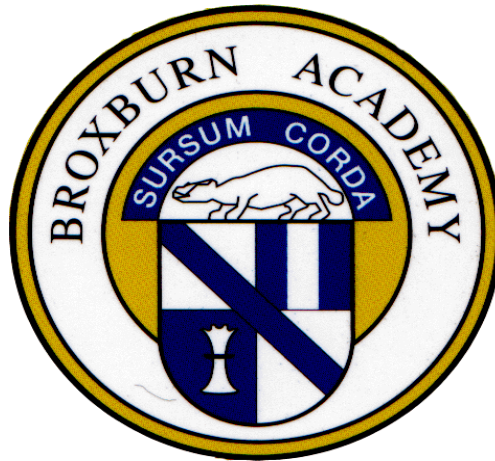


BROXBURN ACADEMY



Senior Phase Course Choice Information

January 2019

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Course Choice General Information

Introduction

The **senior phase** at Broxburn Academy is the learner's journey from S4-S6. Transition beyond school is obviously the next step for our young people so it is important that, when choosing subjects, they are thinking about what choices will give the best access to future opportunities at university, college and the world of work.

There are a number of criteria we recommend learners consider when making their choices:

- **Future opportunity** – many university and college courses specify subjects and grades as part of their entry requirements. We strongly recommend you research these requirements.
- **Appropriate progress** – selecting subjects at the correct level of challenge so that each learner can make progress is important. A curriculum that is either overly or insufficiently challenging can create problems for learners that impact on their progress. Most S5 learners will choose to continue with subjects studied previously, but there are opportunities to study new subjects, provided that the minimum entry requirements can be met. Most learners prefer to wait until S6 to study a new subject, where they find that their extra maturity helps. Recommended levels of study will be discussed with each individual student.
- **Enjoyment** – matching subject choice to a learner's interests and enjoyment can help keep motivation levels high, so learners should consult with their current teachers about the subject content and the learner's experience in each of their intended subject choices so that they have a clear idea of what lies ahead.
- **Balance** – some learners will want to keep their options open in terms of the future, and so picking a range of distinct subjects that develop a variety of skills may be a wise option.

Help for parents and pupils

Pupils should all be familiar with the following websites which are used in school as part of Personal and Social Education classes and careers lessons:

<http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/subjectchoices> OR <https://www.planitplus.net>

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) has developed a new website with fascinating information about Scotland's employment needs, jobs in demand, and how to make choices as well. Please visit:

<https://mykidscareer.azurewebsites.net/your-questions/#subjectchoices>

West Lothian College has good information about the courses pupils can do as part of their school timetable, and also about their full time courses.

<https://www.west-lothian.ac.uk/courses/courses-for-schools/>

The college is offering an increasing number of Foundation Apprenticeships, which you can learn more about here:

https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/eslb/2018/11/22/foundation-apprenticeships-preparing-young-people-for-the-world-of-work/?dm_i=LQE%2C5ZDZE%2CTXLS52%2CNG1YF%2C1&fbclid=IwAR3_J54zfg_c9s8ynWwAl50i75cqa0sUpJpkaJ2d0-RNwyeBx3O5shDJh5g

The National Parent Forum of Scotland also offers a very informative website which gives the parental perspective and can answer questions you may have. There is also information relating to courses and revision guides for students.

<http://www.parentforumscotland.org/>

Qualifications

Following the introduction of the National Exams, there have also been changes to the Higher examinations.

Please refer to the SQA guide which clearly shows the current levels and opportunities for progression.

[https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/Guide to Scottish Qualifications.pdf](https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/Guide_to_Scottish_Qualifications.pdf)

Accounting

Higher – S6 students only

Accounting expertise is the key factor in operating a successful business. Business owners need to acquire finance, control costs, make a profit, plan ahead and use accounting information to assess the performance of their firms.

The main purpose of this Course is to enable learners to understand, and make use of, financial information so that they can prepare accounting statements and analyse, interpret and report on an organisation's financial performance. The Course combines practical and theoretical aspects of learning related to accounting, and will allow learners to use ICT through tackling both computer-based and paper-based tasks. A main feature of this Course is the development of numeracy and thinking skills.

Higher Accounting course is assessed by a 2.5 hour assignment and a 2.5 hour exam and all S6 pupils taking this course will be fresh-start students so should have a proven track record at this level of study.

For more information, speak to Miss Keating or Mrs Laver.

Administration and IT

Higher

The ability to use software effectively is essential for success in employment, further and higher education. The course builds on existing skills and knowledge and it aims to:

- develop an understanding of the role of administration in all organisations
- develop an understanding of laws that affect all employees
- develop an appreciation of good customer care
- develop IT skills and use them to perform administrative tasks in Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint and Emerging Technologies
- develop personal organisational skills

The course is assessed by a graded Key Skills Assignment that involves working through a series of planning and follow-up tasks and an extended writing exam. Candidates will need to draw on their knowledge and understanding, problem-solving and practical IT skills to complete the formal assessments.

