

Second and Third Form Curriculum

Commencing September 2008



Loretto

Loretto 2nd & 3rd Form Curriculum



THE SECOND FORM CURRICULUM

Introduction

The Second and Third Form Curriculum is a broad-based integration of the best features of the Scottish 5-14 Curriculum and the English Key Stage 2 and 3 Curriculum, with a distinctive Loretto component reflecting the School's geographical and historical traditions. There is a carefully planned balance between the core English and Mathematics, the three Sciences, the core Humanities subjects, Modern Languages, and of course Expressive Arts.

The Second and Third Form Curriculum is a two-year curriculum which acts as an important precursor to the two-year GCSE programme of public examinations.

Pupils are taught in classes of less than 20 pupils by specialist teachers. There are 41 lessons per week, and each lesson is 40 minutes long. Pupils are normally in mixed ability sets. After a period of continuous assessment of ability setting does take place in English, Mathematics and Modern languages.

A pupil's academic progress is monitored by monthly assessments by teachers of effort and attainment in all subjects, the results of which are emailed to parents by tutors. More detailed academic reports are provided to parents at the end of every term. Pupils will experience a range of classroom tests throughout the academic year, with formal school-wide examinations at the end of the Autumn and Summer terms. All academic departments provide a range of enrichment strategies to stimulate and encourage able pupils and pupils with identified learning difficulties, so that all pupils are encouraged and supported to achieve their academic potential.

The Curriculum: An Overview

The Second and Third Form Curriculum includes:

English, Mathematics, Core Modern Language (French or Spanish), the three Sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics), History, Geography, Religious Studies, ICT, Art, Drama, Music and Physical Education. Pupils make a choice between a second modern language (French or Spanish) and Latin. Alternatively pupils requiring learning support, where a second modern language is not appropriate, can attend small group tutorials in the Support for Learning Department.

Pupils for whom English is not their native language can receive specialist English as a Second Language tuition instead of mainstream English lessons.

In addition, all pupils participate in one Personal, Social and Health Education lesson per week.



The Second Form Curriculum: Subject by Subject Summaries

Art and Design (2 lessons per week)

Using pencils and charcoal, paint and ink and collage techniques pupils are encouraged to represent the School environment and the Sea Shore in their art. Pupils will also have an opportunity to work in clay, textiles and digital media.

Biology (2 lessons per week)

Pupils will investigate animal classification schemes, populations, digestion, breathing, the heart and circulation, photosynthesis, water transport in plants and flowering plant reproduction. Field and laboratory exercises will help pupils develop scientific investigation skills.

Careers Education (approximately 1 lesson per month within PSHE)

Pupils will be helped to identify personal strengths and interests and to link these to career ideas. Possible roles in work will be discussed, and teamwork and communication skills developed.

Chemistry (2 lessons per week)

Pupils will learn about elements and the Periodic Table, and will do practical work on chemical reactions, with particular emphasis on the chemical properties of water.

Drama (1 lesson per week)

Using extracts from a variety of plays, pupils will be taught the importance of stage positioning and focusing and the importance of eye contact in dramatic performance. Pupils will also explore mime skills and spontaneous and polished improvisation.

English (5 lessons per week)

Emphasis is placed on basic literacy skills in Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening. Pupils learn to read effectively, to recognize and use new vocabulary, and to order ideas effectively in speech and writing. Teachers will maintain Pupil Progress in English portfolios, comprising three discrete tasks per term in Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening.

English as a Second Language (4 lessons per week)

For pupils for whom English is not their first language, this course will help them to improve their vocabulary, grammar, reading, writing, speaking and listening skills, as support for the full spectrum of academic subjects undertaken.



History (3 lessons per week)

Pupils will study three historical topics: Scotland (1500-1625), Islamic Empires (600-1650) and the First World War. Pupils will be encouraged to use factual knowledge and an understanding of History to describe past societies and periods and to make links between features and across different periods.

