

The Curriculum

Bell Baxter High School



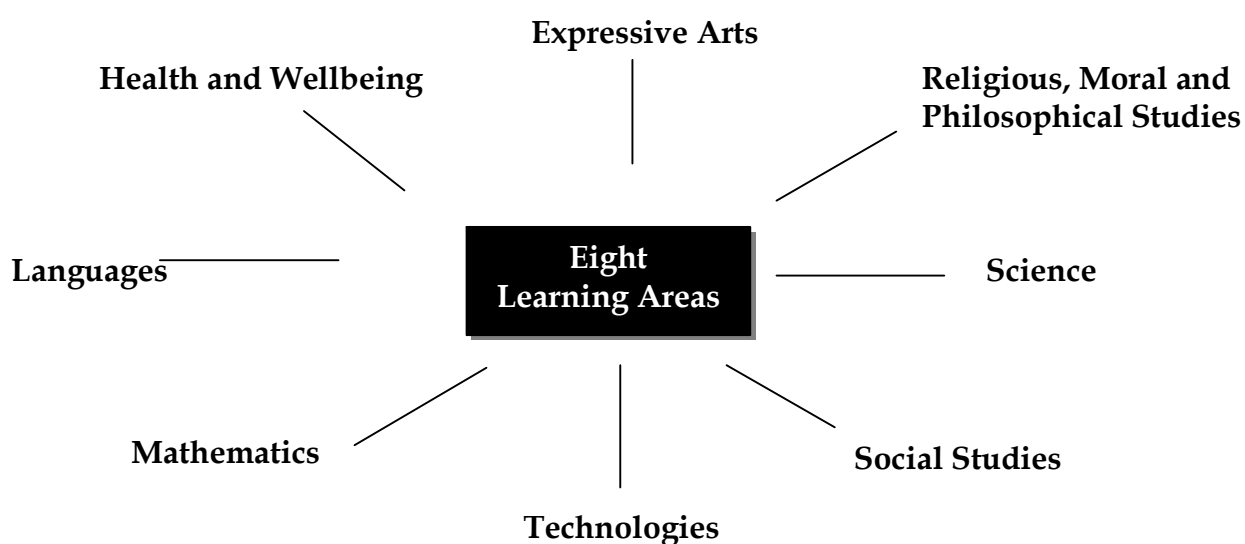
A Guide for Parents, Pupils and Partners June 2011

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Curriculum Overview

Curriculum for Excellence has an impact on the way in which schools plan and organise their curriculum. It sets out entitlements for learners which include:

- A broad general education from S1-S3 across eight learning areas
- A senior phase of education from S4-S6 which provides the opportunity for pupils to obtain a portfolio of qualifications and the recognition of wider achievements



The S1 Curriculum - The First Year Experience

At Bell Baxter pupils will follow a curriculum which is made up from each of the eight learning areas set out in *Curriculum for Excellence*.

The S2/S3 Curriculum

As pupils progress into S2 and S3 they will continue to consolidate their learning in each of the 8 learning areas, however, they will have the opportunity to personalise their curriculum, study subjects in more depth, or try learning in new contexts by adding enrichment courses to their curriculum. Pupils will be provided with support in school when making choices for their enrichment programme and will have the opportunity to “refresh” choices if need be for S3. Within each of the eight learning areas pupils will be developing the knowledge and understanding, skills and attributes which enable them to continue in S4 towards appropriate qualifications.

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S4-S6 Curriculum - The Senior Phase

One of the main aims of our senior phase is to provide an appropriate curriculum for every learner and to recognise wider achievements. There will be a number of flexible learning pathways for each learner to follow in S4-S6.

As pupils move into S4 they will choose courses in specific subjects and prepare to be presented for the new national qualifications. These qualifications will include literacy and numeracy. Some pupils may choose to follow programmes of study in partnership with college or other providers during this stage.

Which qualifications will my child sit?

In 2010/11, pupils in S2 and above will carry on studying towards the current qualifications throughout their secondary education ie Standard Grade (Foundation, General, Credit levels), Access 1/2/3, Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2, Higher and Advanced Higher courses. In S6, some pupils may choose to study towards the Scottish Baccalaureate in Science or Languages.

Pupils who entered S1 in 2010/11, however, will study towards new National Qualifications – Revised Access Courses (1,2,3), the new National 4 and National 5 courses, and Revised Higher and Advanced Higher courses (please see table below):

CURRENT QUALIFICATION	REPLACED BY	NEW NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS Introduced from 2013/2014
Access 1 and Access 2	→	Access 1 and Access 2 (Revised)
Standard Grade Foundation Level/Access 3	→	Access 3 (revised)
Standard Grade General Level/Intermediate 1	→	National 4
Standard Grade Credit Level/Intermediate 2	→	National 5
Higher	→	Higher (Revised)
Advanced Higher	→	Advanced Higher (Revised)

Source: SQA

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How will the new courses be assessed/graded?

Individual subjects at Access 1-3 and National 4 levels will be judged as pass or fail. There will be no external exams at these levels. Schools will mark and assess Access 1-3 as well as National 4 coursework. This marking will be externally verified by SQA. Subjects at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher will be graded A to D. Courses at these levels will include work assessed internally by schools but will also include the requirement to pass an additional external assessment. This will usually take the form of an exam or project which will be marked by SQA.

The new qualifications will have equal status and credibility to those currently available and will support the new curriculum. The revised qualification framework is designed to help pupils achieve to their full potential as they progress from their broad general education in S1-S3.

Which subjects will my child be able to study in the Senior Phase (S4-S6)?:

- Pupils will choose the subjects they are to study in S4-S6.
- There will be a number of flexible learning pathways for each learner to follow. One of the main aims of our senior phase will be to provide an appropriate curriculum for every learner and to recognise wider achievements

Summary

The majority of pupils will progress through Level 2 outcomes and experiences before they enter High School. As pupils continue in their learning in the 8 areas, they will move through level 3 and level 4. Many will progress through level 4 by the end of S3. Qualifications in the senior phase are available from Access (SCQF Level 3) to Advanced Higher (SCQF Level 7). As pupils with Additional Support Needs (ASN) continue in their learning in the 8 areas they will continue to work within levels appropriate to their learning. For pupils with ASN, qualifications in the senior phase are available from Access 1 (SCQF Level 1).

Year	Experience		Level
S1	8 learning areas		3
S2	8 learning areas	Enrichment	3/4
S3	8 learning areas	Enrichment	4
S4	Qualifications and wider achievements		3 - 7
S5	Qualifications and wider achievements		3 - 7
S6	Qualifications and wider achievements		3 - 7

Where can I find out further information?

The school will continue to hold parent information/engagement sessions to update you on developments, along with updates via our newsletter and school website. You may also wish to consult a number of other websites including:

www.ltscotland.org.uk/parentzone

www.sqa.org.uk/scqf

www.careers-scotland.org.uk

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