



## **S2 Elective Programme**

2017-2018



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This publication provides details of all the S2 Electives on offer for Academic Session 2017-18. Learners about to enter S2 will have the opportunity to hear from all the teams delivering courses prior selecting their choice. We will ask all learners to make 3 choices, in order of their personal preference, from which one will be allocated. The school will always endeavor to provide learners with their first choice however this will may always be possible.

Elective courses are developed to support learners in well planned interdisciplinary programmes with a focus on appropriately grouped experiences and outcomes. These help learners to make meaningful links across different aspects of their learning, and provide opportunities for progression in knowledge, understanding and development of transferable skills. Elective courses provide relevant, challenging and enjoyable learning experiences and stimulating contexts to meet the varied needs of children and young people. Revisiting a concept or skill from different perspectives deepens understanding, and can also make the curriculum more coherent and meaningful from the learner's point of view.

The 3-18 curriculum delivered by Mackie Academy aims to ensure that all children and young people develop the attributes, knowledge and skills they will need to flourish in life, learning and work. The knowledge, skills and attributes learners will develop will allow young people to demonstrate four key capacities – to be successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.

The elective programme at Mackie Academy has been designed to meet individual pupil needs and support particular aptitudes and talents. It gives young people increasing opportunities for exercising responsible personal choice as they move through their school career. It also allows our young people to put their learning into their local context and surroundings.

Pupil feedback about our elective courses is taken on board each year to make provision for the following year even better. The school hopes your child enjoys their chosen elective.

## Elective Programme Skills



The following essential skills are explicit in the delivery of elective courses.

### Transferable skills:

- Knowing
- Understanding
- Application
- Analysis
- Synthesis
- Combining
- Evaluation
- Systems thinking
- Creativity

### Cognitive (acquiring and understanding knowledge) skills:

- Attention
- Motivation
- Personal resources
- Self-belief

**Elective Title: Creative Writing****Course Outline and Structure:**

1. Analyse the writer's craft in a variety of different short stories
2. Write and edit your own short story
3. Work together to produce a published book of all the short stories

**Objectives of Elective Course:**

- To learn how to plan and write a successful and engaging short story using language techniques
- To be able to edit your own work
- To develop their understanding and ability to present their work in a highly effective form.

**Main Skills That Pupils Will Develop:**

- Analysis skills
- Writing skills
- Presentation skills

**What Pupils Will Have Produced by End of Elective:**

- A short story
- A published collection of the class's short stories

**Elective Title: Film Studies****Course Outline and Structure:**

- In Term 1 pupils will study film techniques and terminology by studying how images – both still and moving - are used advertising.
- In Term 2 pupils will study a feature film in depth and write about it. They will learn about animation and animation software.
- In Term 3 pupils will apply their learning in practical film-making projects.

**Objectives of Elective Course:**

To learn about the theory behind film making and to gain practical experience of working with technology to film and edit a short documentary.

**Main Skills That Pupils Will Develop:**

- Critical knowledge of film and film techniques.
- Practical experience of working with film making equipment
- Use of ICT to edit films

**What Pupils Will Have Produced by End of Elective:**

- The pupils will produce a detailed written study of a film.
- The pupils will produce a range of short films.

**Elective Title: Scottish Studies****Course Outline and Structure:**

Pupils will research and study Scots Language – its history and development, using a variety of web sources. Using O.S. maps and other sources, pupils will research place names in weeks 1-8. From week 9 through to week 16 pupils will study a variety of literature in Doric and other Scots languages. A study of St Andrew's history, life and work will be made. Popular Culture in Scotland, (weeks 17-21), particularly in the N.E. (Bothy Ballad traditions and the ceilidh), will be investigated – mostly through song and dance. Arts and Culture (weeks 22-28) will be researched, through the study of the film "Local Hero". We may possibly visit the theatre/ art gallery should appropriate opportunities arise. Personal Research Topic (weeks 29-33) - pupils will choose a topic with a Scottish focus to be researched and presented.

**Objectives of Elective Course:**

To increase awareness, knowledge and understanding of a variety of aspects of Scottish culture, literature and languages, both historical and contemporary.

