



Making choices in S2 for S3

6 January 2026

Managing Transitions

Working Together

P Hamilton
Depute Head Teacher



S2 into S3 key dates

Curricular & Careers Evening – Tuesday 6 January 2026

Subject Information Sessions - w/c 12 January 2026

Options Interviews – w/c 19 January 2026

Option Form Deadline – Friday 30 January 2026

Respect

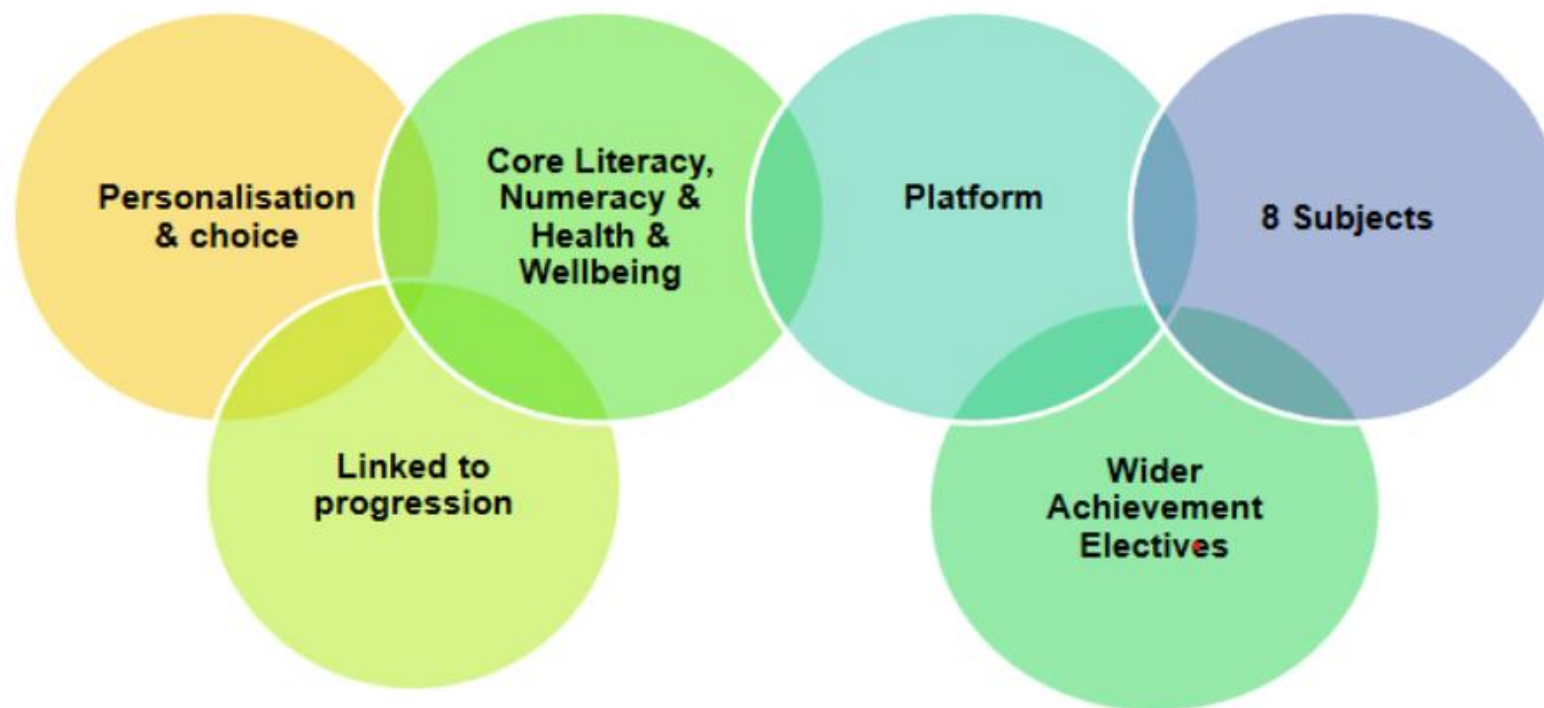
Responsible

Resilient





The S3 Curriculum



Respect

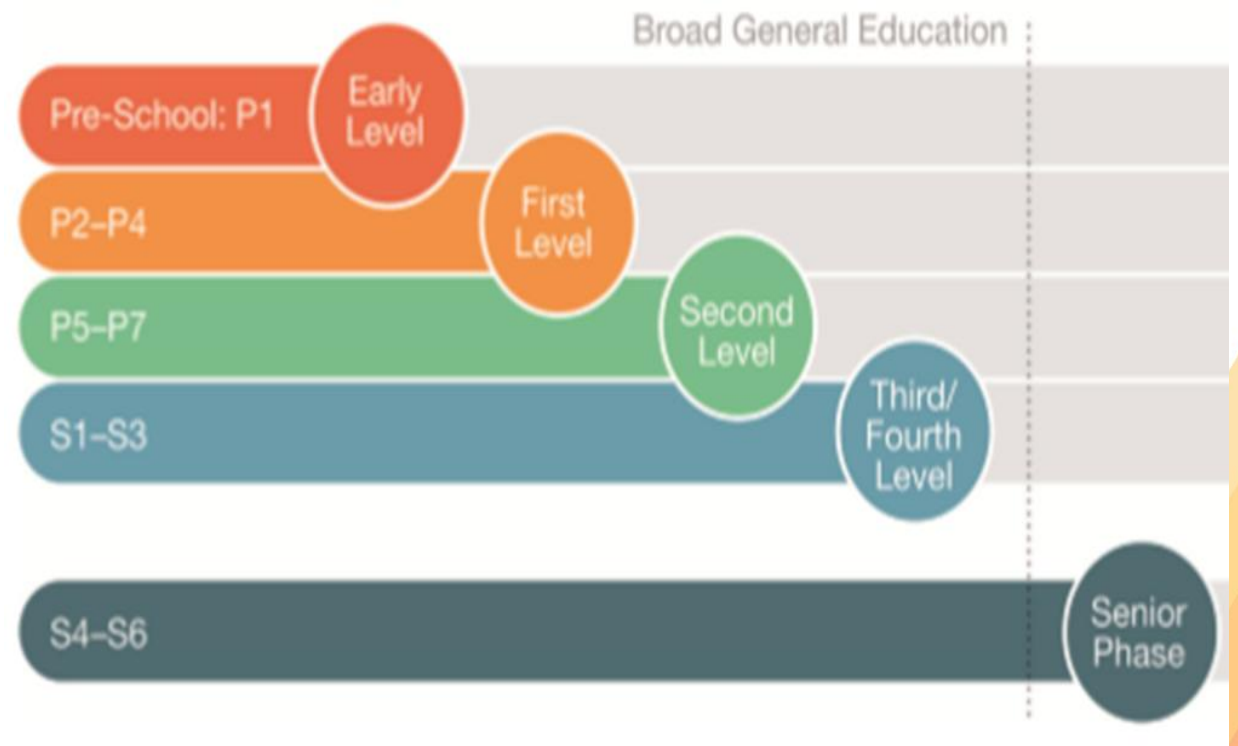
Responsible

Resilient



S3 Options

- A one year course at Level 4 preparing for National Qualifications
- Continuing a broad, general education
- Choices within curriculum areas of language, science, social subjects, technologies and expressive arts
- Choice of 3 electives over the year



S3 Subjects



- All young people will study English, Maths, Modern Languages, Science and a Social Subject
- 3 choices from other curricular areas
- PE, RME and PSE - 4 periods per week
- Electives for 2 periods





<i>Subjects</i>	<i>Periods per week</i>
English	4
Maths	4
Science option	3
Social subjects option	3
Modern Languages	3
Expressive arts/Technologies	3
Free Option	3
Free Option	3
Elective	2
Physical Education	2
RME	1
PSE	1



