.

Home Economics

The course will build upon the pupil's prior knowledge in Nutrition, Practical Food skills, Food Safety, Scottish Dietary Targets, and Fabric Work. It will focus on giving the pupil a broad knowledge of each subject, and will include both theory and practical work.

Home Economics will be suited to pupils who are interested in healthy living, developing practical food skills and fashion. It is a subject that can therefore be of practical use throughout life. Further, it is a subject that can open many doors to employment e.g. in education, the health services, and the growing hospitality industry.

Pupils will be working on Experiences and Outcomes at Third and Fourth Level. The course prepares pupils for qualifications in Health and Food Technology, Fashion and Textile Technology, and Hospitality Practical Cookery at National 3, National 4 or National 5 in S4. As in S1&2 there will be a cost for this course.

Graphics, Design & Manufacture

Pupils who enjoy the broad C.D.T curriculum would be suited to this course. Throughout third year pupils will cover two main units. Each unit prepares pupils for their chosen qualification in S4. Both units include a Midlothian High Schools IKEA competition focus. The best work produced by pupils over the session from each of the units will be entered in to the competition. The competition takes place in the IKEA store (Straiton) in May.

This course draws work from each area of the Craft, Design & Technology curriculum including the following:-

Graphic Communication unit *Design a product display for the IKEA range*

- Preliminary graphics – 2D & 3D sketching, rendering, orthographic
- Production Graphics – 2D & 3D CAD, BSI, thumbnail sketches
- Promotional Graphics – CAD rendering, D.T.P, elements/principles



Design and Manufacture unit *Design and Manufacture a product for use in the home*

- Designing – design process, developing a solution to a given brief
- Manufacturing – using tools, machines, materials and equipment
- Materials – properties, cutting, shaping, forming, assembling and finishing



This course links very well with **Art and Design** in the Expressive Arts column.

Pupils will be working on Experiences and Outcomes at Third or Fourth Level. The course prepares pupils for qualifications in the following at National 4 and National 5 in S4.

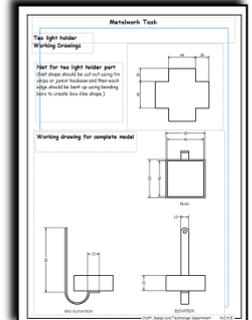
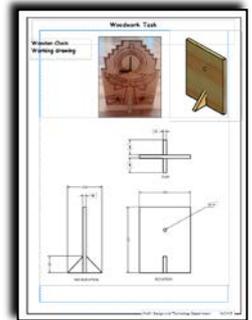
- Design and Manufacture (progresses to Advanced Higher)
- Graphic Communication (progresses to Advanced Higher)

Practical Craft Skills

Pupils who enjoy practical work and manufacturing products from wood and metal would be suited to this course. The Course provides a broad introduction to metal and wood properties, tools and machinery, finishing and interpreting sizes/information from working drawings. This course is almost entirely workshop based but does cover theory in the above areas through occasional classroom lessons. Pupils choosing this course may be considering a future in plumbing, joinery, metal fabrication, shop fitting etc.

Pupils will be working on Experiences and Outcomes at Third or Fourth Level. The course prepares pupils for qualifications in the following at National 4 and National 5 in S4.

- Design and Manufacture (progresses to Advanced Higher)
- Practical Woodworking (National 4 and 5 only)
- Practical Metalworking (National 4 and 5 only)



Useful Websites

On Curriculum for Excellence:

Education Scotland

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/parentzone/mychild/secondary/>

On the new National Qualifications:

SQA

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/59033.html>

On Newbattle:

www.newbattle.org.uk