Fresh start pupils attempting Higher in S6 should have a proven track record at this level of study.

For more information, speak to Miss Keating or Mrs Laver.

Art and Design

National 4, National 5, Higher

This course is a broad-based qualification. It is suitable for all learners with an interest in art and design, and for those wanting to progress onto higher levels of study. This qualification will allow learners to consolidate and extend their art and design skills.

Art and Design: Expressive Activity

This unit helps learners to develop their personal thoughts and ideas in visual form. In the unit, learners will develop critical understanding of artists' working practices and the social and cultural influences affecting their work. They will select stimuli and produce analytical drawings and studies. They will develop and refine their expressive ideas and artwork, experimenting with and using a range of materials, techniques and/or technology in 2D and/or 3D formats when responding to stimuli.

Art and Design: Design Activity

In this unit learners will plan, research and develop creative design work in response to a design brief. They will develop their creativity, problem solving and critical thinking skills as they consider design opportunities, and work to resolve design issues and constraints. Learners will develop critical understanding of designers' working practices and the main social and cultural influences affecting their work. They will experiment with, develop and refine their design ideas, using a range of materials, techniques and/or technology in 2D and/or 3D formats.

The Art and Design Department have secured the use of a computer suite from August 2018. It is hoped that this resource will enable the department to offer an increased range of courses aimed at enhancing digital skills in creative areas such as animation, graphic design and illustration with the possibility of linking some work to the gaming industry. More information about this will be available in the spring.

For more information, speak to Mrs McKenzie or the Art and Design Department.

Art Portfolio Preparation

Ungraded

This course offers S6 pupils 5 periods a week to work towards the completion of a visual portfolio required for entry to most courses in the areas of art and design and allows pupils to create portfolios that are individual and tailored to their own personal goals.

This course is open to any pupil who is considering further study in the fields of art or design and does not require any previous study in the Art and Design Department.

For more information, speak to Mrs McKenzie, or Mr Knox.

Biology

National 4, National 5, Higher, Advanced Higher

The aims of the Course are to enable learners to:

- develop and apply knowledge and understanding of biology
- understand biology's role in scientific issues and relevant applications of
- understand how biology impacts on society and the environment
- develop scientific inquiry and investigative skills
- develop scientific analytical thinking skills in a biology context
- develop the use of technology, equipment and materials, safely, in practical scientific activities
- develop planning skills
- develop problem solving skills in a biology context
- use and understand scientific literacy, in everyday contexts, to communicate ideas and issues and to make scientifically informed choices
- develop the knowledge and skills for more advanced learning in biology
- develop skills of independent working

There are 3 units of study in the National 4 and National 5 Biology Courses and an Assignment. The units of study are as follows:

- Cell Biology
- Biology: Multicellular Organisms
- Biology: Life on Earth

There are 3 units of study in the Higher Biology Course and additional Researching Biology Unit. The units of study are as follows:

- DNA and the Genome (Higher)
- Metabolism and Survival (Higher)
- Sustainability and Interdependence
- Researching Biology

There are 4 units of study in Advanced Higher Biology:

- Cells and Proteins
- Organisms and Evolution
- Investigative Biology

Recommended entry for these courses:

Advanced Higher: A or B at Higher Biology

Higher Biology: A or B at National 5 Biology and National 5 Mathematics is highly recommended

For more information, speak to Mr Hill, or member of the Biology Department.

Business Management

National 4, National 5, Higher

Business Management builds on the BGE and National 5 courses and aims to enable learners to increase the depth and breadth of their knowledge and understanding of what makes successful businesses.

Specifically it develops further:

- knowledge of the ways society relies on business
- insight into how organisations ensure customers' needs are met
- enterprising attributes by exploring real-life business situations
- financial awareness through a business context
- understanding how organisations organise their resources to improve their performance
- exploring the role of departments – Marketing, Finance, Human Resources and Operations
- appreciation of how external influences impact on organisations

The course assessment is by a Research Investigation and an extended writing exam.

Fresh start pupils attempting a Higher in S6 should have a proven track record at this level of study.

For more information, speak to Mrs Laver.

Chemistry

National 4, National 5, Higher, Advanced Higher

The aims of the course are to enable learners to:

- develop and apply knowledge and understanding of chemistry
- develop an understanding of chemistry's role in scientific issues and relevant applications of chemistry, including the impact these could make in society and the environment
- develop scientific inquiry and investigative skills
- develop scientific analytical thinking skills, including scientific evaluation, in a chemistry context
- develop the use of technology, equipment and materials, safely, in practical scientific activities, including using risk assessments
- develop planning skills
- develop problem solving skills in a chemistry context
- use and understand scientific literacy to communicate ideas and issues and to make scientifically informed choices
- develop the knowledge and skills for more advanced learning in chemistry
- develop skills of independent working

There are 3 units of study in the National 4 and National 5 Chemistry Courses and an Assignment. The Higher Chemistry Course has the same units with an additional Researching Chemistry Unit.

