

Stromness Academy

32 COURSE CHOICE



Subjects

ENGLISH

MATHS

MFL

SOCIAL SUBJECTS

SCIENCE

HE

TECHNICAL

MUSIC

PE

ART & DESIGN

BUSINESS AND COMPUTING



CLICK ON
A SUBJECT
TO EXPLORE

English

English is one of a small number of subjects which are considered important enough to be compulsory for all S3 and S4 pupils. At the start of S3, you will be given some choices about what to study, and a chance to work in different classes and with different teachers. After Christmas, we will sort you into National 4 or National 5 classes based on your performance in S1, S2 and the first half of S3.

Overview

- The study of English requires you to be interested in a broad range of events and experiences from a variety of eras.
- English courses in this final stage of your Broad General Education consist of Reading, Writing, Talking and Listening, and all four skills will be developed by studying different texts in different genres.
- An English qualification is a requirement for most courses and careers.



Maths

Mathematics is important in our everyday life. It equips us with the skills we need to interpret and analyse information, simplify and solve problems, assess risk and make informed decisions. It uses a universal language of numbers and symbols which allows us to communicate ideas in a concise, unambiguous and rigorous way.

Overview - Course Content

- Number, money and measure
- Shape, position and movement
- Information handling

Further information [CLICK HERE](#)



Success

- Work hard in class
- Complete homework
- **Weekly MyMaths**
- **Regular revision** for assessments
- Research work for projects
- **Steady progress** is what we are looking for **with and without a calculator**



Why Maths?

Mathematics opens the door to many opportunities in life. Jobs that use and require Maths are

- Building Industry
- Engineering
- Computing science
- Medicine and Science
- Finance and Banking
- Nursing
- Education
- Maritime
- Armed forces and Police
- And many more!

Further information [CLICK HERE](#)



French and German

Pupils continue to study both French and German throughout S3. In order to even out the time spent studying each language over the three years, pupils will have 2 periods a week of German and 1 of French. By doing this we can give pupils the best options for their Senior Phase options as they could take National courses either one or both languages

Overview

- Learning a language develops your skills in Reading, Writing, Listening and Talking.
- We have selected topics that allow you to develop your linguistic skills so that you are ready to follow National courses in either or both languages when you move into Senior Phase.
- Increasing cultural awareness is a key part of language learning so expect to be finding out more about the countries where French and German are spoken.

Further information [CLICK HERE](#)



Geography

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Geography is the **study of space, place, people and landscape**. You will learn to observe, analyse and understand **how our planet works**, what our **impact on it** is and importantly how we can **manage our activities** to ensure we can all **live sustainably** on it.

Course Overview

S3 is an introduction to and foundation for units studied in SQA courses:



1. **Geographical Skills:** Including OS maps, navigation, data processing and analysis, fieldwork skills and a geographical assignment.



2. **Human Environments:** How have settlements grown and developed? What is it like to live in them today? How do we manage and improve them?



3. **Physical Environments:** How do landscapes form? How do people use and manage land in rural areas? How are land use conflicts resolved?



4. **Global Issues:** What is Climate Change? How is it impacting people and the environment? What can we do to mitigate its effects?

The purpose of the S3 course is to **develop learners' curiosity, interest and enthusiasm for Geography**. It expands their knowledge whilst developing essential analytical and higher order thinking skills needed in many senior phase courses.

In Geography **pupils develop multiple useful and transferrable skills**; literacy, numeracy, research, debating, problem solving, data handling, processing and analysis. The S3 course is an **important** stepping stone to **success in senior phase**.

For information about where it could take you [CLICK HERE](#)



[Careers](#)

History

In History, we study the past to understand our own lives, the society we live in and the world around us. History allows us to develop insights into our local community, as well as developing an understanding for periods and events which result in significant change. This allows us to appreciate the significance of past events which have shaped the world we live in today.

Course Overview

In S3 History we study the following topics:

1. **Mary Queen of Scots, and the Reformation, 1542 - 1587**
2. **Japan – the Modernisation of a Nation**
3. **Victorian Britain and Jack the Ripper**
4. **The Impact of Scots on the Empire**
5. **Pupil Choice Unit**

