



# GAIRLOCH HIGH SCHOOL ÀRD-SGOIL GHEÀRRLOCH

## CURRICULUM RATIONALE

Achtercairn  
Gairloch  
Wester Ross,  
IV21 2BP

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Future

Care

Education

Belief

Development

Ambition

Curriculum for Excellence in Gairloch High School is delivered in two phases: a Broad General Education from S1-S3, and Senior Phase in S4-S6. In S1-S3, students experience a wide range of experiences and outcomes across all eight curricular areas with some personalisation and choice along subject lines in S3. This is followed by a Senior Phase, S4-S6, where students continue to focus on skills for learning, life and work while moving towards national qualifications and the transition to life beyond school.

**Mr A Breen, Acting Head Teacher**



We are **Ambitious** for  
and **Believe** in our pupils.

We are a  
community  
committed  
to their

**Care**  
**Development**  
**Education &**  
**Future.**



**BROAD GENERAL EDUCATION (S1-S3)**

In S1 to S3 we provide a broad general education with some personalisation and choice in S3 – freedom within a curricular framework.

In S1 and S2 pupils follow a common course covering all the curricular areas.

Each subject has the following number of periods per week:

<b>S1/2</b>	
English, Maths, Social subjects	4 periods each= 12
2 Languages, Science (S2= 4 periods)	3 periods each= 9
PSHE and RME	1 period each= 2
PE & SMART (S2=1 period )	2 periods each= 4
Creative (Art, Music, Drama)	4 periods total = 4
Technologies (ICT/Technical)	1 periods each = 2
	<b>TOTAL TIME= 33 PERIODS</b>

In S3 pupils begin to make some personal choices, ensuring that with all curricular areas are represented in their timetable (Sciences, Social subjects, Languages, Creative subjects, Technological). In addition, all students study English, Mathematics, Physical education, PSHE, and RME. Opportunities exist to take part in wider achievement courses include Youth Philanthropy Initiative, Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award, the John Muir Award and SCQF level 4 Health & Wellbeing award.

Each subject has the following number of periods per week:

<b>S3</b>	
English, Maths	4 periods each = 8
1 <sup>st</sup> Language choice, Technology,	3 periods each = 6
PSHE and RME and SMART	1 period each = 3
PE (including leadership)	3 periods total = 3
Social Subjects	4 periods total = 4
2 <sup>nd</sup> Language/Technology/Creative	3 Periods total= 3
3 choices (must include a Science, Technology and Creative subject)	2 periods each = 6
	<b>TOTAL TIME= 33 PERIODS</b>

**Gairloch High School**

**S3 Personalisation Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_



Numeracy & Literacy		CORE SUBJECTS	Health & Wellbeing (C)	Social subjects (D)	Technology (E)
8 periods (4 each)		3 periods (1 each)	3 periods/ week	4 periods/ week (2 each)	3 periods/ week
A	B	PSE, RME, KEYSKILLS	Physical Education, including Leadership	Modern Studies	Technology Gàidhlig (GM pupils)
ENGLISH	MATHS			Geography	

Choice 1 (F) 3 periods	Choice 2 (G) 3 Periods	Choice 3 (H) 2 Periods	Choice 4 (I) 2 Periods	Choice 5 (I) 2 Periods	Choose
French	Gaelic learners	Hospitality	Biology	Physics	Choose
ICT	Drama	Chemistry	Art	Music	Choose

*For each option column F-I, Tick the box to indicate your first choice.*

**You *MUST* have at least one Science, one Language and one Creative subject.**

To help inform your Guidance Teacher, what would you like to do in your future



## Senior Phase (S4-S6)

At the end of S3, choices will be made for the senior phase when pupils begin to study for National 3, 4 and 5 qualifications.

The Senior Phase is a **three-year programme of study**, where students can opt for a range of subjects, at a number of different levels. Students can follow a traditional route of National 5, Higher then Advanced Higher in some subjects, but equally, students can choose a Pick and Mix approach, building up a number of subjects at National 4/5, NPAs, Highers and Foundation apprenticeships in S4-6.

Students embarking upon the Senior Phase at Gairloch High School will study Maths, English and four further subjects in their S4 at a level appropriate to their needs. This provides 5 periods per week for each subject, ensuring a quality learning experience that is more likely to bring about success for all our students and, for some, provide the best possible preparation for Higher courses. In S5 and S6, students will be able to study up to five subjects from the new National Qualifications levels National 3 to National 5, Highers or Advanced Higher. See figure 2 for an example course choice form.