The units of study are as follows:

- Chemical Changes and Structure
- Nature's Chemistry
- Chemistry in Society
- Researching Chemistry (Higher)

There are 4 units of study in the Advanced Higher Chemistry

- Inorganic and Physical Chemistry (Advanced Higher)
- Organic Chemistry and Instrumental Analysis (Advanced Higher)
- Researching Chemistry (Advanced Higher)
- Course assessment

Recommended entry for these courses:

Advanced Higher: A or B at Higher Chemistry and A or B at Higher Mathematics

Higher Chemistry: A or B at National 5 Chemistry and A or B at National 5 Mathematics

For more information, speak to Mr Hill, or member of the Chemistry Department.

Dance

National 4, National 5, Higher

National courses in Dance develop a range of technical dance skills and build knowledge and an understanding of choreographic skills, too. Higher Dance offers both practical and theoretical elements in a fun and yet demanding course. A high level of performance is expected in technical skills and choreography, with prior experience in dance being helpful but not essential.

Pupils will be required to pass two technical skills units (Jazz and Contemporary) that will be assessed through a solo (videoed) performance. Both these styles will then have to be performed in April to an external examiner and this contributes to 60/120 of the overall mark. The pupil will also be required to choreograph a dance based on a chosen theme for 3 or more dancers and must take into account choreographic structured, devices and theatre arts. This also includes a large written project that contributed to half the overall final grade.

For more information, speak to Mr Gray, Miss Low or Mrs Scoular.

Design and Manufacture

National 4, National 5, Higher

This subject provides an opportunity for pupils to develop an understanding of product design. The course will allow pupils to trace a product's development from its inception, production and use, through to its disposal.

The course is project-based and requires pupils to be creative as well as apply knowledge in order to develop their own ideas through to the manufacture of their own design. Pupils will be given the opportunity to undertake individual projects reflecting their own personal interests, abilities and creativity.

The design and manufacture course has 6 broad and inter-related aims at this level:

- On completion of this course pupils will have an awareness of advances in technologies.
- This course will allow learners to develop an understanding surrounding the inter-relationship between design issues.
- Pupils will be encouraged to consider the life cycle of a product.
- Pupils will be given the thinking and practical skills to develop a design proposal.
- Pupils will apply knowledge of manufacturing, utilising appropriate tools, machinery and CAD CAM software.
- Pupils will be given the opportunity to apply their knowledge of Design with increased levels of independence, skill and accuracy.

Additional Information: There will be an annual parental contribution towards the cost of raw materials used in this course.

For more information, speak to Miss Keating or member of the CDT Department.

Drama

National 4, National 5, Higher, Advanced Higher

These Drama Courses are designed to provide opportunities for learners to develop skills in creating and presenting drama.

The aims of the courses are:

- generate and communicate thoughts and ideas when creating drama
- develop a knowledge and understanding of social and cultural influences on drama
- develop skills in presenting drama
- develop production skills when presenting drama
- explore form, structure, genre and style

National 4: The National 4 Drama course consists of three units– Drama Skills, Production Skills and the Added Value Unit. These units consist of both written coursework and practical performances in front of an audience. **This course is assessed internally through submitted folio work, performances and written and verbal evaluations.**

National 5: The National 5 Drama course consists of two units, a performance exam and a written paper. The units consist of both written coursework and practical performances in front of an audience. **The final acting performance** is 60% of the overall grade and takes place in front of an external examiner and an audience. The written exam is one and a half hours long and is worth 40% of the overall grade.

Higher: The Higher Drama course consists of preparation for a performance exam and a written exam. There is also a compulsory theatre trip. The practical element is worth 60% of the final grade and pupils will choose two contrasting acting pieces to perform for an external

examiner and an audience. The written exam is two and a half hours long and is worth 40% of the overall grade. This comprises of essays and questions on a selected text (textual analysis) as well as on the performance you have seen (performance analysis).

Advanced Higher: The Advanced Higher course consists of two units, a final performance and a dissertation. The performance exam consists of a monologue and an interactive acting piece, worth 60% of the final grade. The externally marked dissertation (3000 word research project) is worth 40% of the final grade. The course develops extensive knowledge and understanding of 20th century and contemporary theatre practitioners through theory and practice. This course is designed to build students' academic research skills and theatrical repertoire to facilitate their transition into further study. Much of the work is self-directed and independent of the classroom environment and students will be required to demonstrate a mature approach to learning and taking the initiative.

For more information, speak to Mrs Strachan or Miss Wright

Early Education and Childcare

Skills for Work: National 4, National 5

The course is one of a range of National Courses known as Skills for Work Courses. This course has been designed to provide an experiential route to learners who wish to progress onto further study in Early Education and Childcare that satisfies the registration requirements of the Scottish Social Service Council. The learner will also be equipped with key knowledge and skills, and will develop positive attitudes that will allow them to progress onto other care-related courses, eg social care, or into employment outwith the early education and childcare sector.