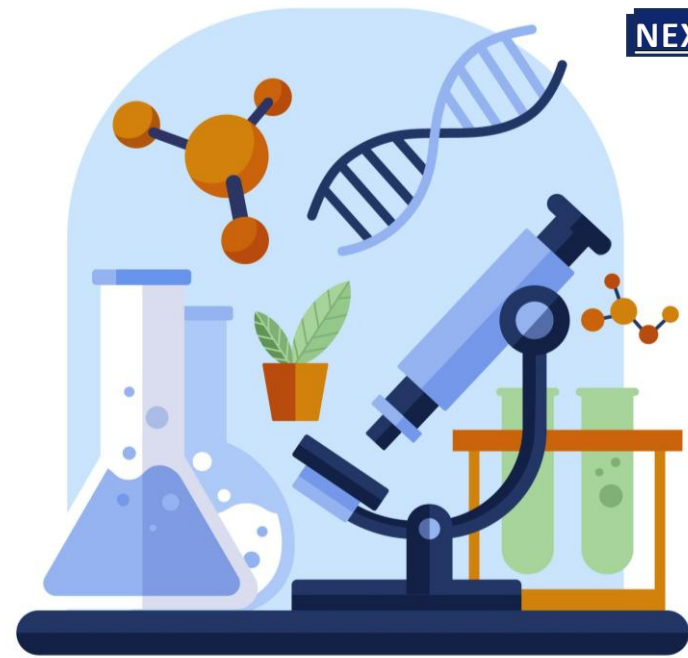
This allows pupils the chance to study a range of Historical issues, to develop an understanding of the past. Pupils will develop a number of skills throughout the S3 course, which will help them to prepare for the National courses, as well as helping to equip them throughout their learning, work and life. We also offer pupils the opportunity to choose a range of historical topics to learn about, so they can extend their personal interest in History.



Biology

Biology is the study of living things – from the smallest cells to the largest animals on Earth. We study how living things function (anatomy and cell biology), how they interact (ecology and food chains) and how they survive (reproduction and genetics). You will develop your practical, analytical, numeracy and literacy skills studying S3 biology, and will build on your subject knowledge from S1/2. This course is essential for studying Biology at National 5 and beyond.

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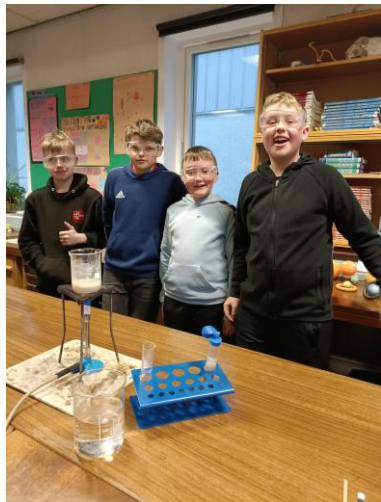


Overview

The S3 course covers the following units:

1. Cells and microbiology
2. Variation and genetics
3. Behaviour and adaptations
4. Human biology

The purpose of the S3 course is to build on students' enthusiasm and interest in biology, whilst developing their practical, analytical, group work and literacy skills. It provides the ideal stepping stone to the National 5 qualification.



Chemistry is the study of matter and its interactions. Chemistry research and development is essential for the introduction of new products and the chemical industry is a major contributor to the economy of the country. The scientific literacy, verbal and written communication, numeracy and analytical skills developed during this course are invaluable for life, learning and work.

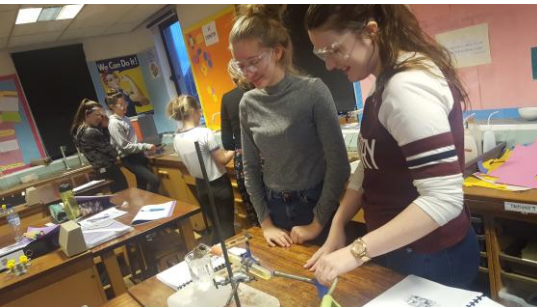
Overview

The units in the S3 course are:

1. Environmental Chemistry
2. Bonding and Structure
3. Chemical Changes
4. Metals
5. Electricity
6. Fuels

The purpose of the S3 course is to develop learners' curiosity, interest and enthusiasm for Chemistry, whilst developing the analytical and investigative skills needed in the senior phase.

The S3 course further develops the skills and knowledge base from S1 and S2 and is an **essential stepping stone to studying Chemistry at any further stage.**



Physics

The Introduction to Physics course for S3 students is designed to provide a foundational understanding of fundamental principles in the field of physics. This course aims to engage students in exploring the basic concepts that govern the natural world around them, fostering a curiosity for scientific inquiry. This will be achieved by practical experiments and consolidation using calculation methods.



Overview

The S3 Physics course comprises 3 units:

1. Electricity and Energy (circuits, resistance, energy and power, electrical safety, electronics)
2. Forces (speed, acceleration, forces, Newton's laws, electromagnets)
3. Waves (waves, electromagnetic spectrum, sound)



Assessment will be based on a combination of class participation, quizzes, practical experiments, and end of unit tests. This holistic approach aims to evaluate both theoretical knowledge and practical application of physics concepts.