**Main Skills That Pupils Will Develop:**

Research skills using a variety of sources and resources; collecting and collating of information and evidence. Using information to create new texts.

**What Pupils Will Have Produced by End of Elective:**

- *Weather Forecast From Buchan or Local News Bulletin*
- *Story board of St Andrew's Life and Work*
- *Bothy Nichts – a song, sketch, musical performance, a recitation of a story or poem, with appropriate clothing.*
- *Written analytical response to the film/play's success as a representation/critique of the early impact of the discovery of oil in the North Sea.*
- *Production and evaluation of a Report on an aspect of Scottish culture, society, lifestyle or history, to demonstrate an increased knowledge and awareness of Scottishness.*

**Elective Title: Garden Sculptures/Ornaments****Course Outline and Structure:**

Four design and make tasks themed around garden sculptures/ornaments.

Theme one - hanging driftwood sculpture

Theme two – wall mounted sculpture

Theme three – Bird house/feeder

Theme four – upright/staked sculpture

**Objectives of Elective Course:**

To allow pupils to design creatively using nature and the garden as their inspiration.

To increase their range of practical skills using different materials and processes.

To practice their new design and practical skills by making a range of high quality original garden sculptures.

**Main Skills That Pupils Will Develop:**

Designing skills and the ability to present and plan the making of their ideas.

A range of practical skills using hand tools and machines, so that items can be skilfully made.

Organisational skills as once the project is underway pupils will be responsible for maintaining their work rate.

**What Pupils Will Have Produced by End of Elective:**

Four different sculptures/ornaments that will be proudly on display in a garden of their choice.

Elective Title: **Art & Design to enhance public spaces**

Course Outline and Structure:

**Project 1: Serpentine Pavilion project** - Design and make an architectural model of a pavilion. Pupils will explore various 3D materials and techniques to explore ideas for an architectural model. This will be entered into a National competition run by the Serpentine Gallery in London

**Project 2: Landscape Design** – Transforming the town square in Stonehaven. In this landscape design project, pupils will conduct research in and around the town square and use this to inform their ideas. They will then create a 3D model of their vision for the town square in Stonehaven.

**Project 3: Glass Tile Mosaics** - Pupils will create a piece of mosaic art for a specific location in Stonehaven.

Objectives of Elective Course:

Follow a design brief to plan, develop and make art and design works, some of which take into account the needs of the people in the local community.

Main Skills That Pupils Will Develop:

Research – primary & secondary sources

Developing ideas through the design process

Working safely and successfully with a range of materials.

Problem solving and perseverance

Working in partnership with others

What Pupils Will Have Produced by End of Elective:

Mood boards, development work, drawings and models of architectural and landscape designs

A piece of mosaic art for somewhere in the local community (location yet to be confirmed)

**Elective Title: Steampunk World****Course Outline and Structure:**

Students will design and make elements of a 'Steampunk World', and then display their work in an exhibition. They will be responsible for organizing all aspects of the exhibition, which will be held in the school next year.

The style of 'Steampunk' is set in an alternative history of the 19th century's British Victorian era. This is combined with other influences such as the American Wild West, a post-apocalyptic future in which steam power has regained mainstream use or in a fantasy world that similarly employs steam power.

**Objectives of Elective Course:**

During the Elective the pupils are encouraged to use their initiative and be self-motivated, whilst working experimentally within a creative environment. Students will need to think through problems and find solutions to the challenges the Elective will offer.

**Main Skills That Pupils Will Develop:**

Students will have the opportunity to develop their skills of delegation, cooperation, communication and organisation. They will need to give their opinions about matters relating to the Elective, and give consideration to the views of others. Students will need to learn new skills and processes in order to create objects to display in the exhibition.

**What Pupils Will Have Produced by End of Elective:**

Students will have designed and made objects the inhabitants of 'Steampunk World' could use in their everyday lives. This could include models of buildings, vehicles, gadgets and fashion accessories. The students will have cooperated with others to organize an exhibition in which they will be able to display their creations.

**Elective Title: Musical Theatre****Course Outline and Structure:**

Pupils will research, explore and perform a range of musical theatre pieces. They will work on developing their singing skills and combining this with acting and dance. Pupils will also learn how to warm up their voices correctly and will receive group singing lessons.