For more information, speak to Mrs Moonie, Mrs Scoular or Miss Keating.

Exercise and Fitness Leadership

SCQF Level 6 (Higher)

The National Performance Award (NPA) in Exercise and Fitness Leadership provides an opportunity for pupils to develop their knowledge and understanding of different training methods to develop their own and others' fitness. Pupils will be expected to develop their personal leadership qualities as they design and lead their peers through various fitness classes.

Pupils will need to complete three units - Cardiovascular, Circuit and Free Weights - to achieve an overall course award.

Required entry for the course:

Having a sound knowledge of Biology and Physical Education at Higher level would be very beneficial. This course is only available to S6 pupils.

For more information, speak to Mr Gray, Ms McShannon or member of the PE Department.

French/Spanish

National 4, National 5, Higher

You can choose one language or, even better, both!

All of the courses involve the following 4 skills:

- Reading: Reading texts in the foreign language and answering questions in English. At Higher, this also involves a translation passage.
- Listening: Listening texts in the foreign language and answering questions in English.
- Writing: You will learn how to write in the foreign language – at differing lengths and complexities, depending on the level.
- Speaking: You will do some speaking in the foreign language – also at differing lengths depending on the course. This will be assessed by your class teacher.
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<p>National 5: Reading: 30 marks Listening: 20 marks Writing Assignment [in class]: 20 marks Writing [in exam]: 20 marks Speaking: 30 marks</p>
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<p>Higher: Reading & Translation: 30 marks Listening: 20 marks Writing Assignment [in class]: 20 marks Writing [in exam]: 20 marks Speaking: 30 marks</p>
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Top 5 reasons for studying a language (there are LOADS more!):

1. Increased job prospects – in an increasingly globalised world, language skills are becoming more and more important in a wide range of jobs.
2. Boost brain power – learning a language helps with memory, discussion skills, multi-tasking and lots more.
3. Improving your English – learning a foreign language helps to develop your own language, so picking French or Spanish could help with your English studies too!
4. Travelling the world will be easier – think of the places you could go!
5. Build your confidence – you will practice so many different skill that you will feel more confident in your abilities across a range of tasks.

Required entry to the course:

Higher: pupils must have achieved a pass at National 5.

For more information, speak to Mrs Orrock or any member of the Modern Languages Department.

https://www.npfs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/nutshell_languages_1810_E.pdf

Geography

National 4, National 5, Higher.

The geography courses develop a range of geographical skills and techniques. Learners consider the ways in which people and the environment interact in response to physical and human processes at local, national, international and global scales.

Physical Environments

Key topics include location of landscape type; formation of key landscape features; land use management and sustainability; and weather. Learners will study a selection of landscape types from contexts within Scotland and/or the UK. Landscape types will be chosen from glaciated upland; upland limestone; coastal landscapes; and rivers and valleys.

Human Environments

Key topics include contrasts in development; world population distribution and change; and issues in changing urban and rural landscapes. Learners will study and compare developed and developing countries drawn from a global context.

Global Issues

Key topics include climate change; the impact of human activity on the natural environment; environmental hazards; trade and globalisation; tourism and health. Learners will study major global issues and the strategies adopted to manage these.

Added Value Unit: Geography Assignment

In this unit, learners will choose an issue for personal study drawn from geographical contexts. They will research their chosen issue and present their findings. Through this activity they will have opportunities to experience challenge and application as they further develop and apply the skills, knowledge and understanding acquired in the other three units of the course.

For more information, speak to Mrs McKenzie or Mrs Masson.

Graphic Communication

National 4, National 5, Higher, Advanced Higher

The Course allows learners to engage with technology and consider the impact that graphic communication technologies have on our environment and society. Pupils will be given the opportunity to undertake individual projects reflecting their own personal interests and abilities. The aims of the course are to enable learners to:

- Develop skills in graphic communication techniques, including the use of equipment, graphics materials and software
- Extend and apply knowledge and understanding of graphic communication standards and protocols, where these apply
- Develop an understanding of the impact of graphic communication technologies on our environment and society

There are two key elements within the Graphic Communication course.

Element 1: 2D Graphic Communication

This aims to develop skills and creativity in producing and interpreting 2D graphics. Both manual and electronic graphic techniques will be used to produce sketches, drawings, preliminary and promotional displays and layouts.

Element 2: 3D and Pictorial Graphic Communication

This focuses on producing and interpreting pictorial and 3D graphics. Using both manual and electronic graphic techniques pupils will produce pictorial sketches, pictorial drawings, promotional displays and 3D models.

For more information, speak to Miss Keating or member of the CDT Department.

Health and Food Technology

National 4, National 5, Higher

This course focuses on health and the nutritional properties of food as well as safe, hygienic and informed practises in food preparation. It further develops learners' understanding of a variety of topics related to health, food production and current issues on food. It also allows learners to develop the knowledge, understanding and skill to become informed food consumers.

