

Contact Us

W S Bowen—Head Teacher

N Thomson—History, Geography & Personal and Social Education

C Dixon—Design and Technology & Engineering Science

A Butler—Chemistry & Maths

A Pietri—French

Y Gray—English

C Evans—Health and Food Technology & Biology

C Knox—Health and Food Technology & Textiles

K Kemp—Music

A Hogson—Art

C Lennon—Drama & Support for Learning

M Dearness—PE

Key Dates

Parents Nights: 19th November & 8th March

Mentor Grades: weeks beginning 8th Dec, 24th May

Exams: week beginning 23rd February

Choices: available end of February — dependent on knowledge of staffing

Report Cards: 8th March

Change to S4 timetable: 11th April

Please note some of the links in this document are Bit links which shorten long URL addresses. Type in the Bit Link code (bit.ly/1kCr6MI) in full into your browser and this will take you directly to the pages.



Sanday Community School

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Sanday Community School

The heart, soul and future of our island community

Parents Guide

What to expect
when my child is
in S3



November 2015

S3 Introduction

S3 is the final year of what is classed by Curriculum for Excellence as Broad General Education. This means that pupils do not specialise in particular subjects but cover a wide curriculum.

S3 differs to S2 in that subjects that were general in nature, such as Social Sciences, now become specific subjects such as History and Geography.

However we continue to encourage rich learning experiences, participating in interdisciplinary projects. In the past included archaeology and photography.

Depending on the pupils' ability, courses now prepare for the National Qualifications of National 4 and 5, however, pupils do not sit any national exams in S3.

S3 should be seen as preparation for S4. Pupils are encouraged to develop their independent learning skills, and take responsibility for their own homework and study schedule.

We also aim to give pupils opportunities to stay at Papdale Hostel and visit Kirkwall Grammar School at several points in the year so that pupils become more familiar with these places in preparation for moving there after S4.

Follow the links to find more information about Broad General Education bit.ly/1LjShAH or National Qualifications www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/3.html

S3 Year

Pupils start the S3 curriculum in August. Pupils will now study subjects such as Engineering Science, Design and Manufacture, Biology, Chemistry, History and Geography. They will continue to experience the full range of Expressive Arts subjects, such as Drama, Art, and Music. They will continue to learn a second language — French. As core subjects pupils will have English, Maths, Religious and Moral Education as well as Personal and Social Development lessons.

Pupils will be given varying amounts of homework dependent on the content of the subjects being taught. If pupils are absent they are expected to find out what homework they have missed. This homework helps to prepare pupils to study for exams and to prepare for study in further and higher education.

Pupils will also have opportunity to take on leadership roles in the school. Interviews are held for the Young Sports Ambassadors. This encourages pupils to take a lead role within the school, developing social skills, fostering confidence and increasing their independence.

Pupils will have the opportunity to attend Orkney College for two days. Staff from Skills Development Scotland will work with the pupils during the year as they begin to think about their future and the world of work.

S3 Profile

At the end of S3 all pupils will write a Profile. This celebrates their achievements over the past three years in the Broad and General Curriculum and encourages them to reflect on the progress they have made in their learning. The profile also encourages pupils to think about their goals and targets for the future.

Further information can be accessed at bit.ly/1NF0GAs

S3 Choices

Here in Sanday we aim to offer a broad range of subjects for study in S4, trying wherever possible to meet pupils' needs and interests. Staffing meetings between the Head Teacher and the Head of Schools take place in Kirkwall in February each year and it is at this stage that the level of staffing is agreed. Subject choices are, as in all schools, constrained by the staff available.

Pupils will receive more detailed information about subject choices in the spring term, when the S3 Course Choices Handbook will be available to help them decide which courses to follow. In line with other schools across Scotland, where six or seven subjects are offered, pupils in Sanday will choose seven subjects which will be assessed at National 4 or National 5 level, as appropriate, in S4. This ensures a wide choice of subjects will be open to them for study at Higher in KGS, Orkney College and beyond.

S3 pupils will follow a new timetable based on their choices after the Easter holiday, allowing more time for in-depth study and the completion of internal assessments required in S4. Our results in National 4 and 5 have been good, with pupils benefitting from the small class sizes and individual attention we are able to offer in Sanday School.

Having embarked on the Senior Phase of their education, pupils are well prepared for a number of choices in learning. Having studied National 4 and 5 in S4, they can progress to Highers in S5 (or a combination of National 5 and Higher subjects) then to Advanced Highers (or a combination of Highers and Advanced Highers) in S6 before going to college or university. They can also access a range of qualifications – achievement awards and national diplomas – offered by Orkney College.