

## **Curriculum Rationale**

The curriculum is designed to encourage all youngsters with the opportunity to develop the 4 capacities, literacy, numeracy, health wellbeing, skills and experiences laying a solid foundation into the senior phase and beyond.

- Ensure our learners are successful, confident, responsible and respectful
- To provide a Curriculum for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century so that all our students achieve their potential in and beyond school through flexible pathways to success
- Students experience a personal curriculum where appropriate
- To encourage all students to return to CCHS post 16 until the end of S6 with a focus on the senior phase improving attainment and achievement into a sustained positive destination.
- Students will experience all 3 years of their senior phase.
- To provide courses that are suited to meet all our learners needs including skills for life and work towards a sustained positive destination
- To ensure all students are equipped with a portfolio of qualifications, abilities and skills needed for success.
- Partnership working is used effectively within the totality of the curriculum.
- To ensure coherence from the BGE, where in S3 students will experience breadth and appropriate specialisation, into the senior phase.

## **Background Information**

- Over 50% of S4 (2012-2013) did not return to our school – a normal pattern here. Last year 86% stayed on into their S4. This year 90% return rate with a 100% initial stay on rate into S6.
- Positive destinations increased, but again we want to better and enhance the sustained positive destinations. 93%.
- We now have even stronger links with partner agencies e.g. Edinburgh College (deliver onsite as well as our youngsters travelling), Queen Margaret University, Muirhouse Youth Development Group, My Adventure, Career Ready, our Early Years Centre.... All of whom are helping deliver within our curriculum (sustained not 'add ons for 4 weeks')
- Initiated the pre-apprenticeship courses aligned to businesses (Apex, IBIS, Novotel, Selex). Our students are guaranteed their modern apprenticeship at the end of this year. Timetabled into their week.
- First HMI 'VG' for a secondary school in Scotland with the increased expectations.

## **Curriculum Impact Statement**

The curriculum we have is progressive, dynamic, flexible and suits the needs of our learners. Students have the opportunity within the curriculum to succeed.

Additional support needs of learners is recognised significantly within our curriculum through the Fast Track (SRA) reading programme, Therapy Inclusion Programme and alternative packages in and out of school. In the senior phase students are looked at as individuals and College placements are given in line with an employability focus. Achievements within the curriculum are celebrated through our achievement co-ordinator, captains and programmed assemblies.

Our core value for the curriculum is **employability** (attain towards, achieve towards, develop skills towards).

### **Broad General Education:**

Students experience breadth, depth, challenge and personalisation through S1-S3 laying a firm foundation into the new senior phase. Changes that were made last year that have positively impacted on our youngsters include:

- S1 now receive an increase in the number of periods to x5 per week for literacy and numeracy.
- S2 introduced to Modern Studies (and as an S3 option)
- S2/S3 employability electives on offer (23 offered)
- S3 timetabled IDL options (11 offered)
- S3 now receive appropriate specialisation whilst keeping the breadth of the Curricular areas with planned IDL
- S3 receive an open choice from faculties in their review
- The S3 profile experience is smoother and coherent. This was moved to January where S3 experience a careers advice (my world of work) day focussing in on employability skills. Another day is focussed on S3 to write up their profile having worked on them formally in subjects. Course choice for their senior phase then starts the following weeks. This ensures coherence and an informed transition. One note profiling introduced session 2015-2016. 3:3:3: model ie 6 years worth of achievements tracked P5-P7 (profile certificate), S1-S3 (profile certificate), S4-S6 (CV).

### **Senior Phase:**

The curriculum from previous was reviewed in 2013-2014. To prevent a full curricular change for S1-S6 at the time of implementing New Qualifications, the senior phase was strategically targeted for consultation and improvement. The new curriculum commenced June (session 2014-2015). To get to this, partners, parent/carers, students and staff were all consulted and what we have now is a more effective senior phase for all which meets the needs of our learners locally and nationally. Changes include:

- Tutor continues for all S1-S6
- New courses available to suit all learners with flexible pathways (11 new)
- A variety of courses from College, University, partners, City and Guilds, Sports Leadership, Nationals, Highers, Advanced Highers, National Progression Awards and more
- Open (free) choice for all seniors to select courses
- Partners delivering and engrained within our senior phase
- Pre-apprenticeship routes started
- Senior phase is S4-S6 together

This has received high profile from the media and has been commended by the Commission for Developing Scotland's Young Workforce and Education Scotland. School roll of 480 with around 40 FTE teachers.

### **Next steps:**

Maintain the current curriculum to improve attainment/achievement. STEM opportunities to be investigated.

Plan for more DYW opportunities

Embed the product of student profile