

WHA Rationale

Purpose of the Curriculum S4-S6 – The Senior Phase

By the end of the Junior Phase (S1-S3) most pupils will have benefited from a wide range of learning and experiences through the broad general education. They will have progressed at different rates and many will have reached high levels of attainment and achievement. Almost all pupils will have covered most of the Level 3 Experiences and Outcomes and many will have covered Experiences and Outcomes at Level 4. Many of the students will have also achieved Awards including the DoE, Saltire, John Muir and Sports Leader. Students requiring additional support will have covered a number of early, second and third level experiences and outcomes appropriate to their individual needs and circumstances. They will have built a strong platform for later learning and for a successful transition into the senior phase and the new qualifications.

The Senior Phase at Wallace Hall Academy should have a clear purpose:

- to enable all pupils to undertake a range of national qualifications at the appropriate level to ensure post school progression into a positive destination.
- to further develop the knowledge, skills and qualities to support our pupils to take a meaningful and worthwhile place in society.
- to further develop the skills for life, learning and work.
- to experience opportunities for personal development and achievement.
- to experience challenge and success.
- to encourage an active and healthy lifestyle.
- to support planning for their future lives, careers and lifelong learning.

S4/5/6 Senior Phase - Key Features

- Pupils in S4 – S6 will be timetabled as one cohort to allow for greater opportunities in terms of choice and meeting individual needs
- All pupils will continue with PE, PSE, modules and RME
- S4 and S5 pupils will choose 5 main courses – and study them 5 ppwk
- S6 pupils will choose at least 4 courses
- All S6 pupils will also commit to an individualised programme of personal development with possible Higher Personal Development certification. This will include volunteering, charity work, peer / pupil support, YASS (Open University modules), UWS - step up to university courses etc
- Pupils will be able to choose subjects at a level appropriate to their ability i.e. 1 year Higher courses, 1.5 year Higher courses, 1 year National 4/5 courses, 1 year Advanced Higher courses, Skills for Work courses or achievement award courses e.g. Duke of Edinburgh/ Sports Leaders. It is hoped that all courses will be certificated through SQA to maximise attainment for each individual pupil – however where vocational courses cannot be accredited in this way achievement will be recognised through more generic achievement awards
- Additional time within 1.5 year Higher courses will be planned to enhance pupil experiences and will address expectations of Curriculum for Excellence in developing the 4 capacities. They will also include enhancements and enrichment.
- Vocational options linking with local college providers e.g. SRUC or Dumfries and Galloway College will be sought with the hope that local delivery may be possible.

- Links will be developed with local hairdressers and /or beauty salons to deliver hairdressing / health and beauty
- Video conferencing facilities will provide additional flexibility in delivery of AH in conjunction with other authority schools
- Work experience is strongly encouraged for all S6 students
- Scot Bacc Science/Mod Languages

S6 Personal Development

In S6 students will make 4 options x 5 ppwk – from any curriculum area / subjects / skills for work courses / college courses / achievement awards programmes. They will also opt into committees that will look at charity work, social events, young enterprise, publicity etc. there will also be opportunities to follow YASS, AHs, Course at Glasgow University in Dumfries, Prefects, House roles, Work experience and vocational courses.

Application of the Principles of Curriculum Design to the Wallace Hall Academy Senior Phase Model

Breadth

The Senior Phase will cover 3 years with exit points as appropriate to individual pupil aspiration and plans. In each year of the Senior Phase pupils will study up to 6 subjects or timetabled experiences each year at an appropriate level. Breadth will be further enhanced by viewing S4-S6 as an integrated phase as pupils build on their qualifications over or up to three years. All pupils will study Maths and English in S4 at the appropriate level to ensure all pupils leave the Senior Phase with a qualification in these two areas at the highest level they are capable of. Breadth will also be achieved through ensuring a number of achievement, personal development and vocational opportunities are offered as an integrated part of the curriculum. In order to further support the purpose of the curriculum all pupils will receive two hours of PE and one hour of personal and social education at each stage of the Senior Phase. They will also receive their entitlement to RMPS through curricular inserts. Students requiring additional support will continue to study a broad curriculum based on individual need. They will build up an individualised portfolio of NQ units, courses, certificated achievement courses and lifeskills experiences.

Depth

During the Senior Phase, depth of learning will continue to be provided through opportunities for pupils to engage with increasingly demanding concepts, develop progressively more complex cognitive abilities and build and learn new skills. This will be provided through working towards National Qualifications at the appropriate level for each individual pupil as well as whole school personal development opportunities. The three year senior phase will allow depth of study at different levels depending on pupil interest, aptitude and aspiration. It will allow the by-passing of lower levels for pupils if appropriate and will allow pupils at the end of the senior phase to pick up qualifications in new subjects at lower levels should this suit their plans. This will include National 3/4/5, Higher, AH, YASS courses and courses at the local college and university

Personalisation & Choice

By the end of the Junior Phase all pupils will have covered a broad and general education with increased personalisation and choice introduced during S3. Personalisation and choice will be further increased in the Senior Phase with pupils choosing up to six options each year. Personalisation and choice will be further enhanced through our work with the D&G AH courses delivered by video conferencing, YASS, college and university courses. This offers pupils a greater degree of flexibility of choice. Pupils will have a choice to study at the various levels across the entire Senior Phase. They will also be offered greater personalisation and choice through a number of curricular and whole school opportunities to develop new skills and further develop their own interests.

Challenge & Enjoyment

During the Senior Phase at Wallace Hall Academy we will continue to have the highest possible expectations of what our young people can achieve. Through offering an integrated Senior Phase in S4-S6 we will challenge our pupils to reach the highest levels they are capable of. Through offering choices in personal development, vocational options, leadership opportunities and extra-curricular activity, our pupils will continue to be challenged to develop as well rounded, responsible and confident young people. Enjoyment can come from the satisfaction of having pushed yourself and successfully completed a difficult concept or skill. The wide variety of achievement opportunities will also ensure enjoyment and challenge. Our approach to tracking and monitoring and providing universal support in the Senior Phase through mentoring will support our approach to challenging our pupils.

Progression

Young people should experience appropriate and challenging progression from the Junior Phase into the Senior Phase. The main progression routes that will be available to pupils based on their prior achievement, interests and aspirations. The S3 pupil profile completed at the end of the Junior Phase has been designed to support pupils in deciding on the most appropriate progression routes into the Senior Phase.

Coherence

As with the Junior Phase learning activities in the Senior Phase should combine to form a coherent experience with clear links between different aspects of learning. The S3 personal profile will be a key document in supporting pupils to move into a coherent experience in the Senior Phase allowing reflection of strengths, interests and future career pathways.

Relevance

In the Senior Phase, pupils should continue to understand the purpose of their learning and the activities they are engaged in. Courses should be planned so that pupils understand the relevance of their learning to their lives, present and future. This curriculum model aims to enhance relevance through offering a wide range of subjects and experiences. There will continue to be focus on developing skills for learning, life and work. This will be further enhanced in the Senior Phase through links with business partners, work experience opportunities, community involvement and further and higher education partners. Within the ASN curriculum in the Senior Phase, relevance will continue to be at the heart of learning, equipping our pupils with the skills they will require to lead successful and independent lives. The Queensberry Initiative will promote an understanding of rural opportunities, vocational skills, social enterprise and the outdoor classroom.