



## Form 1

### Curriculum Booklet Session 2020 - 2021

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### **The co-curriculum**

There will be a wide range of co-curricular activities including sport, music and drama open to Form 1 pupils.

A full list will be published in the calendar for each term.

## **Foreword to parents**

Our aim is to provide every child in Forms 1 and 2 with:

- a coherent, broad and balanced curricular programme which encourages children to explore all areas of learning
- class organisation and grouping which takes full account of the pupil's previous learning and individual needs
- support from an identified specialist Guidance teacher who monitors, supports and encourages the pupil in work across the curriculum
- good quality teaching, clearly focused on learning objectives, which includes a substantial amount of direct interactive teaching, and is supported by appropriate homework.

## **Introduction for pupils**

The move from primary to secondary is one of the most important steps in your school career. It is a time of great excitement and opportunity, of new horizons and pleasant surprises.

We have brought together a broad range of practical, artistic and academic subjects which will:

- continue and develop the skills acquired in your primary school
- introduce some new subjects and approaches
- cover many skills you will need through the rest of your life
- allow you to make a sensible choice of subjects for Form 3
- allow you to make the best possible start in Form 3 subjects
- encourage and develop your individual talents to fulfil your potential.

To make the change as smooth as possible we have found out from your primary teachers what level you are at in different subjects and you will be continuing with much of the work you did in your primary school.

You will also be working with others who have reached the same level. This will mean making some new friends - but don't worry, they're all new to this too, and there are lots more friends to choose from!

All this may seem a little daunting from your position at the top of your primary school. Remember that in the same way as we have a team of teachers of curriculum subjects to take you through a journey of learning and experience, we also have a team of Guidance teachers to support you as you make that journey.

## Guidance

When you start secondary school there will be lots of new experiences and challenges for you. We realise that you will need a lot of advice and support to cope with these so there is a team of staff who have a particular responsibility for helping you. They are the Guidance team. In addition you will be offered support from your subject teachers and your group teacher who will register you each morning

Each form is divided between 4 Houses - Airlie, Aystree, Lindores and Wallace - and two members of the Guidance team are in charge of each house.

<b>Airlie</b>		<b>Aystree</b>	
Mr Welsh	AI1	Ms Fulton	AY1
Mr Downie	AI2	Mrs Baxter	AY2
<b>Lindores</b>			
Mrs Brown	LI1	Mr Merry	WA1
Mr Allan	LI2	Mrs Jack	WA2

You and your brothers and sisters, if you have any, will be allocated to a particular House and, as far as is possible, you will stay with the same Guidance teacher throughout your secondary education. This system will enable your Guidance teacher to get to know you well through regular meetings with you, both on a one-to-one basis and in a group of others in your House.

One member of the Guidance team is always available at lunchtime in the Guidance base so that if you have any concerns which you want to discuss, you only have to go along to speak to him / her. For example, you might be worried about how you are coping in a particular subject, or you might have a concern about another pupil.

You will also be allocated a Group Registration teacher whom you will meet at the start of each day. This member of staff will be responsible for highlighting daily notices and checking your attendance. This will be another person with whom you can discuss issues of concern.

As well as helping you through the first few weeks, the Guidance team will be involved in the organisation of various Inter-House events such as rugby, hockey, debating and swimming. If you participate in these, you will be able to gain points for your House. You should also inform your Guidance teacher and Group Registration teacher if you have achieved success outside school; for example, if you have won a competition for singing! By getting involved you may help your House to win the Inter-House Shield which is presented each year.

**Guidance is here to help you!**

## Support for Learning

Working closely with the Guidance team, class teachers and your parents, it is the aim of the Learning Skills department to ensure that you receive the best possible support throughout your school career at the High School of Dundee.

During your time at school you may receive support from a member of staff in the Learning Skills centre in a number of ways:

### **In-class support** (English or Maths)

With two teachers in the class, this gives you the chance to receive the assistance you require to make progress and complete assignments.

