



S2 Elective Programme

2018-19



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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: 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.

Elective Title: BBC SCHOOL REPORTERS 2018-19**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.
- ❖ Visit the **Mearns Leader** and the **Evening Express** and talk to journalists.
- ❖ Work in groups to produce stories for the Mearns Leader and a Mackie Academy Christmas 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.
- ❖ Contribute stories to **CHALK TALK magazine**, visit the head office and take part in editing the magazine.

You can see some of the last class's 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 2019. This would include communication with local and national BBC staff.

Main Skills That Pupils Will Develop:

Working in a group – with new people!	Learning to contribute
Listening	Interview skills
Working independently	Filming and editing
Working together to meet a deadline	Note-taking
How to make a story with a message	Staying focussed

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 'Polar Express', distributed to all S1-S3 pupils.
- Their summary and evaluation of the visit to BBC studios
- A minimum of 3 news reports - text, video, and 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 2019).
- Materials for display in class and on the BBC SCHOOL REPORT noticeboard.

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

In this elective backed by SCILT (Scotland's National Centre for Languages) and partnered by Visit Scotland you will combine what you've already learned in French and Spanish with investigation into Stonehaven as a tourist destination.

You will discover how the tourist industry in Stonehaven uses languages to communicate with foreign holidaymakers. You will do this by visiting different tourist attractions, speaking to local businesses as well as talking to visitors about their experiences here in Stonehaven.

Objectives of Elective Course:

- To see the relevance of languages in context (tourism)
- To understand the importance of using languages in the work place to increase client base.
- To investigate your local area and businesses.
- To broaden and deepen your understanding of the modern language(s) that you are studying.

Main Skills That Pupils Will Develop:

- Literacy (including letter writing, presenting information)
- Research skills (conducting interviews, online research)
- Communication (formal/informal discussion, summarising research finding and working as a team.)
- Creativity (finding different solutions to activities.)
- Foreign language (increasing your confidence and broadening your knowledge.)

What Pupils Will Have Produced by End of Elective:

- A report on what attracts people to Stonehaven
- Filmed interviews with local businesses and holidaymakers
- A tourist brochure for Stonehaven in the modern language(s).

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

This elective would aim to:

- Teach learners to analyse writer's craft in short stories/poetry and extracts from longer texts.
- Teach learners to plan, write and edit their own short stories/poetry to a high standard.
- Teach learners to develop their understanding and ability to present their work in a highly effective form.
- Provide opportunities to research and engage with professional writers.

Objectives of Elective Course:

To provide opportunities for pupils who enjoy creative writing to explore a wider range of texts and formats.

To produce a collection of creative writing pieces for display and a wider readership.

To provide pupils with skills which will enhance their experience when producing Folio work in the Senior Phase.

Main Skills That Pupils Will Develop:

- Enhanced knowledge of writer's techniques.
- To critically analyse their own creative writing skills.
- How to edit and assemble a collection of work.

What Pupils Will Have Produced by End of Elective:

- A collection of creative writing pieces for distribution.

Elective Title: Dance leading to the NPA Award**Course Outline and Structure:**

Pupils will research, explore and perform a range of contemporary and jazz pieces. They will work on developing their technique and choreographic skills. Pupils will also learn how to warm up correctly and apply safe dance practice.

We will follow the structure of the National Progression award for dance which is SQA recognised, then pupils work will be presented for accreditation in S4.

Objectives of Elective Course:

This course is designed to enable pupils to develop their performing skills and to strengthen the key skills needed to continue their learning journey in dance whether that be to National 5, Higher or outside school.

Main Skills That Pupils Will Develop:

Pupils will develop:

- Knowledge and understanding of jazz and contemporary techniques
- Performance skills in jazz and contemporary tutor led dances
- Developing team work and leadership skills through choreographing a group dance.
- Incorporating the 6 dance actions in to a choreographed piece
- A deeper understanding of each dance style, including the history and professional choreographers who have made a difference to the style.

What Pupils Will Have Produced by End of Elective:

Pupils will have analysed, rehearsed and performed various dances either tutor led or choreographed by themselves both as soloists and as a group. Pupils will have the opportunity to perform in a public setting at various school events including the dance show which is new this year.

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: 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 visit the Sheriff Court in Aberdeen (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 and court 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 five 'trials' and will have folios of questions, speeches or witness answers prepared for the trials.

A video diary of the trial experience.

Elective Title: School of Rock**Course Outline and Structure:**

Through performances in school and the wider community, pupils will learn the skills required to organise, rehearse and perform as part of a small/whole class band.

One of the two lessons will focus on the organisational side of live performances, with each pupil having a specific role and contributing to the running of the band.

The second period will focus entirely on rehearsing and performing – pupils will have the opportunity to work in small bands as well as working towards whole class performances.

Objectives of Elective Course:

This course is designed to enable pupils to develop their performing and group work skills alongside planning and organising performances in the community.

Main Skills That Pupils Will Develop:

Pupils will develop:

- Practical group performing skills (Instrumental/Vocal).
- Knowledge and understanding of chosen pieces of music.
- Organisational and communication skills.
- Live performance skills in the community.

What Pupils Will Have Produced by End of Elective:

Pupils will have the opportunity to perform in a public setting at various school and community events.

Pupils will have gained valuable knowledge and experience of the skills required to organise and manage live music events.

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: 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

By the End of the Elective Pupil will have:

Generated and delivered several presentations – both group and individual.

Had the opportunity to take part in the Bronze Crest Award, where they design, carry out and report their own investigation into an aspect of space travel.

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: 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 work in the local area as well as 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.

Detailed jotter work, showing increased knowledge and skills throughout.

Report on comparison of earthquakes in two areas.