One of the two lessons will focus on their individual singing pieces which will develop their own personal repertoire. The second lesson will focus on performing as a group and will work towards a final performance.

**Objectives of Elective Course:**

This course is designed to enable pupils to develop their performing skills and to strengthen the key skills needed to become a musical theatre performer (singing, acting, dance).

**Main Skills That Pupils Will Develop:**

Pupils will develop:

- Singing skills both as a soloist and as part of a chorus.
- Knowledge and understanding of chosen pieces of music.
- Incorporating singing, acting and dance into one performance.
- Practical group performing skills.

**What Pupils Will Have Produced by End of Elective:**

Pupils will have analysed, rehearsed and performed various musical theatre pieces both as soloists and as a group. Pupils will have the opportunity to perform in a public setting at various school events.

**Elective Title: Drama Production****Course Outline and Structure:**

This is a course aimed at building on both the performance and production skills of the participants. It will encompass a variety of skills, and provide opportunities for both actors and designers. It will include devising, rehearsal and the preparation of a whole class production using either a published script or one devised by the pupils.

**Objectives of Elective Course:**

- To enable pupils to take advantage of theatre arts resources they might not have access to in S2.
- To help develop performance and design skills in a practical setting.
- To allow pupils to experiment and try out a variety of different theatre skills.

**Main Skills That Pupils Will Develop:**

- Team work and responsibility
- Basic production and design skills
- Performance skills

**What Pupils Will Have Produced by End of Elective:**

By the end of the elective the pupils will have produced an extended piece of theatre, drawing on their abilities as designers, actors and script-writers.

Elective Title: **Weird and Wonderful Space**

**Course Outline and Structure:**

- A Our place in the Universe – the solar system and the vast reaches of space.
- B Time and Space – Can you trust your watch? The age of the Universe and the nature of time and space.
- C Astronomical techniques – how scientists “see” into space.
- D Space Spin-offs – the benefits to mankind of space exploration.
- E The future – who knows?

**Objectives of Elective Course:**

To develop students' interest in our Solar System, Space and Astronomy through research, modelling and experimental work.

**Main Skills That Pupils Will Develop:**

Numeracy, literacy and problem-solving skills  
Practical experimental techniques  
Presentation skills  
Research skills  
Teamwork

**What Pupils Will Have Produced by End of Elective:**

Poster presentation

Scale model of the solar system

**Elective Title: BBC SCHOOL REPORTERS 2017-18****Course Outline and Structure:**

- ❖ Find out about the various forms of media – newspapers, social media, TV...
- ❖ Make class presentations on topics of their own choosing.
- ❖ Work in groups to produce a newspaper
- ❖ Produce stories about current issues for the BBC SCHOOL REPORT scheme.
- ❖ Act like TV journalists and choose other issues to research produce and upload to the BBC SCHOOL REPORT WEBSITE.
- ❖ Choose a big national/international issue to cover as a class.

The last class worked on the SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ELECTION 2016. You can see their presentations on the BBC SCHOOL REPORT noticeboard in the main corridor.

**Objectives of Elective Course:**

1. To develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of the various forms of media, from newspapers to blogs.
2. To apply their media knowledge and develop practical media skills by researching and producing text, video and mixed media reports of events and people that are 'in the news'.
3. To participate in the nation-wide BBC SCHOOL REPORT day in March 2017. This would include communication with local and national BBC staff.

**Main Skills That Pupils Will Develop:**

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Working in a group - with new people! Listening Working independently  
Thinking Working together to reach the deadline  
Listening Learning to contribute to the group Staying focussed  
Tech skills – editing How to make a well put together presentation  
COLLATED BY LAST YEAR'S ELECTIVE CLASS

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**What Pupils Will Have Produced by End of Elective:**

- Individual research and presentation on a 'news-worthy' topic of their choice.
- Contributions to a school newspaper/magazine. Last year it was the 'Mackie Times', distributed to all S1-S3 pupils.
- Their summary and evaluation of the visit to BBC studios
- A minimum of 3 news reports - text, video, mixed media – uploaded to the Mackie website.
- Reports to be researched, filmed, edited and uploaded on BBC School Report day (to be held in March 2018).
- Materials for display in class and on the BBC SCHOOL REPORT noticeboard.

