

Dear Parent/Carer

As you are aware, your son/daughter is currently in S3. Currently this year group is starting the Option Choice process for selecting their subjects for study in S4.

Along with this letter, I am forwarding you a copy of the Senior Phase Course Choice Booklet, with all the subject information relevant to making these choices, as well as the Timeline indicating when the various events and deadlines for S3 take place.

Over the last week or so, staff from SDS (Skills Development Scotland – the careers' advice service) have been speaking to S3 iTime classes about what information is available and where to find that information.

Pupils will be issued with Draft Choice Forms w/c 4th December. I emphasise the word Draft. At this stage changes can and may be made and nothing is finalised until the Final Version of the Choice Form is due in February. The Draft Choice Forms are due back to iTime tutors by **Thursday, 14th December**.

Pupils will be asked to select four subjects in addition to English and Maths, which are compulsory. On the form, pupils will also be asked to select a "Reserve" subject. This is in case a subject either does not run or cannot be timetabled for that pupil. They will also complete a Core PE course in S4.

In January a series of iTime lessons will take place to help pupils think about their choices and linked to that on 31st January there is the annual S3 Employers' Day. This is when we have a series of people from different occupations in school to speak to S3 pupils and to answer their questions. This has always been a very valuable part of the Options Choice Process here in Hermitage Academy and proves both popular and useful to pupils faced with making these big decisions. Pupils will indicate their areas of career interest and we will do our best to allocate them to the most appropriate groups of employers.

You will see that February is a busy month for the Option Choice Process as 2nd of February is the day that staff from SDS will be in school to work with and give all S3 pupils an individual interview. The week commencing 5th February sees Core Skills events for all S3 pupils taking place and on 8th February, there is the Parental Information Evening. More details about these events will be issued nearer the time. Finally, the week commencing 19th February, all members of the S3 year group will have an individual interview with a member of the Year Team to finalise their choices.