

# Belmont Academy Third Year Learning Choices Information



## **Introduction**

As part of a broad general education, all pupils will continue to study a wide variety of subjects in S3. You will also continue to focus on Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing.

However, in what is an important time for you at Belmont Academy, there is a change to give each of you a level of personalisation and choice in your curriculum. In your first two years at secondary school, you have been following a fixed curriculum as part of 'A Curriculum for Excellence' and the move to third year allows you to specialise by studying specific courses within each of the curricular areas.

This booklet provides basic information on the each of the Learning Choices available. However, more detailed information is available from the teachers in each department.

As part of the core curriculum, all pupils will study:

- 4 periods of Mathematics
- 4 periods of English
- 2 periods of Modern Languages
- 2 periods of Physical Education
- 1 period of RME
- 1 period of PSE

All other Learning Choices will be allocated 3 periods per week and you will choose from a selection of Learning Choices within each of the curricular areas.

All subjects offered will have progression to qualifications at National 3, National 4 and National 5 during S4 to S6.

These choices will be refined and you will make a further choice at the end of S3 to determine the subjects you will take forward for certification.

## **Core Subjects**

### **English & Literacy**

#### **Course Outline**

There are three main elements in this course –

- **Reading:** studying poetry, drama, novels and short stories in detail and writing about them critically
- **Writing:** completing a variety of writing tasks ranging from pieces which give information, to creative work in which the imagination is used and ideas developed
- **Talking:** learning to play a useful part in discussion as well as giving an individual talk
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Additional skills which are developed in this course include

- working with others in groups
- learning to improve and redraft your own work

#### **Core Skills**

Literacy is the Core Skill underpinning the English course. This skill will help you to communicate effectively both orally and written.

#### **Assessment**

Continuous assessment is a prominent feature of the course. It enables teachers to judge how their pupils are progressing at any stage during the session.

Independent reading will be positively encouraged with all students developing responses through talk and critical evaluations.

### **Mathematics & Numeracy**

In S3 most pupils will either continue to develop or consolidate the CfE Level 3 Experiences & Outcomes or continue on to the Level 4 Experiences & Outcomes.

In cases where pupils have demonstrated a secure understanding of the Level 3 Outcomes during S2, they will commence the Level 4 course sooner and be presented with the type of work which will provide an opportunity for additional depth and challenge.

Pupils who are continuing to consolidate Level 3 will go on to gain a National 3 Award leading to National 4 later. At that stage there will be a further option to study Personal Finance or Mathematics.

All assessment at this stage is internal and is used to support further development.

A calendar of work and events will be posted on TEAMS and regularly updated.

As support materials are developed, these will also be added to TEAMS.

## Modern Languages French / Spanish

In the Modern Languages Department, pupils will develop their skills in Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking. The following topics are covered in S3:

- Holidays
- Media (TV/Film/Social Media)
- Jobs/Careers with Languages
- Relationships with Family and Friends
- School (Subjects, Opinions, Facilities)
- Food and Drink (Prices, Quantities, Menus)

In line with Curriculum for Excellence, our S3 course follows the National Benchmarks for Fourth Level in preparation for National 4 and 5 in S4. Pupils will improve their problem-solving and communication skills through cooperative and interactive learning. Learning another language will also help them to understand their own language better and greatly improve their overall Literacy. Pupils will learn about a wide range of careers where speaking another language could make a vast difference like The Armed Forces, Journalism, International Sports and Hospitality.

## Physical Education – Core P.E

In 3<sup>rd</sup> year core Physical Education pupils will continue to build on the basic skills and knowledge covered in S1 and S2 through active participation in a variety of activities. Pupils will participate in the following core activities: basketball, fitness, football/hockey, social dance and volleyball. In addition pupils will also have the opportunity to select a further two activities which best suit their needs and interests. The focus will be on consolidating and developing practical and other key skills while moving towards being secure by the end of S3. This course will help pupils develop skills which will enable them to lead active and healthy lifestyles.

