

Hermitage Academy

S3 Specialisation and S4 Senior Phase Course Choice Presentations

Tuesday 16 February 2021

FAQ

Q Where are the option forms located?

A The Option forms are in your young person's Health and Wellbeing Google Classroom. We would strongly advise that parents and pupils complete these together. If you change your mind after submitting the form there is no need to worry just submit another form – we will be able to see from the date stamp which is the most up-to-date version. The deadline is Friday 26 February 2021.

Q Does this mean we only choose 2 subjects now for S3?

Q Do pupils need to choose a course from each section for example one from technologies, one from social, one from art or can they pick two? Could they pick say, History and modern studies and not do anything from Technologies if they wanted?

Q In the booklet technologies and expressive arts are different colours which would suggest they are two separate groups to choose from but they are all in one group on the form. So do the pupils just need to choose one out of the combined group?

A In S3 you must do English and Maths. In addition you will choose one subject from Modern Languages, one subject from Science, one subject from Social Subjects and one subject from Technologies/Creative and Aesthetic Subjects. This leaves 2 free choices from all subjects which would enable you to select a second subject from a curricular area you have a particular interest or aptitude in. You must do PE but there are 3 options of PE courses that are available – see PE info in S3 Specialisation Course Choice booklet.

Q Is it possible to view an example of an S3 timetable?

A I will post on website asap.

Q Why is English a core subject in S5?

A English is the most commonly required qualification for different pathways therefore we strongly advise that pupils continue with this subject to the highest level of qualification they can. If a pupil has a clear pathway that doesn't require English we would be happy to discuss this.

Q Is RMPS more important than another Science or elective subject that would benefit a set career path?

Q Is it possible to opt out of RMPS to do a more worthwhile subject?

A RMPS is a compulsory element of the national curriculum and is allocated one period per week in S1-S3. Other course which pupils are choosing have a greater period allocation therefore it would not be possible to replace RMPS with another course.

Q Why is it only Beauty foundation courses available in S3?

A Our Skills for Work courses are offered in Partnership with local colleges and the offer is based on availability, demand, resources and some restrictions that apply with regard to age and related Health and Safety issues. There are a variety of courses at different stages in the school including Hairdressing, Maritime Skills and Foundation Apprenticeships in Creative and Digital Media, Engineering and Social Services Children and Young People. This is regularly reviewed and we are always looking to develop our curriculum to meet the needs of our young people and local labour market.