Geography (3 lessons per week)

Pupils will learn to work effectively with maps and atlases within the context of a variety of physical and human geographical systems. Pupils will study river systems, the professional football business, natural disasters and ecosystems.

ICT (3 lessons per week)

Using Microsoft Office, Macromedia Studio and Adobe Photoshop, pupils will develop word processing, spreadsheet and presentation skills. They will also be introduced to desk-top publishing, Internet Use, email systems and basic computer structure. Pupils will be encouraged to develop touch-typing skills.

Latin (3 lessons per week) (instead of ICT)

Using the Cambridge Latin Course Book 1, pupils will study the use of cases, tenses and simple sentence structures in the Latin language. They will also use the language to investigate the basic structures of Roman Society, including houses, towns, slaves and freedmen, baths, gladiators, etc.

Mathematics (5 lessons per week)

Emphasis is placed on the development of basic numeracy and mathematical skills. Topics covered include arithmetic, decimals, number patterns, fractions, ratio and percentage, an introduction to data gathering and statistics, speed and travel, plane geometry, and the algebra of directed numbers, indices, formulae and brackets.

Modern Languages: French (4 lessons per week)

Language skills are developed in the context of shopping, numbers and quantities, countries and towns, school routines and subjects, staying with a French family, buying and ordering drinks and snacks, travelling, clothes and leisure. Full use is made of the Encore Tricolore 2 book. Beginners's French is available in the 2nd Form for pupils new to the language.

Modern Languages: Spanish (4 lessons per week)

Using the Caminos Book 1, pupils develop basic vocabulary and grammar skills pertaining to the use of the Spanish language in family and school environments. A key aim is to provide pupils with the necessary grammatical foundation to cope with 3rd form Spanish.



Music (1 lesson per week)

A general introduction to the delights of Music includes guitars, keyboards, singing, performing, and the theory and composition of music. Pupils are encouraged to develop their musical talents and improve general performance and appreciation.

Religious Studies (1 lesson per week)

Pupils are encouraged to explore religious belief and practice in rites of passage (marriage, baptism, and funerals), food and festivals, and such key issues as the environment, vegetarianism, and prejudice and discrimination.

Physics (2 lessons per week)

Pupils, in small teams and individually, explore the natural world by scientific investigations into Energy and Motion, Matter, Earth and Solar System, and Electricity and Magnetism. Emphasis is placed on the people and ideas of modern science, and the basic principles of scientific inquiry.

PE (2 lessons per week)

Pupils are given a wide variety of physical, social and qualitative experiences through a broad range of physical activity, including gymnastics, swimming, health-related fitness, ball skills, badminton, golf, hockey and athletics.

Support for Learning (up to 4 lessons per week)

Second Form Support Learning group pupils do not study the second Modern Language. Support for Learning Pupils receive four lessons of Support Learning per week. In addition, subject teachers can request, via their Head of Department, in-class support for pupils, which will be dependent on staffing and timetabling. Pupils are able to take both unfinished work and Prep to their Support Learning class. A more in-depth look at both literacy and numeracy skills will be undertaken as pupils progress. This will be complemented by 'Thinking/Study Skills'. Support Learning operates two Study Skills Workshops on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon from 4-5pm. These workshops are voluntary and are used by pupils in order to obtain assistance with their literacy and study skills e.g. English Prep & Essay Writing Skills.



The Third Form Curriculum: Subject by Subject Summaries

Art and Design (2 lessons per week)

Pupils will continue to develop the artistic foundations of the 2nd Form, using pencils and charcoal, paint and ink and collage techniques. The main theme areas are the School Environment and the Sea.

Biology (2 lessons per week)

Pupils will investigate variation and genetics, bones and muscles, nerves and reflexes, kidney function, temperature control, health and disease, microbes, food chains and pyramids, mineral cycles and pollution. Field and laboratory exercises will help pupils develop scientific investigation skills.