Much of the course is project based and will allow learners to apply the skills, knowledge and understanding they have developed into a variety of product development situations. Experimental learning and assessment activities allow learners to develop confidence and independence.

Most weeks there will be 3 lessons of project and theory work and 1 lesson will be a practical activity.

The topics studied fall into these categories:

- Food for Health
- Food Product Development
- Contemporary Food Issues

Fresh start pupils attempting a Higher in S6 should have a proven track record at this level of study.

Additional Information: There will be an annual parental contribution towards the cost of ingredients used in this course.

For more information, speak to Mr Halliday.

Health Sector (Science)

Skills for Work: National 5

This course is designed as an introduction to the health sector. The health sector includes the National Health Service (NHS) (primary and secondary care), Independent Healthcare, Complementary Therapies, the Life Sciences and Retail Pharmaceutical Industries and the Community and Voluntary Sector. The health sector is a growth industry across Scotland offering a wide range of employment opportunities at a variety of levels. The National Health Service (NHS) is a major employer in Scotland and currently employs over 160,000 people. The demands placed upon the NHS are increasing, through changes in demographics combined with an ageing workforce. Scotland has one of the largest life sciences industries in Europe, with a worldwide reputation particularly in research and development and manufacturing. The growing life sciences industry currently employs over 30,000 people in a wide variety of job roles

The emphasis is on preparing candidates for working in the health sector and developing employability skills valued by employers. Candidates will develop a range of knowledge and skills required in this vocational area. Candidates will investigate a range of job roles and career opportunities as well as participating in a job interview.

Candidates will also develop a wide range of skills, including research and self-evaluation skills. Emphasis throughout all units is on the employability skills and the attitudes that will help prepare candidates for the workplace.

Units include:

- Working in the Health Sector
- Life Sciences Industry and the Health Sector
- Improving Health and Well-being
- Physiology of the Cardiovascular System
- Working in Non Clinical Roles

For more information, speak to Mr Hill.

History

National 4, National 5, Higher, Advanced Higher

History is vital to a student's development as an informed and active citizen. Our course explores aspects of Scottish, British and World history, so that pupils gain insights into their own lives and the wider world in which they live. Through a wide range of teaching strategies including trench reconstructions, tutorial discussions, research projects and university-style lectures, pupils gain an understanding of the impact of political, social and economic factors as well as experiencing numerous ways of learning.

History is also vital to the development of a pupil's critical skills. Through the source-handling section of the course, pupils develop essential analytical capacities as they are required to make evaluative judgements on the provenance of information; they critically compare information and justify their opinions. The essay sections of the course further enhance these skills with a focus on synthesis and summarising arguments.

Finally, throughout the entire course, essential literacy skills are developed as pupils are encouraged to research and create sophisticated, well-written extended responses. All of the aforementioned skills are highly prized and valued by employers and further education institutions.

For more information, speak to Mrs McKenzie or member of the History Department.

Hospitality, Practical Cookery

National 4, National 5

Pupils who are considering this course should have a keen interest in practical cookery and be fully committed to attending all classes.

This course will develop a range of cookery skills and processes, as well as food preparation techniques. Learners will develop an understanding of ingredients from a variety of different sources, as well as of their uses and responsible sourcing and sustainability. They will also gain an understanding of the impact of the choice of ingredients on health and wellbeing, and embed food safety and hygiene skills. Learners will spend three to four periods preparing food each week and one period approximately on written work.

Topics covered in this course are:

- Understanding and using ingredients
- Organisational skills for cooking
- Cookery skills, techniques and processes.

To get the full award a pupil will complete a practical final activity designed to assess the learners' ability to plan, prepare and present a two or three course meal to the required N4 or N5 specification within a given timescale. A practical activity brief will specify the specific dishes to be produced. During the May exam diet there is also a written exam to be completed.

Additional Information: There will be an annual parental contribution towards the cost of ingredients used in this course.

For more information, speak to Miss Keating or member of the Home Economics Department.

Human Biology

Higher

The aims of the course are to enable learners to:

- develop and apply knowledge and understanding of human biology
- develop an understanding of human biology's role in scientific issues and relevant applications of human biology, including the impact these could make on society and the environment
- develop scientific inquiry and investigative skills
- develop scientific analytical thinking skills, including scientific evaluation, in a human biology context
- develop the use of technology, equipment and materials, safely, in practical scientific activities, including using risk assessments
- develop planning skills
- develop problem solving skills in a human biology context
- use and understand scientific literacy to communicate ideas and issues and to make scientifically informed choices
- develop the knowledge and skills for more advanced learning in biology
- develop skills of independent working

There are 3 units of study in the National 4, National 5 and Higher Courses and further Coursework. The units of study are as follows:

- Human Cells
- Physiology and Health
- Neurobiology and Communication
- Immunology and Public Health

*Recommended entry for this course:
Higher - A or B at National 5 Biology*

For more information, speak to Mr Hill or member of the Biology Department.