## Religious & Moral Education

Pupils will study core RME for one period a week in S3. There are four units in the course, three of them based around topics from the *Morality & Belief* unit of National 5 RMPS. These are Morality & Justice; Morality, Environment & Global Issues and Morality & Relationships. Within each of these, pupils will learn to apply reasoning from a range of religious and philosophical perspectives. By the end of this, pupils can complete Fourth Level of this curriculum area and build a useful set of skills which will benefit them if they progress to National 4 or National 5 RMPS in S4.

The fourth unit in the course is the Youth & Philanthropy Initiative (YPI). In this, pupils will work in groups to research a social issue and identify a charity which deals with it. Their task is then to contact the charity and construct a presentation which will demonstrate how they have worked as a team; how the charity would spend the £3000 first prize; the impact on people in South Ayrshire and, importantly, why their charity deserves to win!

## **Personal & Social Education**

All pupils will follow a structured course in S3 which builds on the Experiences & Outcomes delivered in S1/2. The main focus of the course is the Outcomes & Experiences from the Health & Wellbeing curricular area. This will cover:

- Mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing
- Planning for choices and changes
- Relationships, sexual health and parenthood
- Substance misuse

Pupils will cover these areas through a variety of approaches including input from external providers. One of the main parts of the course will be preparing pupils for their final learning choices for the Senior Phase. There will also be a focus on vocational opportunities where pupils will undertake the preparation for a Work Experience placement in the senior school. The course will be delivered by the guidance staff who will also provide additional support for all pupils within their house group.

# **Social Studies**

## **Business Management**

In Business Management, students can learn the skills and qualities required to be a successful business practitioner and entrepreneur. This subject illustrates the importance of business in today's society and that the business world is a vibrant and exciting place where the decisions made affect us all in our everyday lives. Business pupils will:

- Develop transferrable skills, for example the ability to solve problems, work within a team, become a leader and improve your communication skills.
- Learn how a business works locally, within the UK and on a global scale
- Learn business language and how finance, technology, marketing, operations and human resources can influence the success of an organisation.
- Develop an understanding of how economic and business decisions affect peoples' lives – which is especially relevant in the current economic climate.

## **Geography**

Geography is a unique within the social subjects, as it bridges the gap between the natural sciences and the social sciences.

In third year, pupils will be introduced to a number of concepts that will lead to progression at National 3, 4 and 5 in fourth year. The topics that will be covered in third year include;

- Ordnance Survey and specialist mapping
- World climate with a particular focus on the Arctic climate and tundra environment
- Extreme weather events, including the causes and impact of hurricanes and tornadoes.
- The physical geography of Scotland, in particular the processes which shape our coastal and mountain areas and how these areas are used by humans.
- The issues affecting our towns and cities including housing, shopping and traffic congestion. Pupils will focus on a case study of Glasgow
- The location, causes and impact of volcanic eruptions and how areas which experience these events can be assisted

In addition, pupils will develop a wide range of skills:

- Numeracy; through data analysis, problem solving and the production and interpretation of graphs and charts.
- Literacy; including analysis of source material, essay and extended writing skills and report writing skills
- Mapping skills, including interpreting specialist and thematic maps including Ordnance Survey maps, meteorological charts, Geographic Information Systems and using GPS equipment
- Using information technology to research information and produce reports and presentations

Fieldwork is an integral part of Geography. Pupils will have the to visit sites and features related to the topics studied and to observe, record and analyse sources of information, working individually and in groups.

## History

In S3 pupils will have the opportunity to continue with the study of History as part of their broad general education.

The course will build upon their achievement in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Level in S1/2 and take this forward into S3 where they will cover the Outcomes & Experiences, related to History, at 4<sup>th</sup> Level whilst preparing the groundwork for future study in the subject. This course pathway leads to National 5 in S4 and then into Higher and Advanced Higher in S5 and S6 respectively.

