

Senior Phase S4- 6 Portree High School



There has been a great deal of interest in Scotland's senior phase curriculum in recent months. Following this we have decided to look again at our curriculum here in Portree High School. Currently, as with all other Highland Council schools we offer 6 National subjects in S4. (English, Maths and four others).

We are looking at the possibility of offering 7 subjects for our S4 in Portree High School next session 2020/ 2021. In order to decide the way forward- whether to go to a model of 7 National subjects in S4 or keep to the current model - we are holding a consultation with pupils, parents and staff. We will continue to offer 5 choices in S5/6.

We have prepared table of benefits and issues relating to the possible changes, together with a very brief online questionnaire. Please complete this questionnaire as soon as possible:

<https://forms.gle/VRn1HxpYpVe8NCYVA>

The advantages and disadvantages of offering 7 subjects in S4

Benefits	Issues
Broader subject choice in S4 (up to 7 instead of 6) would allow greater breadth of curricular areas (e.g., Language, Social Subjects, Creative, Science, Technology).	Total teaching time for each of the elective subjects would be reduced (English and Maths would be equal to current situation).
Better choice for pupils going into S5 (choose 5 from 7 rather than 5 from 6).	4 periods /week teaching time instead of 5 would mean the course delivery would be more intense.
Students in S5 able to pick up N5 subjects that they did in S3 but did not choose in S4.	Greater emphasis on completing work at home, leading to increased demand of time out of school.
Students in S6 able to pick up their subjects that they did not choose in S5.	Absences would have a greater effect on not completing coursework- a greater priority to catch up on missed work.
Earlier start of new timetable means S4 can start in May, and have a year to complete the course.	Senior students opting for N5 subjects may have less study leave, and be expected to start their new subjects sooner.
S5 students who do not have/have few exams in May will be able to start the course during SQA study leave.	Unrealistic expectations of students options- certain combinations of subjects will still not be possible.
S5 students doing N5 would have an SQA Wider Achievement Award as part of their curriculum.	Possible dip in attainment, as less time spent on each subject.

