

February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Whilst young people are focused on the work of the current session, now is also the time to consider option choices for session 2021-2022. At the time of writing, it is unclear what the pattern of school attendance is going to be over the coming weeks. Therefore, option choice processes must differ from those of previous years. The process this year is outlined in the S3 Learner Pathways option booklet, which will be placed on Show my Homework and emailed to you.

Pupils are asked to complete the **google form for coursing** using the link on Show my Homework or in this email (link below).

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdxDUT9FTeWLxNG9-iOlfS9v4gwnzjQG8g_1S6pZzbyf3SjA/viewform?usp=sf_link

The form can only be submitted once, so young people should consider their choices carefully before submitting. A return is requested by **Friday 26 February**.

Google forms use the GLOW email address provided for GSuite. **Please ensure you are logged out of any personal Gmail accounts** on the device being used. If asked to login they should use the ending **@mc.glow.scot**.

For example if the GLOW login is mcmcleod77@glow, this would become mcmcleod77@**mc.glow.scot**.

The page will redirect to the normal GLOW login page. Login as normal and the form will open. If young people have been working on GLOW or Google classrooms, the link may open automatically.

From the week beginning 15 February, pupils select courses online to follow during S3. Next session, from these courses, S3 pupils choose the subjects they wish to study in S4. Certification by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) or other appropriate awarding bodies takes place at the end of S4.

Pupils in S3 continue with the core subjects of English, Maths, a modern language, Personal and Social Education, Physical Education and Religious and Moral Education. Beyond that, young people choose a subject from each of Expressive arts, Sciences, Social studies and Technologies. Further personalisation and choice, and a degree of specialisation, comes with the final two choices that young people make from any of the curricular areas.

Moving on to S4, all young people continue with English and Maths. In addition, a further four subjects are taken forward from S3. Young people can still, if there is a clear need, select subjects in the senior phase that they have not studied in S3. Ideas and interests develop over time. This is recognised. For ease of transitions and the continuity of learning, though, it is anticipated that most young people will select their qualifications from those they are undertaking in S3.

Various supports are in place to ensure young people make appropriate coursing decisions. Please see the S3 option booklet and option sheet. These have been emailed to you and placed on Show My Homework for you and your young person to access.

In place of the normal coursing information evening and careers fair this year, there is a digital provision. Coursing Information presentations (a video which outlines what should be considered when making coursing choices) and Careers Fair Information (Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce careers event videos) were uploaded to Show my Homework on 3 February 2020.

These resources will provide information on employment and education opportunities, with a focus on the Lothians, and will help young people to make informed choices.

The school's Careers Adviser is Barbara Moir. Mrs Moir is able to provide valuable advice about making subject choices that fit with future career plans and can be contacted Monday to Friday on 07887 831027 or barbara.moir@sds.co.uk.

To further inform young people's choices a guide to the level of study your young person might follow in each of the S2 subjects, should the subject be taken on to S4, will be sent to you in the post. Please be aware that these levels come with no assurances; levels of study in S4 depend very much on pupil progress during the remainder of S2 and into S3. The information is provided in the spirit of support.

Apart from Mathematics, subjects note the anticipated level of study in S4 as level 3, 4 or 5. The mathematics department has provided a table outlining likely progression routes. Qualifications in the Dalkeith High School senior phase should be considered in terms of levels so that comparisons in difficulty can be made across the range of courses on offer. National Qualifications (National 3, 4 and 5; Higher and Advanced Higher) are offered at levels 3 to 7 with, for example, National 4 being a level 4 course. However, other types of courses, such as Skills for Work courses and National Progression Awards also appear in the Dalkeith High School senior phase curriculum and the level system allows comparisons to be made between these courses and National Qualifications. When a department suggests that level 4 study is anticipated in S4, it could be that a Skills for Work course is more appropriate than a National Qualification course and this is something that is worked out during S3. The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Network (SCQF) is available to help young people make sense of all these different types of qualifications and to plan moves in the learning journey. This information is available online.

Parents/ carers and pupils are reminded that courses can only be deemed viable if there are sufficient numbers for them to run.

Pupils can contact their PSL if they wish to chat about their options. Information on how to do this is provided in the S3 option booklet.

Should you have any questions about the coursing process this year or any issues with using the Google form, please email the school address with your query marked for the attention of Mrs Stewart-Young.

Thank you.



Lynsey Stewart-Young
Depute Headteacher (Acting)