32 Periods per week



S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6
All subjects	All subjects	All subject areas - specialisation and choice	National 3 National 4 National 5 SCQF 4/5/6 GradU8	(National 4) National 5 Higher SCQF 5/6 GradU8 Foundation Apprenticeships	(National 4) (National 5) Higher Advanced Higher SCQF 5/6 GradU8 Foundation Apprenticeships
Broad General Education			The Senior Phase		
14 subjects + core PE/PSE/RME		8 subjects + core + electives	7 subjects + core	5 subjects + PSE/PE	4/5 subjects + PSE/Elective



S3 Options Form 2026/27



Name:	Register class:	Pupil signature:
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	English & Literacy	Mathematics & Numeracy	Modern Languages	Sciences	Social Subjects	Technologies & Expressive Arts	Additional Choices (Choose 2 subjects from the list below)	
	4 Periods	4 Periods	3 Periods	3 Periods	3 Periods	3 Periods	3 Periods	3 Periods
	English	Maths	French Spanish	Biology Chemistry Physics	History Geography Modern Studies Religious, Moral & Philosophical Studies	Accounting Administration & IT Art & Design Business Management Computing Science Drama Graphic Communication Home Economics Practical Woodwork Music Physical Education	Accounting Biology Chemistry Physics French Spanish Geography History Modern Studies Religious, Moral & Philosophical Studies	Administration & IT Art & Design Business Management Computing Science Drama Graphic Communication Home Economics Practical Woodwork Music Physical Education
Please write the name of the selected option:	English	Maths						
							Reserve option:	

Health and Wellbeing - All pupils will have two periods of Physical Education, one period of RME, one period of PSHE and two periods of Electives per week.

Signature of parent/carer _____ Signature of pupil support teacher _____ Date _____



Electives

- *Duke of Edinburgh*
- *STEM*
- *Eco school*
- *Barista*
- *Practical Electronics*
- *Hospitality*
- *Photography*
- *Strathaven Football Academy*
- *Introduction to netball coaching/umpiring*
- *Dance*
- *IDEAS Award (Business)*
- *Personal Training*



STRATHAVEN ACADEMY

MAKING CHOICES FOR S3

SCIENCE – CHEMISTRY

Course details

The S3 Chemistry course consists of three units:

Chemical Changes and Structure: chemical reactions and how we can control them, acids and alkalis, chemical formulae and the invisible forces which hold everything together.

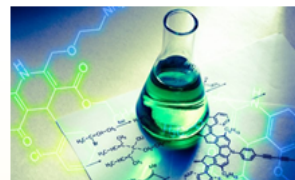
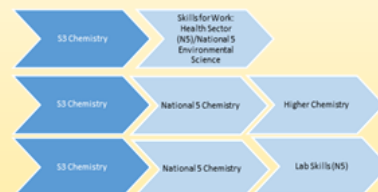
Nature's Chemistry: fossil fuels, the petroleum and plastics industries, food from plants and their chemistry, chemistry and health.

Chemistry in Society: materials derived from the Earth, metals, ceramics, novel materials, alloys, sustainability, and nuclear energy.

Development of skills

Skills are developed through a solid framework of practical activities, knowledge and problem-solving. Pupils will develop their numerical skills through calculations and their literacy skills through research and open-ended questions.

Progression



Course overview

Chemistry is about understanding everything you can see, feel, touch and breathe, and contributes to many aspects of life.

Scotland has rightfully earned a world-class reputation for innovation in Chemistry. It has contributed to anaesthetics, medicines, iron and steel industries, distilling industries, fabrics, fuels, and plastics. More recent innovations include energy capture and storage technology, computer chips, smart materials and sustainable energy developments.

Career opportunities

These courses contribute to the standard entry requirements for many courses, including medicine, dentistry, optometry, veterinary medicine, drug research and development, chemical engineering, and forensic science.