Why take this course?

This course is suitable for pupils who have enjoyed the textile elements of Home economics in S1 and S2 and/or working on fabric projects in their own time. This course is focused on developing practical textile skills and finding out about the world of fashion and textiles.

Overview

This course is suitable for you if you are creative and enjoy making textile items.

Course Content

The S3 course is primarily practical however you will also carry out small research projects. You will:

- ☐ Create a range of fashion/textile items using commercial patterns
- ☐ Develop hand sewing and machine sewing skills
- ☐ Investigate: Fashion over the ages
- ☐ Find out about how fabric is made/where it comes from
- ☐ Embellish garments using surface decorations e.g. beads, sequins etc
- ☐ Look at fashion and textile trends and how they develop

Course Assessment

- Each practical project completed will be assessed and discussed.



Practical Cookery

Why take this course?

This course is suitable for pupils who have enjoyed the practical and theory aspects of Home Economics in second year and would like to progress their knowledge. The aim of this course is to offer pupils a broad range of topics from within Home Economics to equip them with skills and knowledge for courses available in the senior phase.

Overview

Course Content

- **Factors Affecting Food Choices:** Typical discussion points include vegetarianism, food allergies, food packaging & labelling.
- **REHIS Food Hygiene:** Pupils work in their own printed work booklet. Practical work is carried out weekly to support theory elements. Pupils work towards the REHIS Elementary Food Hygiene certificate. Exam taken before October break.
- **Cake Production Methods:** Pupils will look at a series of cake production methods and make a large, creamed fruit cake which will be decorated for Christmas. Additional practical work will involve a technical all in one challenge and a melting method chocolate cake.
- **Love Food - Hate Waste:** Pupils complete a project involving research and exploration of current food issues. Practical work will focus on food waste prevention providing pupils with elements of choice and creativity. The project has practical work and theory combined.
- **World Foods:** Pupils will need to write in their jotters. Practical sessions are the most challenging technically as well as being against the clock. Pupils will create dishes based on a country's history and or traditions. Video clips, class challenges, games and other active learning tasks aim to engage pupils.



This Course is a broad-based qualification for learners with an interest in design and in practical technology. It provides sufficient breadth, flexibility and choice to meet the needs of all learners..The Course is also suitable for any learner who wants to progress to higher levels of study in graphic communication and/or engineering science.

Overview

You will be able to

- develop skills in graphic communication techniques, including the use of equipment, materials and software
- understand the relationship between engineering, mathematics and science
- develop skills in designing and modelling, including the use of machines and materials
- develop skills in modelling, including the use of machines, materials and software
- apply knowledge and understanding of basic engineering facts and ideas
- apply skills in analysis, design, construction and evaluation to a range of straightforward engineering problems.
- develop an understanding of the impact of technologies on our environment and society

Pupils considering this course should be able to achieve National 3 Mathematics. You should also have curiosity about how things (such as machines) work and /or an interest in graphic techniques.

Where might this course take me?

- National 4/ 5 in Graphic Communication, Engineering Science or another Technical Subject
- Further Education, Training or employment

Practical Craft Skills

This Course is a broad-based qualification for learners with an interest in practical and workshop-based skills. It provides sufficient breadth, flexibility and choice to meet the needs of all learners. The Course is also suitable for any learner who wants to progress to higher levels of study in Practical Woodworking and Practical Metalworking.

Overview

To succeed in this course, you need...

To be able to work to a high degree of accuracy and have some pride in finishing your work to a good quality. Since this is a practical course, to maximise your potential, good attendance is **essential**.

Course content

You will be able to develop

- skills in woodworking and metalworking techniques
- skills in measuring and marking out timber and metal sections and sheet materials
- safe working practices in workshop environments
- practical creativity and problem-solving skills
- an understanding of the impact of technologies on our environment and society

Where might this course take me?

Successful completion of this course will allow you to progress to National 4/ 5 in Practical Woodworking, Practical Metalworking or another Technical Subject

Further Education, training or employment

Music

In Music pupils learn a range of instruments in various genres and styles. They will have opportunities to play in class performances and learn solo pieces on two instruments. They will also have the chance to compose their own pieces and further their skills in musical history, theory and literacy.

Overview

- Develop your skills on a range of instruments
- Compose and record your own music
- Learn more about music from Scotland and around the world



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PE Elective

If pupils take this course, they will get a further 2 periods of PE alongside their 2 core PE lessons in register groups. The S3 elective course is predominantly performance based and will be active and practical for most of the term. We will be aiming to improve your skill set, fitness and understanding in various activities. There will be at least 1 theory lesson per term to aid learning and prepare pupils for certificated courses the following year.