### **Individual / small group support**

You may have Learning Skills periods on your first year timetable right at the start of Form 1. During this time we help you to develop your skills in a number of areas:

- **Reading**  
In the primary you *learned to read*, but in secondary you *read to learn*. It is important therefore that you develop competence in reading and in higher reading skills such as comprehension and reading for meaning.
- **Spelling**  
Spelling support ranges from working through a graded spelling scheme to an individualised spelling approach using a personalised spelling planner. We also use a variety of spelling software as well as spellcheckers and word processors.
- **Study skills**  
We will help you develop your study skills by developing your techniques in organisation of notes and information through the use of mind mapping and topic pages, improving your memory, and thinking skills.
- **Curriculum reinforcement**  
There is the opportunity for you to receive extra support in your subjects. Also at various times throughout the week subject teachers or Form 6 pupils come to the department to work with individual pupils.
- **Use of technology**  
There is the opportunity to develop your keyboard and ICT skills and use the internet, iPad apps and the department website to help with your revision and class work.

## **Library and Information Centre**

When you enrol at the High School, you automatically become a member of the School Library. We are open to Form 1 to Form 6 pupils from 8.30 am until 5.00 pm (4.30 pm on Fridays) and you can visit us in any free time you have during the school day to borrow and return books as well as use the resources for school work.

In the Library we have all the latest books and magazines, plus information books to help with school work. We also have a wide range of information books about hobbies you may have outside of school such as pets, skateboarding, sports cars, vampires... We also have audio books on CD and movie DVDs. You can borrow four items at a time and you can usually keep them for two weeks. You don't need a card to borrow. Choose what you would like to take and bring it to the issue desk. We are always here to help you find something you're looking for.

We have computers you can use to research information on projects. You can use the computers at break times or lunch time. If you would like some help finding good websites, ask the Librarian. She's an expert!

The Library is also a good place to come if you want to find a quiet place to read or somewhere to do your homework or work on a group project. Form 1 pupils spend lots of time in the Library and you are always welcome here.

## **Art and Design**

In Form 1 you will follow a broad programme of activities. Our aim is to provide you with an enjoyable course in which you have the opportunity to participate in a variety of different topics and to use a wide range of art materials.

This general course has two main functions. The first is to allow you to explore and record what is seen all around, and the second is to develop your ability to make personal and creative responses.

The course will enable you to:

- express feelings and communicate ideas
- develop imagination and creativity
- make decisions and judgments
- increase knowledge and understanding of art vocabulary
- improve practical skills.

Drawing, painting and design form the basis of the course, with activities such as claywork, print-making, or collage also being undertaken. The course also aims to stimulate an interest in the visual arts and to promote an appreciation of the role of the artist and designer in today's world. You will be encouraged to discuss paintings by relevant artists and also to comment on your own work.

Your progress will be continually monitored and formal assessment will take place twice during the session. The first assessment simply takes the form of a review of work by your class teacher. The second assessment, towards the end of the session, is an average of two grades; one awarded for Classwork and one for a Practical Assignment which is marked by all Art staff working together as a team.

## **Biology**

In Biology you will learn about living things and about how your bodies work. You will find out about cells, which make up all living things, and this involves using a microscope. During the year you will do experiments, usually in small groups, doing things such as growing bread mould and finding out which foods contain starch. You will gain information from your teacher, your textbook and also from videos. From the lessons you will begin to realise that Biology is important not just as a subject in school but in your everyday life and for the future of the planet.

## **Chemistry**

When you come to Chemistry you will be shown how to carry out experiments safely. Sometimes you will work in groups, sometimes you will work on your own and sometimes your teacher will demonstrate the experiment. These experiments will include:

- colourful liquids and solids
- reactions that produce gases
- gases that explode
- properties of salt
- neutralising acids etc.

You will continue to record results as you have done in primary school. These results will be linked to scientific theories and over a few years you will gradually gain some knowledge of things that chemists think important. This will include theories about the forces that hold the world together and knowledge of a large number of the elements and compounds that exist.

