

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope everyone is keeping and coping as well as possible. Please see below a further update from our school :

Curriculum Consultation

As you may recall, over this session we have been consulting across our school community in relation to a proposed curricular change that would see S4 pupils from session 2021/22 study 7 National Qualifications.

To recap, our current curriculum structure can be described as follows:

- In S1 and S2, pupils study across **all the curriculum areas**.
- In S3 pupils have choice over what they learn. As well as core subjects of RE, PE and PSE, pupils study English, Maths, Modern Languages and **5 other courses**.
- In S3 pupils are strongly encouraged to keep choices **as broad as possible**, across all the curriculum areas.
- In S4 pupils study English (4 periods), Maths (4 periods) and **4 other choices** (5 periods each), drawn almost always from the subjects they studied in S3.

The structure proposes envisaged:

- The pupil experience in S1-3 remaining as it is.
- In S3 pupils being strongly encouraged to keep their choices as broad as possible, across all the curriculum areas. If it was felt more appropriate to specialise in particular curriculum areas, the pupil, their Pastoral Head and family will discuss the right pathway.
- In S4 pupils studying English (4 periods), Maths (4 periods) and **5 other choices** (4 periods each), to be drawn almost always from the subjects studied in S3.

Our rationale for change included the following considerations:

- Progress of pupils – it is clear that the vast majority of pupils are coping well with their learning in S1/2 and are ready to **specialise** more in their learning by S3.
- S4 pupils will be able to gain **more qualifications** than they currently do.
- S4 pupils will have **more choice** over what they study, meaning they can now carry on with courses that currently they have to make choices between.
- Having 7 courses to choose from as you move from S4 into S5 means **more choice for pupils as they enter into S5**.
- S5 pupils can pick the subjects they are **best at and most enjoy**.
- S6 pupils are **less likely to have to 'crash'** a subject, as they can pick up with courses studied in S4 and not taken into S5.

We would thank all for their contributions to the review of our curriculum structure. It is clear from the depth and reflective nature of the commentary offered, that the matter has been considered thoroughly and constructively.

Our decision in relation to this proposal, following its significant levels of support, while recognising the issues that require to be considered when planning, is that our new curriculum structure will be as follows:

- **The pupil experience in S1-3 remains as it is.**
- **In S3 pupils will be strongly encouraged to keep their choices as broad as possible, across all the curriculum areas. If it is felt more appropriate to specialise in particular curriculum areas, the pupil, their Pastoral Head and family will discuss the right pathway.**
- **In S4 pupils study English (4 periods), Maths (4 periods) and 5 other choices (4 periods each), to be drawn almost always from the subjects studied in S3.**
- **The curriculum structure in S5/6 will be unaffected.**

The first year group to experience 7 National Qualifications in S4 will be our new S3 (2020/21).

Preparation for this change will be a central component of our School Improvement Plan, and Faculties/teams will be amending course programmes to cater for this change.

Uniform

We have received some queries from parents/carers over school uniform provision for next session. Although we understand that families have many other priorities at present we will be liaising with local supplier Trutex, as to their business plan for the coming months and will come back to parents on this. However please be assured that when the time comes for pupils to be back in the school building, we will of course adopt a common sense approach to uniform, understanding that our young people will not have access to get this as they might normally have.

Yours sincerely,

Iain Livingstone