The coursework for these qualifications will give pupils the chance to study Scottish, British and European & World historical themes.

The topics that pupils will look at in S3 are: -

- The Russian Revolution
- Life of a Slave
- World War II

The courses all reflect the natural progression in History into fields of study and employment such as civil service; human resources; the law; medicine and healthcare; the media; political research; social work etc.

## Modern Studies

This course is designed to broaden the knowledge and skills bases for all pupils in the 3 following areas;

Social Issues: - Race, Crime & the Criminal Justice System. This topic looks at the issue of racial equality in the criminal justice systems of the UK and the USA

International Issues: - Global Security. This topic investigates the issue of global terrorism.

Democratic Issues: - The State of Democracy. This final topic looks at how healthy or democracies currently are.

This course will build a range of knowledge and learning outcomes to broaden their research, presentation and thinking skills. It reflects the demands of 4<sup>th</sup> Level, while preparing the groundwork for future progress in Modern Studies. This course pathway leads to National 5 in S4. Progression to the equivalent of current Higher and Advanced Higher are tightly linked into all course planning and delivery.

The courses all reflect the natural progression in Modern Studies into fields of study and employment such as civil service; human resources; the law; medicine and healthcare; marketing; the media; political research; social work etc.

## Social Subjects

This is a targeted course for learners who feel that they would like to consolidate their learning at 3<sup>rd</sup> level. This course incorporates Experiences and Outcomes from both the Modern Studies and History curriculum. Whilst building on learning in S2 students will prepare the groundwork for future progress in History and Modern Studies. This course pathway leads to the National 4 Social Subjects class where pupils have the opportunity to gain National 4 qualifications in History, Modern Studies and People & Society. Furthermore, learners can progress into Level 5 Social Sciences in S5. The skills development built into this course will enable learners to further develop their literacy, numeracy, employability, citizenship and enterprise skills.

In S3 pupils will look at the following topics: -

- Media in Modern Britain
- Life of a Slave
- Global Security – Terrorism
- WWII

## Religious & Moral Education

This course is completely independent of the core course and is intended for those students who wish to explore issues in greater depth and to progress to National 5 RMPS in S4.

In S3, the over-arching theme of the course will be *Religion and its Challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. This will include the study of religious experience from faith and psychological perspectives; religious and secular arguments for the origin of the universe and human life; the importance of free will, the problems presented by suffering and evil and the consequences for our experience of ourselves as humans.

Students develop the following skills:

- Critical evaluation of alternative viewpoints
- Problem-solving
- Understanding of verbal and non-verbal communication
- Debating, role-playing and empathy
- Presenting arguments using a range of media

Skills developed in RME and RMPS are useful for any career that involves understanding people; their beliefs and motivations. For example: law, medicine, media, marketing, social work, teaching, nursing, childcare and psychology. They are also useful for applying ethical principles to careers in science, technology and environmental protection.

# **Science**

## **Biology**

In Biology you will investigate the fascinating world of animals and plants from single cells to whole organisms. You will find out how animal and plant species depend on each other, the impact of population growth and natural hazards on biodiversity. You will study adaptations shown by both animal and plants for survival and find out how certain behaviours can ensure species survival. You will also learn about processes such as photosynthesis and cell division and be introduced to ideas at the forefront of modern scientific development, such as the use of stem cells and the role of DNA in Forensic Science.

Throughout the course you will apply scientific skills and communicate information related to your findings, which will develop skills of scientific literacy. Your work in Biology will lead to certification in courses at National 3, National 4 and National 5, should you choose to continue your studies in fourth Year.

## **Chemistry**

In Chemistry, learners develop the ability to think analytically, creatively and independently. They learn how to carry out investigations and make evaluations.

The S3 Chemistry course will cover:

- Atomic Structure
- Rates of Reaction
- Bonding relating to Properties of Materials
- Formula and Equations
- Reactions & Properties of Metals

Studying Chemistry also provides a knowledge base useful in the study of all the sciences. This means if learners are thinking about studying two sciences then Chemistry complements studies in Physics and Biology.