- **To succeed in this course**, you need to bring kit every lesson and be prepared to work hard on your performance. You do not need to be an expert performer in the activities we cover, you just need a positive attitude to learning, looking to improve in each of them.
- **Course content** - We cover 5 activities in S3 elective; Gymnastics, Badminton, Volleyball and Basketball and summer games – In each block we aim to improve performance and understanding as well as covering 1 aspect of the 'cycle of analysis' that pupils will complete in N4/5 PE.
- **Where might this take me?** This is an excellent course to prepare pupils for N4/5 PE. 3 of the activities we cover are also done in N5. You can then go on to Higher and AH in the senior phase, or perhaps Sports Leaders, where you will be more confident to deliver sessions.



Art & Design

The Art & Design Department is fortunate to have excellent facilities for a whole range of Art & Design techniques and disciplines. We are tremendously proud of the quality of the teaching and studio spaces, providing students with a highly stimulating and exciting environment in which to learn and be creative.

Overview

Why take this course? It may be that you simply just enjoy art and design, and that you would like to continue to improve your artistic skills, or that you have a career path in mind that involves being creative. The course will build on your practical and creative experiences from S1 and S2. It will mainly focus on practical and visual skills supported with regular tutorials.

To succeed in this course, you need to be engaged, and have a desire to improve your artwork.

Course Content

- Observing and recording accurately through drawing
- Developing practical expertise in handling different materials in 2D and 3D
- Generating ideas in design projects e.g, jewellery, graphics, textiles etc.
- Learning to look at and understand other artists' and designers' work
- Producing final pieces in 2 and 3 dimensions
- Reflecting on and assessing your own work and the work of others

These skills are developed through two main projects- Expressive and Design.

The course will provide you with the necessary skills to progress to either National 5 or National 4 level art and design in S4. Art can be great preparation for any career that requires creative thinking, fine motor skills, presentation skills, and an eye for aesthetics.

Further information [CLICK HERE](#)



Business plays an important role in society, as it creates wealth, prosperity, jobs, and choices for consumers. This is a course which allows students to look at the world of business from the eyes of an Entrepreneur. They will be expected to work with others, make presentations, research information and evaluate their work. This course will also provide pupils with an up-to-date and relevant insight into the business world and equip them with the skills required for life and work.



Overview

Topics covered are divided into three main areas of study.

☐ Understanding Business



☐ Marketing and Operations



☐ Finance and Human Resources (HR)



☐ Students are also taught using real life examples from Case Studies



Further information [CLICK HERE](#)

After S3 Business?

In School

- National 4/5 Business
- Higher Business Management
- National 5 Accounting
- Higher Accounting

After School

- College/University
- Event Management
- Accounts
- Teaching
- Human Resources
- Management
- Own a business



Computing science is vital to everyday life, it Computing is everywhere in the world around us — it shapes the world in which we live and its future. We use computers to access our school-work, communicate with our friends, shop, travel, play games and watch shows. We all know how to use these devices and applications, but do you know how they work and how to code them? During the S3 course students will learn about how Computer Systems work, the basics of programming and how to design and develop Databases and Websites. Computing will also improve the ability of students to problem solve – a skill all employers desire in their employees.

Course Overview



During this course you will:

- design and code programs using Small Basic and Python;
- setup and use a Raspberry Pi, learning how computers work and communicate;
- create your own website using HTML code and CSS.

Further information [CLICK HERE](#)



Where can Computing take you?

In School

- National 4/5 Computing Science
- Higher/Advanced Higher Computing
- Engineering Science

After School

- College/University
- Software Developer
- Web Designer
- Games Designer
- Computer Systems Analyst/Engineer
- Business Intelligence Designer



Admin and IT

The key role of administration is to provide support services which ensure the smooth running of a workplace or other organisation. This course emphasises the increasing role which Information Technology (IT) plays in the activities of all organisations, especially with many people working from home after Covid. Throughout the course technology is used to develop the skills of problem solving, organising and managing information in a business environment.

Course Overview

During this course you will learn to use following software applications:

- Word Processing
- Spreadsheets
- PowerPoint
- Email
- Electronic diary
- Publisher



Further information [CLICK HERE](#)

To succeed in this course, you need...

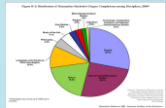
Since this is a practical course, to maximise your potential, good attendance is **essential**. Most of the coursework is carried out on computers and it can be difficult to catch up with work missed.



What next after S3 Administration & IT?

In school

- N4/5 Administration & IT
- Higher Administration & IT



After school

- College
- Office work
- Receptionist
- Personal assistant
- Administrative Assistant
- Secretary
- Any job where you use computers!!

