

The Senior Phase

S4-S6

S4 pupils are presented for courses called 'Nationals' which replace the old Standard Grades and are offered at different levels. In a single year most S4 pupils will complete National courses at National 4 or National 5. Highers and Advanced Highers continue to be offered nationally to S5/6 pupils but courses have been updated to make the content more relevant to today's world, providing a more seamless transition between Nationals and Highers.

Full Implementation

S1-5 Pupils have already been following the new curriculum. The process of implementation has been a gradual one to ensure that pupils, parents and teachers are fully ready to make the most of the opportunities the new curriculum provides. The final phase has already begun - All S4 pupils are now presented for Nationals and S1-3 now covers a broad, deep, general education until the end of S3, when subject choices are made for presentation in up to 7 Nationals at the end of S4 (including core English, Maths and French or Spanish). By June 2015 the old Higher and Advanced Highers will be phased out and new courses introduced for all pupils.

Will the new exams be harder?

No. Nor will they be easier. They'll just be different, to reflect learning. Some qualifications, like the new National 4, are assessed by the teacher, not an external exam, but will be fully moderated by SQA

Personalisation and Choice

'Personalisation and choice' is a key principle of Curriculum for Excellence.

"Personalised learning means tailoring learning and teaching to learners' needs and ensuring appropriate progression pathways for different groups of learners"

Through CfE pupils are actively involved in, and can make choices which influence, the learning, teaching and assessment processes by selecting topics in class; making and taking opportunities to contribute to the wider life of the school and participating/shaping activities for personal development.

S3 pupils will be offered a greater degree of specialisation and choice across curricular areas whilst maintaining a Broad General Education in line with the principles of CFE. Courses to be followed will be identified and agreed before the end of S2.

Can I get more information?

Further information about CfE is available from the following websites or by contacting the school

www.educationscotland.gov.uk

www.parentzonescotland.gov.uk

www.sqa.org.uk (information on qualifications)

www.employersandyoungpeople.co.uk

www.hmie.gov.uk (standards, inspections)

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/NPF/nationals-in-a-nutshell/> (National courses in a PDF nutshell)

St Modan's High School

Setting the Highest Standards



Curriculum For Excellence

Information for Parents
January 2015

Bringing learning to life in the way education is delivered for all 3-18 year olds

Taking a fresh approach to what, how and where young people learn

Raising standards, improving knowledge and developing skills for learning, life and work

Closing the gap between the lowest and highest performers

Nurturing young people as successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens

January 2015

Why is change needed?

The world is changing fast. It is suggested that today's young person may have 10-14 jobs by the time they are 38. We need to prepare learners for jobs that don't exist, using technology that hasn't been invented to solve problems we can't yet imagine. CfE and how it's delivered aims to equip young people with knowledge, confidence and skills, giving them a competitive edge in a global job market.

When is it happening?

It's already happening. Pupils in S4 in May 2014 were the first to take the new qualifications called Nationals.

How is CfE delivered?

Curriculum for Excellence is delivered in a number of ways:

- Through curricular areas and subjects in classroom lessons and beyond
- By breaking down perceived barriers between subjects through interdisciplinary learning (eg Africa Project, Social Responsibility, SMART, Elizabethan Experience and much more)
- Through the positive ethos and values of our school community
- Through the many opportunities for personal achievement offered in the classroom and in the wide range of additional pupil activities
- Through partnerships with parents, employers, colleges and universities

What has changed under CfE?

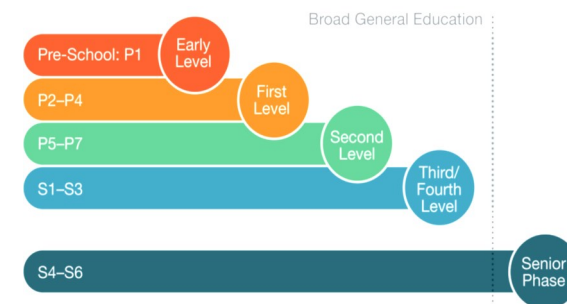
- Lessons are more 'active' - more engaging, inspiring and relevant to everyday life
- Teachers make better connections between subjects, helping children make sense of the world
- Children learn *how* to learn and how to use their learning, not just memorise information to pass tests - this will help them adapt in an uncertain future with the ability to think for themselves, make sound judgements, challenge, enquire and find solutions
- There is more focus on knowledge *and* skills – including Higher order thinking skills, literacy and numeracy, which underpin all learning and are critical in life
- There are changes to assessment and how progress is reported to give learners, parents and employers better information on achievement and potential
- Pupils are engaging more with their learning rather than passively absorbing information
- All learners work at a pace that suits, with enough challenge and support to stretch them
- Greater attention is being paid to skills development that support pupils' ability to learn independently
- There are Increased opportunities for deeper learning across all areas of the curriculum

How is the curriculum organised?

There are two main sections to the curriculum:

The Broad General Education (BGE): S1 to S3

The Senior Phase: S4 to S6



The Broad General Education S1-S3

Sets a solid foundation for future learning. The BGE focuses on development of skills, knowledge and experiences. Pupils progress through 'levels' from Primary to Secondary school.

Pupils will cover almost all CfE Experiences and Outcomes up to, at least Third Level by the end of S3 or earlier and, at the end of S2 will make choices for greater specialisation in S3 as part of the Broad General Education until S4 begins

CfE Curricular Areas are:

- Expressive Arts
- Language and Literacy
- Health and Well Being
- Sciences
- Maths and Numeracy
- Social Studies
- Religious and Moral Education
- Technologies