



Lesmahagow High School

Moving from S2 to S3

**A Curriculum Offering Breadth, Depth,
Personalisation and Choice**



S1 & S2

- Broad curriculum
- Pupils experience all subject areas

S3

- Broad curriculum introducing personalisation and choice
- Pupils will still experience all key areas of the curriculum but will be able to expand their knowledge in areas of interest for example by studying all three sciences or a range of technology subjects.

S4

- Pupils personalise their subject choices.
- English and maths are compulsory subjects for all pupils in S4
- Pupils then pick five other choices (the full range is offered but timetabling constraints mean that not all subject combinations are always available).
- These seven subjects are studied for 4 periods per week for one year.
- These subjects lead to qualifications at National 3, 4 and 5 level.

S5/6

- At the end of S4 and the end of S5 pupils will get the opportunity to select courses again.
- In S5 and S6 pupils can study a range of subjects at National 4, National 5 or at Higher Level.
- These subjects will be studied for 4-6 periods per week for one year.
- In S6 subjects will be available at Advanced Higher.

All pupils are entitled to a broad, general education in S1-S3.

Pupils maintain a breadth of curriculum by continuing to study from the following key areas of the curriculum:

- ▶ Language
- ▶ Maths
- ▶ Health and Wellbeing
- ▶ Social Studies
- ▶ Sciences
- ▶ Expressive Arts
- ▶ Technologies
- ▶ RMPS

Breadth and **depth** in core subjects (studied by all):

- ▶ **Languages**
 - 4 periods per week.
- ▶ **Maths**
 - 4 periods per week
- ▶ **Health and Wellbeing**
 - 3 periods per week
 - 2 periods of Physical Education
 - 1 period of Personal and Social Development
- ▶ **RMPS**
 - 1 period per week
- ▶ **Modern Languages**
 - Either as an elective or a masterclass option.

Your son/daughter can also personalise their curriculum creating **depth** with **personalisation** and **choice**.

- ▶ **Social Studies**
 - 3 periods
 - Pupils should select 1 from
 - Geography
 - History
 - Modern Studies

▶ **Sciences**

- 3 periods
 - Pupils should select 1 from
 - Biology
 - Chemistry
 - Physics

▶ **Expressive Arts**

- 3 periods
 - Pupils should select 1 from
 - Art and Design
 - Drama
 - Music

▶ **Technologies**

- 3 periods
 - Pupils should select 1 from
 - Administration/IT
 - Business
 - Computing and Information Science
 - Design and Manufacture
 - Graphic communication
 - Home Economics
 - Practical Woodworking Skills (PWS)

▶ **Electives**

- 3 periods (2 x 3)
- Pupils should select 2 from
 - Administration/IT
 - Art and Design
 - Chemistry
 - Computing and Information Science
 - Design and Manufacture
 - Drama
 - French
 - Geography
 - German
 - Graphic Communication
 - History
 - Home Economics
 - Physics

Masterclasses (2 periods per week, on rotation) will ensure that pupils have the opportunity to study all areas of the curriculum and to develop skills for learning, life and work, based on curricular choices.

Some subjects are new to pupils and a brief description of these are given below. Any pupil in need of further clarification about a subject should speak to their subject teacher or their Pupil Support teacher.

Sciences:

Biology

Biology is the study of living things. In the S3 biology course, you will study a wide range of human, animal and plant biology, including enzymes, cells, interdependence, biodiversity and the study of human body systems. Biology is a practical subject, and there will be experiments and investigations to develop your scientific skills.

Chemistry

Chemistry is the study of matter - what the world and its contents are made of. In the S3 chemistry course, you will study chemical reactions, acids and alkalis, climate and crop chemistry, the reactions of metals and newly discovered materials and technologies.

Chemistry is a practical subject, and there will be experiments and investigations to develop your scientific skills.

Physics

Physics is the study of our world and its place in the universe. In the S3 physics course, you will study electricity, energy, waves, forces, dynamics and space science. Physics is a practical subject, and there will be experiments and investigations to develop your scientific skills.