**Elective Title: Law and Order Mock trial experience****Course Outline and Structure:**

The elective would focus on developing some key skills provided by the mock trial experience. The class will learn about the causes of crime, the justice system in Scotland and the role of punishment. We will interview the local police and visit the Sheriff Court in Aberdeen (either to see a trial or to view the courtroom and interview a sheriff).

The group will then undertake a number of mock trials throughout the year participating in each one in a different role – ie rotating the roles of advocate, witnesses and court staff, jury, court reporters/artists.

**Objectives of Elective Course:**

To develop an understanding of the justice system in Scotland.  
To develop and apply the skills used within a mock trial experience.

**Main Skills That Pupils Will Develop:**

- listening,
- critical thinking,
- building and sustaining an argument,
- analysis,
- team work.
- Public speaking
- performance skills
- confidence
- literacy skills

This elective will provide a 'real' world setting for the 'soft' skills which employers seek.

**What Pupils Will Have Produced by End of Elective:**

Pupils will have a folio of written work showing a developing understanding of the causes of crime, how the justice system works and the role of the police.

They will have at least one court report based on a 'trial' they have observed.

They will have participated in at least three 'trials' and will have folios of questions, speeches or witness answers prepared for the trials.

A video diary of the trial experience.

**Elective Title: Business Language Champions****Course Outline and Structure:**

Outline: An elective that aims to increase language abilities, cultural understanding and demonstrate positive links between business and language learning.

Structure: The elective will use research projects for pupils to investigate how the tourist industry in Stonehaven uses languages. The elective is part of the Business Language Champions initiative backed by SCILT (Scotland's National Centre for Languages) and partnered by Visit Scotland. Pupils will also take part in in-school projects to understand what brings tourists to Stonehaven and create a brochure about the town / surrounding area in the foreign language for Visit Scotland. To do this, pupils will also have language input to cover broaden their vocabulary in the modern language.

**Objectives of Elective Course:**

The elective will give pupils the opportunity to see the relevance of languages in context and learn about other cultures. For the elective, we will focus on the context of tourism and use Stonehaven and the surrounding area as a tourist destination.

Through research this elective will seek to raise awareness of how local businesses use, as well as how they can reach a wider market, with languages. Through using tourism and the tourist industry as reference guide for the elective as well as input from Visit Scotland, learners can be aware of how employable they will be by having one or more language qualifications in the future.

There will also be cultural research on European countries, and tasks linked to this. It will inspire and motivate language learners as it will show them how the skills they are learning in one language are transferable when learning another.

Through more input in the foreign language, pupils will also broaden and deepen their understanding of the modern language they are studying and their abilities in their language classes will benefit.

**Main Skills That Pupils Will Develop:**

Improved English language skills – Through the study of one or more languages, pupils can gain a better understanding of their own.

Literacy – Pupils will be asked to draft letters to businesses and speak to the public. This will require pupils to think about structure of writing, questioning and summarising.

Communication – improving this is fundamental to achievement in all areas

and this is a skill pupils will improve on throughout the elective by working in groups, speaking to the public as well as in written contexts.

Team work – pupils will have to work together to be successful in the projects during the elective.

Creativity – pupils will need to have imagination and develop their own solutions to the tasks assigned.

**What Pupils Will Have Produced by End of Elective:**

Pupils will have used research methods to find out about Stonehaven and why tourists come to the area.

Pupils will complete and compile research into how local business can enhance and grow by using languages to reach a wider audience. They will see how, by speaking more than one language, they can get ahead in the jobs market and be an asset to future employers.

Pupils will have undertaken various in-school projects relating to business which will work towards improving their language skills (including a deeper knowledge into the workings of their own language), increasing their literacy skills, helping them grow in confidence as well as encourage an appreciation of language learning.

The end aim of the project is to produce a tourist brochure in the modern languages. This will incorporate all their knowledge, research and skills they have gathered and developed throughout the year.

