



The Gordon Schools  
Huntly  
Aberdeenshire  
AB54 4SE

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23 February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **S3 into S4 Course Choice Process for Session 2023-24**

Following on from our recent Parent Curriculum Information Evening, The Gordon Schools is about to begin our Senior Phase Course Choice Process. If you were not able to attend this event, the presentation and accompanying resources can be found on our School website.

The course choice process allows your child to focus on the subjects that they enjoy, and to aim towards SQA qualifications at the appropriate level(s). This will be part of the pathway that will lead pupils to securing a positive post-School destination. It is important that each pupil considers what their destination may be or that they keep their options broad to allow this decision to be made in the future.

This process involves your child choosing English, and Maths or Application of Maths (you will already have received communication about the two different Maths courses), and then **four additional** choices. **The additional choices must be chosen by priority.** Your child should also choose a further two reserve subjects, as although we will try to ensure that every child will be able to study their first four additional choices, there is the possibility that this will not be possible for every child.

Your child should also indicate the appropriate Level of study for each chosen subject e.g., National 3, 4 or 5. It is important that they choose the most appropriate level, based on any recommendations in the recent S3 report, as this may impact which class is most suitable for them. If they are unsure which level is most appropriate, then they should discuss this with their class teachers.

The subjects that are available are shown over the page. **Please discuss your child's subject choices with them and help them complete the attached form to indicate their preferences.** For additional information on each subject, including content studied and progression pathways, please see the School website ([Course choice information \(gordonschools.aberdeenshire.sch.uk\)](http://gordonschools.aberdeenshire.sch.uk)). Your child should also take the opportunity to discuss their choices with subject teachers to ensure that they are choosing the correct subjects for their preferred progression pathway.

Please also be aware, that once the timetable is complete your child will choose a Wider Achievement option which will add further breadth to their timetable. This will be timetabled for two periods per week and may give the opportunity to achieve an additional qualification. *Pupils choosing to study a NESCol course will not be able to choose a Wider Achievement option.* Your child will also be timetabled for 2 periods of Core Physical Education, 1 period of Core Religious Education and 1 period of Personal and Social Education.

Once your child has completed and returned the attached form, they will be given a further opportunity to discuss their options choices with their Guidance Teacher before submitting their choices online during PSE. Once this has been completed you will receive an e-mail confirming the choices that have been submitted by your child. Please feel free to get in touch with either your child's Guidance teacher or myself if you wish to discuss this process further.

Your sincerely,

**Frances Moffat**  
Acting-Depute Rector

### TGS S3 into S4 Course Choice

|                 | Subject                        | Level               |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Choice 1</b> | English                        | <b>N3, N4 or N5</b> |
| <b>Choice 2</b> | Maths or Applications of Maths | <b>N3, N4 or N5</b> |

**Choices 3, 4, 5 and 6:** *Please choose 4 subjects from the options below. You must then choose a further 2 subjects as your reserve subjects.*

| Subject                    | Level                          | Subject            | Level                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Accounting                 | <b>N5</b>                      |                    |                                |
| Administration             | <b>N4 or N5</b>                | Geography          | <b>N4 or N5</b>                |
| Administration             | <b>NPA* Level 4 or 5</b>       | German             | <b>N4 or N5</b>                |
| Applied Science and Health | <b>NPA* Level 4</b>            | History            | <b>N4 or N5</b>                |
| Art and Design             | <b>N4 or N5</b>                | Modern Studies     | <b>N4 or N5</b>                |
| Automotive FA**            | <b>Level 4</b>                 | Music              | <b>N4 or N5</b>                |
| Biology                    | <b>N4 or N5</b>                | Music Technology   | <b>N4 or N5</b>                |
| Business Management        | <b>N5</b>                      | NESCol***          | various                        |
| Computer Games Development | <b>NPA* Level 4 or Level 5</b> | People in Society  | <b>N3, N4 or N5</b>            |
| Chemistry                  | <b>N4 or N5</b>                | Photography        | <b>NPA* Level 4 or Level 5</b> |
| Construction FA**          | <b>Level 4 or Level 5</b>      | Physical Education | <b>N4 or N5</b>                |
| Drama                      | <b>N4 or N5</b>                | Physics            | <b>N4 or N5</b>                |
| Economics                  | <b>N5</b>                      | Practical Cookery  | <b>N4 or N5</b>                |
| French                     | <b>N4 or N5</b>                | Princes Trust      | <b>Level 3, 4 or 5</b>         |
| Graphic Communication      | <b>N4 or N5</b>                | Spanish            | <b>N4 or N5</b>                |

\*National Progression Award  
\*\*Foundation Apprenticeship

\*\*\*Please speak to your Guidance Teacher and Mr Alan Johnston if you would like to choose a NESCol course



### TGS S3 into S4 Course Choice

Please complete the following form with your child indicating their subject preferences for S4. Your child should return this form to their Guidance Teacher **by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March** to ensure that their choices can be submitted.

Pupil Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Reg Class: \_\_\_\_\_

| <b><i>Subject Area</i></b>             | <b><i>First Choice</i></b> | <b><i>Level</i></b> |
|--|----------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Choice 1: English</b>               | English                    |                     |
| <b>Choice 2: Maths or App of Maths</b> |                            |                     |
| <b>Choice 3:</b>                       |                            |                     |
| <b>Choice 4:</b>                       |                            |                     |
| <b>Choice 5:</b>                       |                            |                     |
| <b>Choice 6:</b>                       |                            |                     |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Reserve:</b>         |                            |                     |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reserve:</b>         |                            |                     |

Currently, what are your post-school plans, e.g., College, Apprenticeship, University, full time employment?

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E-mail address that the confirmation of choices submitted should be sent to:

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Parent/Carer Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Carer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Aberdeenshire**  
COUNCIL