We offer a range of courses not previously available at GHS through *Highland Council Virtual Schools, UHI and West Highland College, both at N4/5/Higher level, and a range of National Progression awards and Foundation Apprenticeships, including N4/5 Hospitality, which is studied one day a week at school with college tutors.*

In addition to subject choices, all students have an entitlement to do core PE (2 periods) and PSHE. In addition, a number of specialist awards, such as Open University modules, High Life Sports Leader awards, and The SQA Leadership/work placement Awards are also offered to individuals in S6.

We run a partially combined S4-6 timetable, where students in S4-6 can opt for N4/5s in column A, B, D and E. All N5 classes are provided with 5 periods of teaching time, with the 6 period for S5/6s in a supervised study classroom. For those who opt for Highers, provision for up to 6 periods a week is given. An example of the choice form is overleaf.



	A	B	C	D	E	F (S4 ONLY)
S5-6 HIGHER COURSES	Human Biology Modern Studies/History	Chemistry Geology Gaelic	English Geography Art Outdoor Education	Physics PE French Gàidhlig	Maths Music Design & Manufacture	
S4-6 N4/5 COURSES	Chemistry Design & Manufacture/PWW Art Hospitality (WHC Day Release)*	Physics PE French Engineering Science Hospitality (WHC DR)*	<b>Maths</b>	Music Geography Gàidhlig Early Learning & Childcare	Maths (S5/6 ONLY) Drama Biology Modern Studies Gaelic Hospitality (WHC DR)*	<b>English (S4 ONLY)</b>
S5-6 CVA/College	Highland Council Virtual Academy AH Chemistry AH Physics AH History AH Maths AH Modern Studies AH Mechanics AH German AH Music <b>Foundation Apprenticeships</b> Business Skills Creative Digital Media Software Development Services Children & Young People Social Services Children & Healthcare	HC Virtual Academy H Human Biology H Modern Studies H German H Latin H Music H Photography H Spanish <b>West Highland College</b> H Business Mgt H Psychology H Computing Science NPA (L6) Music Business	S5/6 ONLY HC Virtual Academy N5 German N5 Latin N5 Spanish <b>West Highland College</b> N5 Psychology N5 Business N5 Computing Science			

**S4 Students should choose a first choice from A, B, D and E. All students in S4 MUST DO MATHS AND ENGLISH.**

**S5 Students should choose 5 options, one from each BlockA-E.**

**S6 Students should choose at least 4 subjects and should consider one of the Wider Achievement opportunities:**  
Work Placement/Employability Award, SQA Leadership, Health & Safety Award, Food Hygiene Certificate, HLH Leadership

**Open University YASS modules (S6)** can be chosen in any column. These are counted as one subject, and require a high level of motivation and independent learning skills.

**INVERNESS COLLEGE COURSES-** Please see the Inverness college website for specific courses. If you opt for **FRIDAY Day-release**, you must ensure that you **catch up with any missed work** during study periods.



Each subject has the following number of periods per week:

<b>S4</b>	
English, Maths	5 periods each = 10
PSHE	1 period each = 1
PE	2 periods total = 2
4 further subject choices at N3/4/5	5 periods each = 20
	<b>TOTAL TIME= 33 PERIODS</b>

<b>S5-6</b>	
PSHE,	1 period each = 1
PE	2 periods each= 2
5 subject choices at N4/5/AH level	6 periods each = 30
	<b>TOTAL TIME= 33 PERIODS</b>

## Examples of Learner Pathways

### Dylan (S4)

Dylan arrived in S3 as a late entrant who moved into the catchment area. He has all the curricular areas covered by his personalisation of subjects, and in S4 he was able to continue with 5 subjects in school, and one through West Highland College. Through the virtual school, Dylan would be able to continue with N5 in S4 through the online Highland council Virtual classroom, where he would have a tutor to support him.

### Ryan (S4)

Ryan is a student who has had continued support for learning involvement since S1. In S3, his timetable reflected his strengths in the technology side of the curriculum, with choices of English, Maths, PE, Technology, Social Subjects, ICT, Hospitality, Gaelic, Art, and Physics. In S4, he is studying six subjects, three at N5 level and three at N4 level. He continues to have support for learning input 1 period a week. In S5, Ryan hopes to continue with more technology subjects at N5 level, completing Application of Maths N5, and doing work experience one morning a week with a local construction site, allowing him to complete the SQA Work Placement award.