Laboratory Science

Skills for Work: National 5

The National 5 Laboratory Science Course is designed to introduce candidates to the knowledge and skills that are required for employment or further study in the wide range of industries and services using laboratory science, and to develop an awareness of the opportunities and range of employment within the sector.

The Course provides a broad experiential introduction to laboratory science. Candidates will explore a variety of industries and services, and career opportunities, in science laboratories locally, nationally, and globally. They will develop the basic practical skills and knowledge needed for working in a laboratory: measuring, weighing and preparing compounds and solutions; and health and safety requirements. Practical skills in microbiology, measuring radioactivity, chemical handling and laboratory instrumentation will be developed.

Candidates will work with others to produce a plan to undertake a practical investigation to test scientific hypotheses. This will also involve reporting of the results, conclusions and evaluations of the investigation.

There are 4 units of study:

- Careers using Laboratory Science
- Working in a Laboratory
- Practical Skills
- Practical Investigation

The course is a useful qualification for the following careers:

agriculture; horticulture; forestry and fishery; biotechnology; bio-industry; chemical industry; construction; education; energy provision; engineering; food and drink industry; health sector; pharmaceutical industry; sport and recreation; transport.

Recommended entry for this course:

*Pupils selecting this course should have achieved or received a recommended for: Units at National 4 in Biology, Chemistry or Physics **and** Units at National 4 Mathematics*

For more information, speak to Mr Hill, Mrs McComb or Mr McIntyre.

Modern Studies

National 4, National 5, Higher, Advanced Higher

Modern Studies opens up the world of contemporary society for learners, looking at what is happening in our world today. It develops learner's knowledge and understanding of democratic processes, contemporary political, social and economic issues at local, Scottish, United Kingdom and international levels.

Modern Studies makes a distinctive contribution to the curriculum by drawing on the social sciences of politics, sociology and economics and, where appropriate, of associated ideas drawn from other social subjects. It thereby adopts a multi-disciplinary approach.

For more information, speak to Mrs McKenzie or Ms Eastwood.

Music

National 4, National 5, Higher, Advanced Higher

The Music Course enables learners to perform challenging music, create original music using compositional methods and music concepts, and broaden their knowledge and understanding of music and musical literacy. The course also enables learners to develop knowledge of the social and cultural factors that influence music.

The course consists of:

- Performing (on two instruments)
- Composing
- Understanding Music (including Musical Literacy and Musical Theory)

On completing the course, learners will be able to perform a programme of music with accuracy and maintaining musical flow; create their own original music; self-reflect and evaluate their own work and that of others; and listen to music with awareness, understanding and discrimination.

For more information, speak to Miss Keating or member of the Music Department.

Music Technology

National 5, Higher

In this course you will develop your knowledge of music technology, and of basic musical concepts, particularly those relevant to 20th and 21st century music, through practical learning. There are four Units within this award:

Music Technology Skills

In this unit, learners will develop skills and techniques relating to the creative use of music technology hardware and software to capture and manipulate audio. Learners will explore a range of uses of this technology through practical activities.

Understanding 20th and 21st Century Music

In this unit, learners will develop basic understanding of 20th and 21st century musical styles and genres, and of related developments in music technology.

Music Technology in Context

In this unit, learners will use music technology skills in a range of straightforward contexts such as live performance, radio broadcast, composing for film, TV themes, adverts and computer gaming.

Added Value Unit: Assignment

Plan and carry out a short creative production using music technology.

For more information, speak to Mr Glen or Miss Keating.

Philosophy

Higher - S6 students only

In this course, students will consider problems by asking questions about the world we live in. Learners will explore philosophical ideas and arguments relating to general and fundamental philosophical issues of relevance in the world today. Learners will develop the ability to analyse and evaluate philosophical positions and arguments and to develop their own reasoning skills. Learners will be encouraged to challenge assumptions and to apply their knowledge and understanding of different positions and theories in philosophy.

Thinking, analytical and evaluative skills, which are important in education and employment, are developed throughout the course.

The broad aims of this course are to:

- develop knowledge and understanding of some key philosophical concepts and questions concerning arguments in action, moral philosophy and epistemology
- develop critical thinking, analytical and evaluative skills appropriate to philosophy
- develop the ability to engage with abstract ideas
- develop the ability to develop and express reasoned arguments and conclusions
- develop skills of analysis, evaluation and expressing a coherent line of argument, by investigating a philosophical question

Required entry for this course:

Pupils should have a good level of literacy and already have achieved or be working at Higher level in English, or equivalent such as Modern Studies, History or RMPS. This course is only offered to S6.

For more information, speak to Mrs McKenzie.

Physical Education (PE)

National 4, National 5, Higher, Advanced Higher

The main purpose of the course is to develop and demonstrate movement and performance skills in physical activities. Learners will be able to demonstrate initiative, decision-making and problem-solving skills, as well as developing a positive attitude towards a healthy lifestyle.