The course will be relevant for those students wishing to continue their studies in Chemistry at National 4 and National 5 in S4 and then at Higher level in S5.

The Chemistry department will also offer a similar course to those students wishing to progress to National 3 and National 4 in S4.

## **Physics**

In Physics, we teach you to understand the fascinating natural laws of the universe. Physics explains many common-place experiences which we take for granted. The applications of Physics and Engineering have made a huge contribution to modern society. Studying physics opens up a wide range of careers in Science, Engineering and even Finance, Law and Medicine.

The course includes topics on Space, Electricity, Magnetism, Forces and Waves. It will show some of the many contributions that Physics and Engineering have made to our lives, e.g.

- ✓ How understanding forces have led to advances in car safety.
- ✓ How understanding the electromagnetic spectrum has led to improvements in medicine.
- ✓ The use of nuclear energy, renewables and possibly nuclear fusion to potentially replace fossil fuel power stations.

## **Expressive Arts**

### **Art and Design**

The Art and Design Department aims to assist students to achieve their full creative potential through learning experiences which are enjoyable and challenging.

Through Art and Design, learners have rich opportunities to be creative and to experience inspiration and enjoyment. They will explore a wide range of two- and three-dimensional medias, techniques and technologies, some of which are: drawing & painting, ceramics, photography and printmaking. Students will be given the opportunity to create, express, problem solve and communicate ideas for both expressive and design work. Students will explore the work of artists and designers to broaden and enhance their knowledge and understanding in the form a written element. Pupils will also have the opportunity to present their artwork for display to parents and the wider community. At the end of each Unit students will evaluate their work and progress.

The structure of the year of the year will be broken down into two Units:

#### **Expressive Unit:**

- Students will develop their skills and communicate personal thoughts, feelings and ideas by using a range of art materials, techniques and technologies. Students will develop a theme working towards a final expressive artwork. Students will evaluate their own work and critically analyse the work of related artists.

#### **Design Unit:**

- Students will work through the design process in response to a design brief and experiment with a range of media and technologies. Students will develop and communicate imaginative design solutions working towards a final outcome. Students will evaluate their own work and critically analyse the work of related designers.

All Art and Design Units of work offer personalisation, choice, flexibility, transferable skills and progression.

#### **Careers Pathways**

Possible careers pathways within Art and Design may include, but are not limited to: visual artist, community arts worker, teacher, lecturer, art therapist, curator, museum officer, graphic designer, web designer, illustrator, fashion designer, jewellery designer, product designer, ceramist, interior designer, photographer, photojournalist, set designer, architect, printmaker, animation designer, and fashion stylist.

### **Drama**

What is S3 Drama?

Drama provides opportunities for you to develop your performance ability, further develop your creativity, problem solving and critical thinking skills whilst continually building your ability to reflect on your work and the work of others.

Throughout the course you will be expected to –

- respond and interpret stimuli and text
- work with others, in order to share and apply dramatic ideas
- explore drama form, genre style, conventions and structure
- explore acting, directing and theatre production
- learn how to appreciate drama techniques
- explore voice, movement and characterisation skills
- investigate theatre arts, production and technologies
- design, create and present drama to an audience
- evaluate their own process and performance and that of others

## Music with Performing

This course will build on the Experiences & Outcomes from S1/2. Pupils will cover many aspects of music to provide a greater understanding of music and composing. However, a major part of the course will focus on learning to perform on two specific instruments. The course is structured as follows:

- **Composing Skills**
  - ✓ Study 2 styles of composition
  - ✓ Create your own original composition/arrangement
- **Understanding Music**
  - ✓ Recognise concepts and features found in different musical genres:
    - Western Classical Music*
    - Popular music from the recent past (20th and 21st centuries)*
    - World Music*
- **Performing Skills**
  - ✓ Learn to perform on two instruments (includes voice)
  - ✓ Perform a programme of music (four minutes each instrument)

New learners will have a choice from; voice, guitar, drum kit, pitched percussion or keyboard

## Physical Education

Pupils who select this option will participate in an extra two periods of PE each week in addition to their core PE periods. Pupils who select this course must be motivated to actively participate in **all** of the following activities throughout the session: Basketball, Badminton, Fitness, Gymnastics/Trampolining, Hockey and Volleyball.