Further information can be found on
www.myworldofwork.co.uk; www.planitplus.net; www.npfs.org.uk & www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45625.html

SCIENCE – PHYSICS

Course details

The S3 Physics course consists of seven units covering a broad spectrum of Physics disciplines:

Astronomy and space exploration – learners further develop their knowledge of space, building on the topics that have been previously covered in S1.

Exploring the electromagnetic spectrum – examining the whole of the electromagnetic spectrum, this topic develops learner understanding of the importance of the spectrum to their everyday lives.

Electronic system design – using their knowledge of electronics, young people are given a design brief to develop an electronic system to fulfil a specific purpose. This unit gives an opportunity for young people to lead their own learning and develop transferrable skills.

Properties of matter – building on knowledge developed in the S2 Sciences curriculum, this unit aims to equip Physics students with an understanding of concepts including pressure, density, temperature, absolute zero, and gas laws.

Ohm's Law – through a practical approach, young people develop their knowledge and understanding of this essential law of Physics.

Sports and motion – this unit allows pupils to develop their understanding of Physics through its application in sports. Young people investigate speed, distance, time, acceleration, forces, and how these apply to projectiles.

Sound and magnetism – the final unit of the course allows young people to develop their skills as sound engineers.

Development of skills

Skills are developed through a solid framework of practical activities, knowledge and problem-solving. Pupils will develop their numerical skills through calculations and their literacy skills through research and open-ended questions.

Progression



Aims of the course

Scotland's physicists have long been at the forefront of innovative ideas that have led to major research and engineering projects. Space Physics, telecommunications (eg smartphones TV and radio), electronic devices, cutting edge technology in hospitals – these only scratch the surface of the contribution made by physicists to our world.

Through a mixture of practical work and theory, the Physics course develops transferable skills and an understanding of the important role Physics plays in the world around us.

Career opportunities

Studying Physics gives young people the opportunity to engage with a wide range of careers, including medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, optometry, energy industry, and many more.

Further information can be found on
www.myworldofwork.co.uk; www.planitplus.net; www.npfs.org.uk & www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45625.html

S2

Making Choices in S2 for S3

The Broad General Education begins in early learning and childcare (at age 3) and continues to the end of S3 (the third year of secondary school). Its purpose is to develop the knowledge, skills, attributes and capabilities of the four capacities of Curriculum for Excellence:

- Successful learners
- Confident individuals
- Responsible citizens
- Effective contributors

It is designed to provide the breadth and depth of education to develop flexible and adaptable young people with the knowledge and skills they will need to thrive now and in the future. It aims to support young people in achieving and attaining the best they possibly can.

Pupils following Broad General Education courses in S1 and S2 can refine their current subjects through options at the end of S2.

The following information is to help parents/carers to support our current S2 pupils with choosing their subjects for S3.



ACCESSIBILITY

[Website Accessibility Statement](#)

USEFUL LINKS



[Making choices S2 into S3](#)



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The help you need for the career you want





Which subjects to will I choose?

- *Ability*
- *Needed for career choice*
- *Interest*
- *Enjoyment*
- *Constraints - class viability, over subscription, unusual combinations, staffing*





Important decisions for young people

- *Listen to advice*
- *Talk to others*
- *Be realistic*
- *Make choices for the right reasons*
- *You cannot change a subject halfway through S3!*





HERE TO HELP

- *Miss Harvey- Acting Principal Teacher Pupil Support (KY)*
- *Mrs Neil- Principal Teacher Pupil Support (DU)*
- *Mrs Smith - Principal Teacher Pupil Support (AV)*
- *Ms R McGinlay - Principal Teacher Pupil Support (LE)*
- *Mrs Breddy - Principal Teacher Pupil Support (LO)*
- *Phone : 01357 524040*
- *Email: office@strathaven.s-lanark.sch.uk*
- *www.strathaven.s-lanark.sch.uk*