

West Calder High School

Head Teacher
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Dear parent/carer,

As you will know from my introductory letter, our focus is on equipping our young people with the skills, knowledge and attributes to achieve success. A key part of this is ensuring that, at the broad general education stage, before our pupils specialise in particular subject areas, we offer a curriculum with both breadth and depth. All S2 pupils made course choices in February this year based on the following model:

All new S3 pupils would study:

- English
- Mathematics
- French or German
- **1 Expressive Art** from a choice of: Art and Design, Dance or Music with a time allocation of **3 periods per week**.
- **1 Science** from a choice of: Biology, Chemistry or Physics with a time allocation of **3 periods per week**.
- **1 Social Subject** from a choice of: History, Geography or Modern Studies with a time allocation of **3 periods per week**.
- **1 Technology** subject from a choice of: Administration, Business, CDT, or Computing with a time allocation of **3 periods per week**.
- Pupils also selected **3 additional subjects** from a choice: Accounting, Art and design, Biology, Chemistry, History, German, Music, Home economics, Physics and RMPS with a time allocation of **2 periods per week**.

After further consideration of this proposed model for 2017/18, we have decided to change the model slightly to offer pupils two additional choice subjects instead of three.

What this means in practice is those pupils will have the benefit of three periods per week in their **2** additional subjects, as opposed to **2** periods. This brings these additional subjects more in line with other subjects chosen and will allow pupil to gain a more equal depth of knowledge across their curriculum, and have a richer, fuller experience which will better inform the choices that they make in fourth year and ensure there is increased time to prepare for each potential qualification.

Over the coming weeks, pupils will be helped by their Head of House to select which of the 2 additional subjects they will study in S3. A course choice form is attached to support discussions about course choices at home. Timetabling can be confusing, so if you have any questions, or if you would like a chat about your child's options, please don't hesitate to get in touch with their Head of House.

Yours sincerely

Miss J Fisher
Head Teacher



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