As well as developing practical performance in a range of activities, pupils will also develop their theoretical knowledge of some of the physical, social, emotional and mental factors which can affect performance. In doing so there will be some classroom based sessions and homework throughout the year. This course will help pupils who have a genuine interest in the subject to develop a more in-depth knowledge of the subject. This course would be suitable for those pupils who would want to study Physical Education in the Senior Phase.

## Dance

Pupils who select this option will participate in three periods of dance each week. To select this course pupils must be motivated to actively participate in all lessons and have a genuine interest in dance. Throughout the year there will be a mix of practical and classroom based lessons. This is to not only develop the pupil's skill set in different styles of dance but to deepen their knowledge and understanding of factors which combine to create an effective performance such as choreography,

music and theatre arts. This course offers pupils the opportunity to develop their confidence, communication and team work skills.

## **Hospitality – Practical Cookery**

This is a practical food course where you will develop the food skills that you learned in S1 and S2. You will undertake practical tasks every week producing dishes that will form part of a meal using basic cookery skills, simple food preparation techniques and cookery processes.

The ability to produce simple, healthy meals on a budget are essential to everyone and this course develops the necessary skills and knowledge required.

If you are interested in following recipes to produce dishes like Spaghetti Bolognese and cheesecake you will enjoy this practical course, developing knowledge on foreign foods, healthy eating, cookery processes and techniques.

The course leads to National 3, National 4 and National 5 courses in Hospitality.

## **Technologies**

### **Accounting**

Accounting is the study of how financial information is recorded and measured by organisations, and students who like working with numbers and spreadsheets will find the subject exciting and rewarding. From a multi-national corporation to a young entrepreneur starting a new business – the knowledge and skills learned in Accounting are key to effective decision making and success. The course provides experience within:

- Preparing Financial Accounting – developing skills and knowledge of how organisations prepare and record their financial information.
- Preparing Management Accounting – budgeting skills and how organisations use information to make decisions e.g. breaking-even, earning a profit.
- Analysing Accounting – interpreting financial information eg business ratios, so that organisations can assess their performance and plan as required.

### **Administration & IT**

Administration & IT is the ideal course if you want to improve your IT skills and knowledge using Microsoft Office. You will then be able to create professional-looking assignments and projects on your PC or laptop for other school subjects. Having excellent IT and communication skills will also help you at university/college and be a real advantage with employment prospects. The course provides experience within:

- IT Solutions – developing skills in IT and skills in problem solving, organising and managing information. You will gain valuable experience in using current and emerging technologies to create, edit and update business documents and become familiar with spreadsheets, databases and word-processed documents.
- Administrative Practice – looks at how IT is used to support business and includes planning and organising events, customer care and business legislation.
- Communication – developing skills in using IT for gathering and sharing information, including using PowerPoint, Publisher, Email and Ediyary.

### **Computing Science**

The Computing Science Course provides students with an understanding of the technologies that underpin the digital world as well as developing transferrable skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work. It brings together elements of technology and science and students will study units in Games Design and Graphics, Computer Security, the latest Emerging Technologies and Web Design.

This will provide them with a solid grounding of the core Computing Science concepts that will facilitate their progress to National 3, 4 and 5 qualifications in S4.

## Design & Manufacture

This progressive course primarily enables learners to develop solutions to everyday product problems. The learners then develop manufacturing skills to enable them to take decisions on materials and processes to Manufacture their own prototype. Engaging in the design process also allows them to consider how technologies and design thinking impact the world of the designer, manufacturer and consumer. The Design and manufacture course will be delivered through a series of design assignments developing creativity and innovation.