Elective Title: **Scotland's Sinister and Spooky Past**

**Course Outline and Structure:**

This course as its name suggests will be delving into the darker side of Scotland's past. Through Historical investigation it will unveil a whole range of unsavoury characters both human and spiritual. Initially characters from across Scotland will be studied and thereafter from our local area. As well as finding out about the characters pupils will learn about how they lived and the impact they had on the areas they inhabited. Historic buildings and places will also be investigated to seek out spooky stories and sinister tales from their past.

There will be a wide variety of methods used in the delivery of the course from teacher led lessons, individual research as well as a strong emphasis on working as part of a team to create presentations, produce a film and design, organise and execute a trip into the local/Aberdeen area.

**Objectives of Elective Course:**

- To increase knowledge of characters who have shaped local and Scottish History.
- To investigate the History of local places and buildings.
- To provide opportunities to work as a team.
- To enhance leadership skills
- To improve effective use of ICT

**Main Skills That Pupils Will Develop:**

- Research skills.
- Communication Skills both through class presentation and film.
- ICT Skills.
- Analysis of sources.
- Teamwork
- Planning and organising a trip
- Film making

**What Pupils Will Have Produced by End of Elective:**

Pupils will have created a short film on a haunted location of their choice.  
Pupils will have created a presentation on a character of their choice.  
Pupils will have planned, organised and gone on a trip to one of the locations investigated in the local/Aberdeen area.  
Pupils will report on and evaluate their trip

**Elective Title: Stonehaven: A disaster town?****Course Outline and Structure:**

This course builds on geographical skills and knowledge based on the idea that Stonehaven is a town under threat of flooding and lies on the Highland Boundary Faultline .

The course will begin by introducing the theory of River Basins and River Basin Management then use Stonehaven as the main case study area to look at how and why Stonehaven floods, the effects of the flooding and how it is managed. Part of this will be through investigative field and map work exercises where students will be gathering their own data.

Stonehaven's geology will be investigated, focusing on the Highland Boundary fault line and students will then investigate earthquake threats to Stonehaven and beyond. This will be carried out by looking at Earthquakes zones across the world and investigate the reasons behind devastation caused by them including the impact of building design.

**Objectives of Elective Course:**

- To increase breadth of knowledge of Physical, Human and Environmental Geography.
- To provide challenge in group work, environmental problem solving and cross curriculum skills.
- To enhance skills of planning, collection and processing data.
- To further develop report writing skills.

**Main Skills That Pupils Will Develop:**

- Map work (including Ordnance Survey) skills.
- Fieldwork skills.
- Investigative skills (including team work skills).
- Report writing (using both numeracy and literacy skills).
- ICT skills (including use of digimaps and excel )
- Use of the core skills will be enhanced throughout (communication, numeracy, problem solving, information technology and working with others.)

**What Pupils Will Have Produced by End of Elective:**

Written report on Stonehaven flooding to include maps and detailed graphs.

Report on comparison of earthquakes in two areas.

**Elective Title: Anatomy, Physiology and Fitness****Course Outline and Structure:**

Jointly run by the P.E. and biology departments you will learn about your body, its structure and composition; how it works when you exercise and what is meant by Fitness.

One lesson a week will be taught by a biology teacher where you will learn how your bones, muscles and joints work, how to take and monitor your "base rate" measurements and what you need to do to keep fit and healthy.

One lesson a week will be taught by a P.E. teacher where you will apply the theory covered in biology by doing a variety of activities to understand and explore your body's capabilities and how to improve them.

Project work will explore key themes such as "Drugs in Sport" and "How the Media influences our perceptions of Body Image" & "Staying healthy for Life".

**Objectives of Elective Course:**

To understand what you need to do to keep fit and healthy, from both a sports and biological perspective

**Main Skills That Pupils Will Develop:**

- Research skills
- Team work
- Confidence & self-esteem
- Determination & resilience
- Core stability; Stamina; Speed; Strength; Flexibility;
- In-depth knowledge of their musculoskeletal system

**What Pupils Will Have Produced by End of Elective:**

- A thorough understanding of how their musculoskeletal system works
- Know how to monitor their own personal fitness
- An understanding of lifestyle factors which can affect performance
- Awareness of self and the world we live in.