Careers Education (approximately 1 lesson per month within PSHE)

Pupils will be helped to identify personal strengths and interests and to link these to career ideas. Help will be provided in the choice of suitable GCSE subjects for the next year.

Chemistry (2 lessons per week)

Pupils will learn about classifying materials, the use of chemical formulae and equations, and the Earth and its atmosphere. Pupils will continue to undertake practical work on chemical reactions.

Drama (1 lesson per week)

Using extracts from a variety of plays, pupils will be taught the importance of stage positioning and focusing and the importance of eye contact in dramatic performance. Pupils will experience a wide range of theatrical environments and challenges.

English (5 lessons per week)

Emphasis is placed on basic literacy skills in Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening. Pupils learn to read effectively, to recognize and use new vocabulary, and to order ideas effectively in speech and writing. Teachers will continue to maintain Pupil Progress in English portfolios, comprising three discrete tasks per term in Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening.

English as a Second Language (4 lessons per week)

For pupils for whom English is not their first language, this course will help them to improve their vocabulary, grammar, reading, writing, speaking and listening skills, as support for the full spectrum of academic subjects undertaken.

History (3 lessons per week)

Pupils will study the history of Scotland (1625-1750), including the Covenanters and the Jacobite Rebellion), undertake a Family History project, learn about the Black Peoples of North America, and about the Holocaust. Pupils will be encouraged to use factual knowledge and an understanding of History to describe past societies and periods and to make links between features and across different periods.

Geography (3 lessons per week)

Pupils will study aspects of globalisation, development, weather and climate, and the geography of crime. Further map analysis skills development will be encouraged.

ICT (3 lessons per week)

Pupils will gain further experience in the use of general purpose computer software such as word processors, presentation graphics, desk-top publishing and spreadsheets. They will also explore single purpose software such as Graphics, Web design and simulation programmes.

Latin (3 lessons per week) (instead of ICT)

Using the Cambridge Latin Course Book 1, pupils will further study the use of cases, tenses and sentence structures in the Latin language. They will also use the language to investigate the basic structures of Roman provinces, revolt, racial issues, and religion.

Mathematics (5 lessons per week)

Emphasis is placed on the development of basic numeracy and mathematical skills. Topics covered include arithmetic, probability, areas, volumes, Pythagorean, trigonometry, the geometry of the straight line and curved graphs, algebraic formulae, equations and inequalities, simultaneous equations and quadratics.

Modern Languages: French (4 lessons per week)

Spoken and written language skills are further developed in the context of family life, leisure and travel, health and holiday plans. Full use is made of the Encore Tricolore 3 book.

Modern Languages: Spanish (4 lessons per week)

Using the Caminos Book 2, pupils develop more sophisticated vocabulary and grammar skills pertaining to the use of the Spanish language in clothes and fashion, health and leisure, travelling and work. A key aim is to provide pupils with the necessary grammatical foundation to cope with GCSE Spanish. Beginners's Spanish is available in the 3rd Form for pupils new to the language.



Music (1 lesson per week)

A general introduction to the delights of Music includes guitars, keyboards, singing, performing, and the theory and composition of music. Pupils are encouraged to develop their musical talents and improve general performance and appreciation.

Religious Studies (1 lesson per week)

Pupils are encouraged to explore religious belief and practice in war and peace, arguments for the existence of God, the origins of life, care of the planet, attitudes towards animals, and Christian attitudes to love and forgiveness.

Physics (2 lessons per week)

Pupils, in small teams and individually, explore the natural world by scientific investigations into energy resources, radioactivity, astronomy, forces and motion, waves and electrical circuits. Emphasis is placed on the people and ideas of modern science, and the basic principles of scientific inquiry.

PE (2 lessons per week)

Pupils are given a wide variety of physical, social and qualitative experiences through a broad range of physical activity, including gymnastics, swimming, health-related fitness, ball skills, badminton, golf, hockey and athletics.