The main aims of the course are to enable the learner to:

- develop the ability to perform safely a comprehensive range of movement and performance skills
- understand factors that impact on personal performance in physical activities
- build capacity to perform effectively
- develop approaches to enhance personal performance
- monitor, record and evaluate performance development

Additional Information: Learners will have an excellent record of participation across many activities within the Sport and Aesthetic courses, in particular swimming and gymnastics.

For more information, speak to Mr Gray or member of the PE Department.

Photography

Higher

The Higher Photography Course is designed to help learners develop practical skills in photography, drawing on their knowledge and understanding of camera techniques, image enhancement and composition. In the course, learners will demonstrate technical photography skills and show imaginative and personal creative responses when photographing a variety of subjects.

They will also analyse their own and other photographers' work through descriptive writing. The course is assessed by undertaking a project which is presented in the form of a folio. Candidates will be required to take photographs in their own time.

Recommended entry for this course:

National 5 English, National 5 Art and Design Course or relevant Units would be advantageous

For more information, speak to Mr Hill, Dr Wood or Mrs Brown.

Physics

National 4, National 5, Higher, Advanced Higher

The aims of the Course are to enable learners to:

- develop and apply knowledge and understanding of physics
- develop an understanding of the role of physics in scientific issues and relevant applications of physics, including the impact these could make in society and the environment
- develop scientific inquiry and investigative skills
- develop scientific analytical thinking skills in a physics context
- develop the use of technology, equipment and materials, safely, in practical scientific activities
- develop planning skills
- develop problem solving skills in a physics context
- use and understand scientific literacy, in everyday contexts, to communicate ideas and issues and to make scientifically informed choices
- develop the knowledge and skills for more advanced learning in physics
- develop skills of independent working

There are 3 units of study in National 4 and National 5 Physics Courses and an Assignment:

- Electricity and Energy
- Waves and Radiation
- Dynamics and Space

There are 3 units of study in Higher Physics Course and additional Researching Physics Unit:

- Our Dynamic Universe
- Particles and Waves
- Electricity
- Researching Physics

There are 4 units of study in the Advanced Higher Physics:

- Rotational Motion and Astrophysics
- Quanta and Waves
- Electromagnetism
- Investigating Physics

Recommended Entry for these courses:

Advanced Higher: A or B at Higher Physics

Higher Biology: A or B at National 5 Physics and National 5 A or B Mathematics.

National 5: National 4 Physics or related component units.

For more information, speak to Mr Hill or any member of the Physics Department.

Practical Craft Skills - Woodworking

National 4, National 5

This course is practical and experiential in nature. It focuses on the development of practical woodworking skills. It provides opportunities for learners to gain practical craft skills in the use of a range of tools, equipment and materials, working with wood and manufactured boards. It allows learners to follow a series of activities through to the completion of a finished item. The course provides opportunities to develop and enhance practical creativity and practical problem-solving skills, and to gain an appreciation of safe working practices in a workshop or similar environment.

The aims of the Course are to enable learners to:

- develop skills in reading and interpreting drawings and diagrams
- identify, select and use a range of workshop tools, equipment and materials
- develop basic skills in measuring and marking out of materials
- develop basic skills in cutting, shaping, fixing and joining materials
- apply safe working practices in a workshop or similar environment
- take account of good practice regarding sustainability and recycling

Additional Information: There will be an annual financial contribution as payment towards the raw materials used in this course.

For more information, speak to Miss Keating or member of the CDT Department.

Psychology

Higher – S6 students only

The human brain and its intricacies have fascinated the earth's greatest minds for hundreds of years from Freud to Pavlov to Maslow. The study of psychology gives insight into human behaviour and decision-making, and is therefore beneficial to anyone who interacts with others on a daily basis. On this course you will learn about the various ways of describing behaviours and gain an understanding of psychological theories, concepts, research studies and methods. You will also consider the ethical implications of psychological research and place psychology within its historical context, contrasting both classic and contemporary theory.

The research assignment makes up 40% of the overall mark and is carried out independently, drawing on skills and knowledge from the course.

This Higher level course is suitable both for those wishing to progress to further/higher education, or anyone with an interest in human behaviour.

Recommended entry for this course:

Due to the level of literacy required to access the course content, Psychology is only open to S6 pupils who have already passed Higher English.

For more information, speak to Mr Hill or Mrs Prigmore.

Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies (RMPS)

National 5, Higher

The Course aims to allow candidates to develop a philosophical approach to the study of beliefs, values and issues which are of importance in the world today.

