

SENIOR PHASE RATIONALE – INTERIM POSITION

For pupils enrolling in S1 we carefully liaise with our associated primaries with regard to their prior learning to ensure that in S1 and S2 they are ready to access the full range of opportunities in Broad General Education.

Our curriculum structure in S1 to S3 reflects these prior experiences and together with our knowledge of pupil progress and attainment during the BGE, we ensure appropriate pathways for our pupils through to the senior phase.

At present, our pupils continue to undertake course choice at the end of S2, prior to entry to S3. **This is an interim position and we will continue to review our structures in the light of our own experience allied with the experience of our colleagues in South Lanarkshire Council and Scotland.** As yet we have not identified any potential gains for our young people by delaying course choice or altering the number or level of subjects which pupils can access in S4 and beyond. Pupils in S2 in session 2015-16 will continue to undertake course choice before entry to S3.

In S3 pupils will follow Curriculum for Excellence Courses in 8 subjects. Their choice of subjects is based on their interests and aspirations and also on the need to ensure appropriate progression to the senior phase. In addition, all pupils continue with Religious Moral and Citizenship Education and Physical Education.

The courses will address:

- Any key Level 3 Experiences and Outcomes not already covered in S1/2
- Relevant Level 4 Experiences and Outcomes
- Appropriate elements of National 4 and 5 units/courses both to ensure articulation with these courses and to assess each pupil's capacity to respond to these challenges
- (Continue to develop the skills for learning, life and work integral to the course and for progression)

Although the majority of our cohort will study 8 National Qualification Courses, there will be a small number of pupils who may only study 6/7 National Qualification courses. This decision will be based on what provision is most appropriate in meeting their learning needs. Parents, carers and pupils will be fully consulted before any decision is made.

Senior Phase

In S4 pupils will progress to the new National 4 (NQ4) and National 5 (NQ5) qualifications – they will be presented for these examinations in May 2015 These courses draw on and build on the curriculum experiences and outcomes as appropriate.

National Qualification 4

To gain the overall course award at National 4 pupils must complete and pass a Value-added Unit in addition to the components units. National 4 awards are ungraded.

National Qualification 5

At National 5, pupils must sit and pass an external assessment in addition to the component units. This external assessment is graded A-D.

Pupils could follow any one of the following pathways depending on their rate of progress to the end of S2 and how well they cope with their S3 programmes –

- Complete NQ 3 Units
- Complete NQ4 Units only
- Complete NQ4 Units and the NQ4 Added Value Unit to gain the NQ4 course award
- Complete NQ4 and/or NQ5 Units and the NQ4 Added Value Unit to gain the NQ4 course award
- Complete NQ5 Units and the NQ5 external assessment to gain the NQ5 course award
- It is important to understand that pupils do not progress through National 4 to National 5 in S3/S4

We aim to develop a shared understanding of how well each pupil is coping with the demands of each programme so that detailed guidance can be offered as to which of these pathways will lead to success in S4 and then to worthwhile progression in S5.

The overall aim of our senior phase (S4-S6) is that young people, whatever their individual interests and needs have –

- A curriculum which is coherent
- The opportunity to obtain qualifications as well as to continue to develop the attributes and capabilities of the four capacities
- Opportunities to develop skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work
- A continuing focus on literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing
- Personal support to enable them to achieve as much as possible from the opportunities provided
- Support in moving to a positive and sustained destination beyond school.

We will not present candidates early for NQ4 and NQ5 awards in S3 or present for Higher in S4 or by-pass NQ5 to progress straight to Higher Grade except in exceptional circumstances. The main reasons for this are

- One of the aims of CfE is to reduce the overall burden of assessment on pupils to allow more time to be spent on learning and teaching so that ultimately higher levels of understanding and skills can be developed.
- We need to develop a detailed understanding of how pupils with different profiles in S1-S3 perform. Only then can we offer fully reliable advice on presentation levels and progression to S5.
- The universities have not yet adapted their entry requirements to reflect some of the pathways being proposed within CfE. With many pupils applying for high tariff courses, we cannot *as yet* contemplate moving to more flexible patterns where pupils gain Highers over two or three years.

CONSORTIUM: Local secondary schools work together in order to provide the widest possible range of courses which will best fulfil the educational needs of young adults. We are also linked with South Lanarkshire College, where courses not usually provided in schools are available

ADULTS/RETURNING STUDENTS

Adults in the community of East Kilbride are given every opportunity of continuing with their studies. A wide range of courses is offered and allied to these certificated courses the school offers school-based courses.

Adults/Students are invited to contact the Depute Head Teacher to discuss enrolment procedure. This usually takes place during the months of June and August of each session.

These enrolments can only occur where there are places in classes.