

Theme 1 – The rationale and design of the curriculum

Our Senior Phase curriculum includes a wide and challenging range of National 3, 4 and 5 courses for all S4 pupils. In the current session, S5/6 pupils are currently undertaking a combination of National 4, National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher qualifications.

A large number of S6 pupils are also undertaking Advanced Higher qualifications. Targeted S4-6 pupils are also studying a range of courses with West Lothian College on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. These courses include HNC's in Engineering, Computing and Construction and a range of school-based courses. Within the Senior Phase SCQF qualifications including First Aid, Religious Beliefs and Values and Leadership add value to learners across their wider curriculum.

The majority of departments within the school offer National 4 and 5 qualifications with some also offering National 3. In the Senior Phase Curriculum, S4 pupils currently select 7 choices in S4, 5 choices in S5 and up to 5 choices in S6 depending on their level of study. A small number of pupils undertake an additional Higher qualification using digital platforms.

The rationale for the current Senior Phase curriculum is based on the shared values of the school community including entitlement for all and ensuring that the curriculum develops the skills and attributes of the four capacities. The Senior Phase Curriculum is designed to improve attainment and achievement of all young people and ensure progression to positive and sustained post-school destinations. The current Curriculum has undergone several changes, with some initiatives proving to be extremely successful in raising the attainment levels of young people.

Broad General Education at St Margaret's Academy

The Broad General Education (BGE) at St Margaret's Academy provides young people with a rich programme of learning which focuses on developing the four capacities of CfE and raising standards of Literacy and Numeracy. Over the past three years the BGE has adapted in line with both Local and National policy and in response to the views and opinions of our stake-holders, including pupils, parents and staff. These changes have led to improvements in the levels of attainment and achievement across the BGE and this is evidenced in both the standardised assessment data and the professional judgement of teachers in determining the levels of our young people.

The BGE at St Margaret's Academy is across S1-3; however, the pupils' experience of secondary school begins early on in P7 with the primary/secondary transition programme. Additionally, towards the end of the BGE, pupils' begin to embark on National Qualifications prior to making their course selections for S4.

Our curriculum design reflects the four contexts of learning and there is particular strength in the links being made across learning. This is being supported by a new collaborative structure with faculties working together in developing the BGE through planning, moderation and applying consistent standards. For example, the STEAM collaborative is developing a joint Numeracy programme aligned to pathways which is based on an innovative project and skills based framework. Another area being developed is digital literacy which is improving skills of all learners.