Social Studies:

Modern Studies

In Modern Studies, students learn about various aspects of the modern world by examining a range of political and social issues in local, Scottish, U.K and international contexts.

In S.3 Modern Studies, students will have the opportunity to learn about the USA and China.

The USA unit will consider:

- Early American History
- The American economy
- American politics-the structure of government and the role of the President
- Inequalities in American society-concentrating on education and health care

The China unit will consider

- Background on China's History
- Government in China, with specific reference to control of the media
- Social and economic problems in Chinese society
- Environmental concerns

Both units will involve interpreting and evaluating a range of sources, discussion, debate and report writing.

Technology:

Administration/IT

This course will give pupils a basic introduction to administration within organisations. Basic skills in IT and organising and processing information in familiar administration-related contexts will be developed. Pupils will learn about customer care and legislation affecting employees.

Learners will use the basic functions of:

- Word Processing
- Spreadsheets
- Databases
- PowerPoint

- Internet
- E-mail
- E-diary

Business

Pupils will discover how to create and run a business enterprise by studying the following areas:

- Business start up and business types
- Business finance – sources of funds and recording transactions
- Business marketing – advertising and promotion
- Business and its environment – decision making, dealing with problems businesses may face.

Please note: although we may use IT during this course it is not a computer based course.

Computing and Information Science

The computing course covers the following topics.

- How to choose a new computer system
- Learning about different types of security software
- Working as a team to create a Wiki
- Designing and creating programs using Visual Basic
- Creating and querying databases
- Designing , creating and evaluating websites using Serif WebPlus
- Understanding the environmental impact of new technology

Design and Manufacture

This course focuses on craft skills and design techniques. Pupils learn about traditional and modern design and manufacturing methods and get first hand experience of manufacturing in the department, as far as our facilities allow.

The course is project based. Typically a project progresses from brief, to research, design, development, manufacture and finally evaluation. Some projects have a workshop based final product, some are prototype/mock-ups and others may terminate with a design only.

The course will incorporate the skills taught in S1-2 design and manufacture, graphics and art to build up a design folio to manufacture and create two products throughout S3.

Graphic Communication

This course develops technical drawing skills and computer design. Pupils build upon the various methods of graphic communication they have encountered in S1 -2 deepening their knowledge and skills.

They also encounter several new techniques, manual and computer based. Elements covered include:

- Freehand technical sketching
- Orthographic drawing using manual and computer (CAD) methods, including architectural plans and design for manufacture
- Illustrations, such as product advertisements – using manual and computer techniques
- Familiarisation with international drawing standards
- Learning to read drawings and diagrams and making use of the information retrieved.

Pupils will be set an integrated graphic design and drawing / illustration portfolio task, to allow them to demonstrate their learning.

For further information on the technical courses please refer to www.lhstechnical.weebly.com

Practical Woodworking Skills (PWS)

This course provides the opportunities for students to gain a range of practical woodworking skills using a variety of machinery and equipment.

The students will manufacture individual models and develop skills in measuring, marking out, safe working practices, problem solving, and the understanding of sustainable issues.

What Happens Next?

Week beginning Monday 20th January

Pupils will be issued choice forms and options information booklet at assembly and in PSE, the Pupil Support teacher will talk the class through the options process

Thursday 30th January

S2 Parents' Evening – Miss Lee, Pupil Support staff and Adele Duffy (Skills Development Scotland – Careers' Advisor) will be available to answer questions about the options process

There will also be an Options Information Event at 4.15pm and 6.15pm in the school library on the Parents' Evening

Choice forms will be issued and returned in PSE classes

The final deadline for return of forms is **Friday 14th February**

*Please be aware that staffing availability and accommodation always has an impact on what we can offer our pupils. Returns should be in by Friday 14th February. Once final choices are returned we may unfortunately have subjects which are oversubscribed. Forms returned **after** the 14th February will be noted as such and these pupils will be the first required to change if their course choices are oversubscribed. Any necessary changes to pupils' choices will be discussed with pupils and parents will be informed before changes are made.*