Scottish society has, in large part, been shaped by its Christian heritage and influenced by the many world faiths which are followed by its citizens today. Non-religious philosophical traditions have also played an important role in this process. As a result, the people of Scotland today hold a wide range of beliefs and values which reflect this rich diversity of influence. Contemporary Scottish society can therefore accurately be described as both multi-faith and multi-cultural. In such a society, it is of vital importance that each person has the opportunity to explore and strengthen his/her own beliefs and values in an atmosphere of tolerance and respect. This atmosphere can only be fostered if individuals also have understanding and appreciation of the different beliefs and values which others hold. Recognition of shared values and goals strengthens individual communities and society as a whole; appreciation and tolerance of difference enriches society and the lives of all its members.

This course has three mandatory units which are:

- World Religion
- Morality and Belief
- Religious and Philosophical questions

For more information, speak to Mrs McKenzie or member of the RMPS Department.

Spanish/French

National 4, National 5, Higher

You can choose one language or, even better, both!

All of the courses involve the following 4 skills:

- Reading: Reading texts in the foreign language and answering questions in English. At Higher, this also involves a translation passage.
- Listening: Listening texts in the foreign language and answering questions in English.
- Writing: You will learn how to write in the foreign language – at differing lengths and complexities, depending on the level.
- Speaking: You will do some speaking in the foreign language – also at differing lengths depending on the course. This will be assessed by your class teacher.

<p style="text-align: center;">National 5: Reading: 30 marks Listening: 20 marks Writing Assignment [in class]: 20 marks Writing [in exam]: 20 marks Speaking: 30 marks</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">Higher: Reading & Translation: 30 marks Listening: 20 marks Writing Assignment [in class]: 20 marks Writing [in exam]: 20 marks Speaking: 30 marks</p>
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Top 5 reasons for studying a language (there are LOADS more!):

- Increased job prospects – in an increasingly globalised world, language skills are becoming more and more important in a wide range of jobs.
- Boost brain power – learning a language helps with memory, discussion skills, multi-tasking and lots more.
- Improving your English – learning a foreign language helps to develop your own language, so picking French or Spanish could help with your English studies too!
- Travelling the world will be easier – think of the places you could go!
- Build your confidence – you will practice so many different skill that you will feel more confident in your abilities across a range of tasks.

Required entry to the course:

Higher: pupils must have achieved a pass at National 5.

For more information, speak to Mrs Orrock or any member of the Modern Languages Department.

https://www.npfs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/nutshell_languages_1810_E.pdf

Sport and Recreation

Skills for Work: National 5

This course is designed as an introduction to the sport and recreation sector. The emphasis is on preparing candidates for working in the sector and developing employability skills valued by employers.

Candidates will:

- Build knowledge, skills and understanding related to the sport and recreation industry.
- Develop an awareness of health and safety issues relevant to a range of activities.
- Develop communication and customer care skills
- Build technical knowledge and skills in relation to setting up and checking equipment
- Encourage skills of planning, reviewing and evaluating activity sessions
- Develop employability skills
- Develop skills working with clients in the fitness industry.

The course will be assessed internally using checklists, candidate logs and short tests.

For more information, speak to Mr Gray or any member of the PE Department.

Travel and Tourism

Skills for Work: National 5

This course is an introductory qualification in travel and tourism. It develops the skills, knowledge and attitudes, needed for work in the travel and tourism industry.

Learners will develop:

- skills to become effective job-seekers and employees
- skills to deal effectively with all aspects of customer care and customer service in travel and tourism
- the product knowledge and skills to deal effectively with customer enquiries in relation to travel and tourism in Scotland, the rest of the United Kingdom and worldwide

For more information, speak to Mrs McKenzie or Mrs Masson.

Uniformed Services

Leadership: National 5

This course introduces learners to the roles and responsibilities of uniformed and emergency services team members in Scotland and explores the diversity of career opportunities available in the uniformed and emergency services.

Learners will participate in practical activities which will help them to develop knowledge and understanding of uniformed and emergency services environments. Learners will develop a number of generic and specific employability skills valued by employers in the uniformed and emergency services, eg timekeeping, attendance and the ability to follow instructions.

Candidates will also have the opportunity to develop the skills of reflecting and evaluating, through reviewing their own employability skills and recording their progress throughout the unit.

The relevant uniformed services for this unit are the Army, Merchant Navy, Royal Air Force, Royal Navy and Royal Marines.

The relevant emergency services for this unit are the Ambulance Service, Coastguard, Fire and Rescue and Police.

Required entry to this course:

Learners may only choose this course if they have been involved in Uniformed Services in S3 or are a member of a detachment outwith school.

For more information, speak to Mr Thomson or Lieutenant Swindells.

West Lothian College Courses

Please also look at the additional courses offered by West Lothian College (listed on the reverse of the course choice sheet). These courses are built into Broxburn Academy's timetable and operate predominantly on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon and occasionally on a Friday afternoon.

Transport to and from the college is provided by West Lothian Council. Applications are made online, with the school's support, and students are offered places either based on their qualifications or after interview.

More information can be found on the college website:
<http://www.west-lothian.ac.uk/courses#School>

Courses both in school and at the college will only run if there are sufficient pupil numbers to make a viable class.