**Molly (S5)**

Molly spent a good time of S3 outside school, due to ill health, and on her return she has been supported by pupil support, support for learning, and other outside agencies to ensure her social and emotional needs were met. In S4 she achieved four N5s and a N4, and in S5 she has a clear academic focus with her three Highers which build on the subjects she had most success in during S4. She has also ensured that she is taking advantage of the more adult learning styles offered by the college, by completing a Higher Psychology course which is taught via Google Hangouts. In addition to the three Highers, she is completing an evening college course. This provides an excellent preparation for the transition to further education beyond school. An integral element of both of these courses is the independent study component which really gives her the optimum chance of managing her own learning. Coupled with this and to ensure that we view her learning holistically we have built in not only tutorial time but also the opportunity to work with younger pupils who have additional support needs. This enables her to complete her volunteering element for her Duke of Edinburgh award.

**Lewis (S5)**

Lewis went through Gaelic Medium Education in Primary school, and continued with the GM provision made in High School. In S4 he chose English, Maths, Physics, Biology, Design & Manufacture and Gaidhlig, achieving 6As. Lewis was identified as a student who wishes a career in Computing Science, and this year has been selected to take part in a 2-year "Foundation Apprenticeship" course in Creative & Digital Media, run in partnership with the college, SDS, and a local Web designer/IT specialist. In school, Lewis continues with his academic studies of Higher Maths, Physics and Human Biology; he also opted to do crash Higher Chemistry over 2 years, and in addition, completes his online delivery of the Creative & Digital media 3 times a week. He also spends some time on an industry placement.

**Rosie (S6)**

Rosie is an academic student and gifted musician, who attends a number of Highland and Scottish youth orchestras, plays the bagpipes and has done well in a Nuffield summer placement at Edinburgh University, obtaining a Gold CREST award. She was successful in achieving Higher Music (grade A) in S4, along with 5 other National 5s. In S5 she achieved 5 further Highers, (4As and 1 B), and in S6 she is doing Advanced Highers in Maths, Physics and Music, together with Higher Modern studies. She is considering a career in Law, so has opted for an Open University YASS module in Law, which is recognised by UCAS as an alternative to traditional Highers and Advanced Highers.



## **Key Transitions**

### ***Primary to Secondary 1***

Support for learning work on Key transitions for those students identified with Additional support needs from Primary 6 onwards, including a long term transition programme, where Key teachers regularly meet the pupils involved. Firstly, the key teacher will visit the pupils in their Primary school, then follow this in their P7 year by providing transition experiences in the High School, both in the support for learning department and with teachers in a number of subjects such as science, technical and PE.

All P7 students are involved in a 5 day transition project in the summer term. For the first 3 days, students take part in "Our Wild Places" a GHS/ASG community resilience transition project, working with staff from schools and S2 Young Leaders. They are also visited by either the Pupil Support/Support for learning teacher in the summer term, where they will gather information about each student to share with staff, before the students embark on a 2 day visit to the school in June. On their visit, they will be buddied with S6 students, and follow their new S1 timetable for the two days, meeting teachers and support staff. Parents are also invited in for a welcome meeting and a tour of the school, where they are given an opportunity to meet the pupil support teacher assigned to their child.

As well as building these links with the parents and pupils, previous report cards are provided, including their SPP data, and Scottish National Standardised Assessment scores in numeracy and literacy- again, shared with staff.

### ***Secondary 2 to 3***

Although we continue with a Broad general Curriculum in S3, we realise that Personalisation is important in S3, and building a successful transition into the senior phase is vital for students. In the March of S2, we hold a parents evening to look at personalisation of the timetable for the next year. Students ensure that they are given personal interviews in the March to help them make personal choices within the curricular areas. Parents are consulted about this, and are asked to agree with choices made. The new timetable begins in June.

### ***Secondary 3 to 4, Secondary 4 to 5, Secondary 5 to 6***

There is a parent's information meeting in March to explain the Senior Phase to parents and carers, after which all S3 students are given a choice form, to enable them to take forward 4 of their 11 S3 subjects. All S4-5 students are given a choice form, to enable them to take choose up to 5 subjects, based on predictions of the current years' work. The new timetable begins in June, with revisions in course choice made in August if necessary.