



HOLY ROOD RC HIGH SCHOOL

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Admin/S2 Handbook

31 January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

S2 REVIEW OF LEARNING INFORMATION

The **S2 Review of Learning Presentation** to parents will be held in the school on **Wednesday 28 February at 6.00pm**. This event is to support you and your child through the course choice process, all course choice information will be on the school website. This can be accessed via following the link:

[S2 Coursing | Holy Rood RC High School, Edinburgh](#)

This link allows you to access the **S2 Course Choices 2024 Booklet** which will provide further information about S3 in Holy Rood and detailed information about the subjects offered in different curricular areas. The Course Choice Booklet will also be available to pupils on their school ipad.

Please note, the **S2 Draft Course Choice** (issued Wednesday 31 January) and is to be returned by **Friday 9 February to the school reception**.

The **S2 Final Course Choice Form** (issued Monday 4 March) is to be returned by **Monday 11 March to the school reception**.

We will upload the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQS) in the coming days. The link will be forwarded to you.

Please contact us at Admin@Holyrood.edin.sch.uk if you have any questions related to the review of learning process.

Yours sincerely

Joan M Daly

Joan Daly
HEAD TEACHER



S2 Review of Learning –

A guide for pupils and parents/carers

Making the Right Choices

At this stage, as pupils approach the end of S2, there is increased choice about the subjects you wish to study in S3 as you engage in a Review of Learning. These choices are important as, in most cases, it is likely that pupils will continue to study these subjects when you move into the Senior Phase in S4, when pupils are presented for National Qualifications. It is therefore important that both you and your parents/carers have all the information necessary to make considered and appropriate decisions about the choice of subjects.

Whilst we aim to provide a wide and varied curriculum which meets the needs of all pupils, it cannot be guaranteed that all courses listed will run. In the past a number of courses have been withdrawn because of the very small numbers of pupils choosing these particular subjects. The courses which run are based on the highest demand from pupils.

This Guide:

- Y Gives information to get ready to make choices for S3 in Holy Rood and explains how this helps prepare you for the transition to the Senior Phase which begins in S4.
- Y Gives detailed information about the subjects offered in different curricular areas (arranged alphabetically).



Why is the Course Choice Form divided into columns?

This is so that every pupil will continue to follow a Broad General Education which includes all the important curricular areas outlined in a Curriculum for Excellence. Core subjects and **English**, **Mathematics** and a **Modern Language** are studied by all pupils. Pupils will make their own choices in all the other columns.

Core Subjects

All pupils follow courses in Physical Education, Religious and Moral Education and Personal and Social Education. Although you will not necessarily be presented for National Qualifications in these subjects, they are part of the core curriculum because of their importance in pupils' development.

Wider Achievement

Pupils will have the opportunity to be considered for one period a week studying to achieve the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award in S3. Please encourage your child to think about this option.

The Course Choice Columns

Look at the columns carefully on the course choice form and the notes below, before filling in the Draft Course Choice Form on the Microsoft Forms Survey (*please follow this link [S2 Coursing | Holy Rood RC High School, Edinburgh](#) this will take you to the appropriate page on the school website*). To help pupils understand the coursing process we have included a **draft** course choice form. The purpose of the draft course choice form is to allow the school to make final decisions based on pupil choice and staffing constraints. A final course choice form will be issued on 4 March. Pupils must pick a first choice and a second choice from each column. In most cases, pupils will get your first choice.

Make sure the Draft Course Choice Form is completed by **Friday 9 February 2023**.

In summary, in addition to the core subjects, all pupils will choose:

Y English	Column 1
Y Mathematics	Column 2
Y French	Column 3
Y A Social Subject	Column 4
Y A Science	Column 5
Y An Expressive Arts Subject	Column 6
Y A Technology Subject	Column 7
Y One other Subject	Column 8



For example, if a pupil wishes to take more than one Expressive Arts subject, the column arrangements make this possible, given sufficient demand. This flexibility allows pupils to study a range of subjects and levels which better suit their interests, talents and career aspirations and so raises personal achievement.

How does S3 help me prepare for National Qualifications?

In S3 you will continue with a broad and balanced education as outlined above involving the Curriculum for Excellence experiences, outcomes and skills in each of the subjects you have chosen. However, in S3 you will also start to build a platform of knowledge in each subject to prepare you for the National Qualifications in S4. S3 is therefore a very important year and you will have to work particularly hard to ensure that you achieve your full potential.

Which National Qualifications can I achieve?

Your progress in S3 and S4 will determine which National Qualification you are presented for. There are 3 levels of National Qualification which pupils are presented for in S4: National 5, National 4 and National 3. Photography is assessed as a National Progression Award at level 5, this is equivalent to an SQA National 5 award.

How will my work be assessed?

The type of assessment will vary for each National Qualification –

National 5 – This award is based coursework and an external assessment. The award is graded A to D. (The progression route is to a Higher grade course in S5)

National 4 – This award is based on units achieved and includes and Added Value Unit (AVU) Coursework is all internally assessed. (The progression route is to a National 5 course in S5)

National 3 – This award is based on units achieved and is internally assessed. (The progression route is on to a National 4 course in S5)

National Progression Award Level 5 – This course is assessed by completion of units. There is no final exam.



All courses are nationally recognised and certificated by The Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA).

Review of Learning at the end of S3

As pupils reach the end of the Broad General Education at the end of S3, some pupils may choose to review their choices in order to pursue a more vocational pathway. Currently, we offer Hairdressing (National 5) and JET (Jobs Education Training including a half day work placement) are examples of these possible choices. More information will be available in due course. The majority of pupils will continue with the choices they make at the end of S2.

How can Parents/Carers help?

We want your child to achieve his/her very best and your role as a parent/carer is vital in ensuring that your child makes the best progress possible at school. We know that your encouragement and support at home will have a big impact on learning from S1 onwards. This becomes even more crucial as your child moves through S3 and in the transition to the Senior Phase in S4.

Your child's progress will be monitored by subject teachers, Tutors and the Year Head. You can help us by working in partnership with the school:

- Y to help your child to make appropriate course ***choices***
- Y to provide a quiet place to do ***homework*** and ask questions about school work/progress
- Y to ensure good ***attendance*** at all times
- Y to support your child's learning by attending ***Parents' Meetings***

Any Further Questions?

Both at Parents' Meetings and other times, you are more than welcome to contact us for further information. As well as subject teachers, other key people are:

S2 Year Head
Careers Adviser

Mr L Mitchell
Ms L Winser