**Design and Manufacture** is a practical course, combining elements of creativity and designing with a requirement to consider the various factors that impact on everyday product design. Pupils will consider the life cycle of a product from its inception through design, manufacture, and use, including its disposal or re-use exploring the 6R's of sustainability.

There are two areas of study within each assignment: Design, 60%, and Materials & Manufacturing, 40%.

## Engineering Science

Engineering Science develops skills in three main areas developing on from S3 Engineering Science or level 4 Technologies courses more generally.

1. **Engineering Contexts and Challenges**
2. **Electronics and control**
3. **Mechanisms and structures**
4. **Energy and energy transfer**

**Engineering Science** empowers young people to look at society through the engineering lens, understanding that everything is made, mechanical, electronic and impacts people's lives. Our learners will explore together everyday problems using current technologies to support their learning and discovery journey such as Lego, Arduino, pneumatics systems and digital simulators to name but a few. These resources enable the engineering class teams to present their solutions and justify their decisions in a fun and active learning environment.

This course is structured to develop numeracy, technologies and scientific methods toward national 5 level. Those thinking to take on this area of study should be looking to study N5 Math's in S4.

A **career** in **Engineering Science** blends Science and technology with business. This unique skills development aligned with the development of critical thinking and problem- solving makes this an easy choice for aspiring young people.

**We hope that all our candidates enjoy this complex subject which progresses currently onto N5 in S4.**

## Graphic Communication

**Graphic Communication** introduces pupils to the wide variety of presentation methods employed in graphic production. Learners will have opportunities to gain skills in reading, interpreting, and creating technical graphics. Pupils will also initiate, develop and communicate ideas graphically; developing an awareness of graphic communication as a global language and the applications of Industrial Design.

This is a practical course, combining creativity and design, whilst considering factors that impact on graphic design. Pupils will produce simple preliminary, production and promotional graphics in straightforward, familiar and new contexts. **Graphic Communication** also allows pupils to consider how technologies impact the world around them through Engineering and Creative Design industries.

This course is very relatable, practical and experimental in nature, and continues to have the largest uptake nationally of any Technologies courses due to the skills developed aligning closely to professional standards.

There are two skill drivers in Graphics:

- Technical Graphics (2D **Graphic Communication**)
- Visual media graphics (3D and Pictorial **Graphic Communication**)

These areas of study present opportunities for students to develop their creativity and creative problem-solving skills within each set brief. This develops on from the design thinking developed within the BGE and enable our student to refine their own style and approach to graphic layouts.

***The variety of skills developed within this course have allowed this subject to be at the forefront of innovation and a positive choice in developing young people with essential skills for future careers. We hope that all our candidates enjoy this hugely popular subject which progresses onto N5 in S4 and Higher in S5.***

## Essential Craft Skills

Essential Practical Skills is a course which will introduce to the students the skills required to work with Wood, Metal and Electronics. This course is designed to develop the practical applied skills required in understanding the world around them. This will give the pupils the opportunity to understand the properties and manufacturing processes in woodworking, metalworking and also Practical Electronics.

The aim of this course is to enable learners to develop:

- Skills in Numeracy – the ability to read and understand working drawings and transferring dimensions from paper to material
- Skills and understanding of marking out tools, joints and circuit layouts.
- Practical skills that will support vocational and recreational and engineering competence in constructing everyday objects.
- Practical and creative problem-solving.

- An applied understanding of sustainability issues in practical wood, metal and electronic manufacture.

This course is designed to give the students a good basis to build upon their practical skills and engineering understanding of the world around them. This course progresses toward a choice of subject in our senior phase S4-S6 of Woodworking Skills, Practical Engineering Skills and Practical Electronics.

**We hope that all our candidates enjoy this popular subject which progresses onto N5 woodwork in S4, N5 Metalwork in S5, and N5 Electronics in S6.**