Support for Learning (up to 4 lessons per week)

Normally Third Form Support Learning group pupils do not study the second Modern Language. Support for Learning Pupils receive four lessons of Support Learning per week. In addition, subject teachers can request, via their Head of Department, in-class support for pupils, which will be dependent on staffing and timetabling. Pupils are able to take both unfinished work and Prep to their Support Learning class. A more in-depth look at both literacy and numeracy skills will be undertaken as pupils progress. This will be complemented by 'Thinking/Study Skills'. Support Learning operates two Study Skills Workshops on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon from 4-5pm. These workshops are voluntary and are used by pupils in order to obtain assistance with their literacy and study skills e.g. English Prep & Essay Writing Skills.



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SUBJECT	NUMBER OF WEEKLY LESSONS	
ENGLISH	5	The curriculum is designed to develop abilities in different kinds of writing, speaking and listening and to promote pleasure in all kinds of reading. There is a core emphasis on reading, spelling and written presentation skills.
MATHEMATICS	5	The curriculum is designed with key emphasis on the development of basic numeracy and numerical skills, including directed numbers and fractions, and basic algebra and trigonometry.
LANGUAGES		
1 st Modern Language French	4	Pupils doing French develop speaking and reading skills via the Encore Tricolore programme. Pupils who have never studied French before, or who wish to do Spanish and Latin instead, can choose Spanish as their 1 st Modern language.
2 nd Modern Language Spanish	4	Pupils study Spanish via the Vaya Nuevo programme, which emphasises the development of speaking skills.
LATIN	3	The Latin course helps pupils to improve their understanding of Latin through the study of Roman life and language. Latin can be studied instead of ICT skills.
SCIENCES		
Biology	2	Pupils are encouraged to develop an interest in scientific matters and an awareness of the relevance and importance of Science to the modern world. The course is divided into Biology, Chemistry and Physics, each taught by subject specialist. Practical work is an important component of the course and, as part of this pupils will carry out laboratory experiments and investigative work. Emphasis is placed on contextual numerical skills and the promotion of scientific curiosity.
Chemistry	2	
Physics	2	
HUMANITIES		
Geography	3	In Geography pupils will experience modules on world geography and aspects of human and physical geography that emphasize the place of human beings in a global and increasingly fragile environment. The History curriculum covers aspects of Scottish, British and European History with historical investigations and personal projects. The RS course encourages pupils to develop and state their own views on a range of ethical issues. The syllabus is based on the key beliefs of the Christian faith, the comparative study of religious perspectives on the origins of life, the existence of God and life after death.
History	3	
Religious Studies	1	



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EXPRESSIVE ARTS		
Art and Design	2	<p>In Art pupils will be encouraged to work using a variety of media and to experiment with personal expression in visual art. The strengthening of technical skills is a major objective. Project work includes three-dimensional design and graphics as well as drawing and painting. In Music all pupils will be encouraged to have a go at learning the keyboard, guitar, drum kit and bass guitar. Many boys and girls learn a classical musical instrument, and lessons are arranged on a weekly basis. Everybody sings in the Chapel and choir practice occurs every week. In Drama pupils are taught to appreciate the special skills of performance and expression by undertaking small group and workshop projects, in line with the English curriculum.</p>
Music	1	
Drama	1	
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT		
Physical Education	2	<p>Pupils are taught the basic principles of physical exercise as a route to good health, and are given instruction on a wide range of sport and games.</p>
Personal, Social and Health Education	1	<p>Pupils are placed in discussion groups of about a dozen pupils and have coordinated discussions with a Tutor about smoking, healthy eating, drugs, relationships, bullying and community responsibilities.</p>
ICT		
Keyboard Skills	1	<p>Pupils are strongly encouraged by facilitated computer-based learning programmes to develop keyboard skills.</p>
ICT skills	2	<p>Pupils also develop word-processing, spreadsheet, computer graphic and presentation skills, as well as a basic understanding of how computers work and their importance in modern life.</p>
TOTALS	41	