## **Classical Studies**

Each pupil in Form 1 will undertake a short module of Classical Studies. This will be interesting in itself and will also help you with your course choice at the end of Form 2, when National 5 Classical Studies will be one of the options available.

Form 1 Classical Studies concentrates on the ancient Greeks. Although they lived in the distant past, they have had a great influence on our modern world. The Greeks liked to build beautiful buildings, they liked athletics, they liked mathematics and science, and they liked storytelling. In this course you will discover that in all of these activities modern people have been greatly influenced by the Greeks. For instance, two of the main buildings in Dundee, the High School and the Caird Hall, which face each other down Reform Street, are both modelled on ancient Greek buildings.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of studying the Greeks is to read the stories they told - their myths. We shall read a number of these, including the story of how the hero Perseus chopped off the head of the Gorgon Medusa, who turned to stone anyone upon whom her gaze fell.

## **Computing Science**

Computers are widely used in society as tools for processing information and providing entertainment. They are used in all subjects across the curriculum within the High School of Dundee as a part of the everyday learning and teaching. It is important that you gain the core skills required to help you throughout your studies in Forms 1 and 2, as well as further up the school.

### **Content**

The course in Form 1 and Form 2 is intended to provide you with the following:

- an introduction to the computer systems used within the school including iPad
- use of iPads further to enhance learning and computer literacy
- an overview of how digital computer systems work
- practical experience of commonly-used applications
- an introduction to how computers affect society
- practical experience of programming in a number of languages

The detailed content of the course changes each year in order to keep up with the rapidly-changing world of technology.

### **Method**

Since pupils entering the Form 1 course will vary in experience, no assumptions are made about your previous knowledge or how much access you have to a computer at home. The course is modular and pupil-centred, allowing you to work through different parts of the course at a pace that suits your needs.

Every pupil has access to a networked computer system, and the work you will do on the course will make extensive use of electronic mail, the World Wide Web, and other services available via the Internet.



## **Drama**

Drama is a subject of which you may have had previous experience, but if not don't worry because all you need is enthusiasm, energy and a desire to work with others; qualities which we're sure you all possess!

During your time in Drama we hope that you will:

- develop confidence and self-esteem in your day-to-day interaction with others
- communicate ideas and feelings through language, expression and movement, in real and imaginary contexts
- develop sensitivity towards the feelings, opinions and values of others through negotiating and listening
- learn a range of dramatic skills and techniques.

In Form 1 you will learn the art of stage fighting! In small groups you will devise a story which will give you a chance to show off your stage fighting techniques. You will present your piece and evaluate the performances in a class discussion. Using your iPads and the iMovie App, in small groups you will devise and film a trailer for your chosen genre. In this unit you will be learning how to create different film shots and film genre. You will also record all drama activities in your diary.

During your time in Form 2 you will learn how to act! You will take part in improvisation and role play techniques which will enable you to create a believable character. This is called characterisation. You will also work with your group on a short scripted extract. As a production team you will be required to plan all areas of production including acting and directing. You will present your work to the rest of the class.

Drama provides a creative freedom to explore your own self and the world about you. You will be required to be resourceful; at times work independently on tasks set and are a productive member of the team.

Drama is also great fun!

## **English**

What do we want you to get out of our subject?

We want you to:

- develop your interest and enthusiasm for reading and writing
- develop your accuracy and fluency in the main skill areas – Reading, Writing, Listening and Talking
- develop your understanding and awareness of how language works.

The course in Form 1 lays the foundations for study later in the school. As well as developing Reading, Writing, Listening and Talking skills, we also try to foster a critical awareness and taste in all aspects of communication, from the traditional novel to the mass media and other modern forms.

### **Reading**

We cannot lay enough stress on the importance of reading in any English course. Classes will read and study some texts as a group, not only as an opportunity to enjoy a well-written story but also as a means of opening up awareness of the skills of good writing. You will be taught to read with care and attention to detail, which is so essential in later years. In addition, we provide a recommended reading list.

Part of Reading is Close Reading, or interpretation. This particular skill is a more formal extension of the work done daily in class when reading and discussing any text. By answering questions in your own words, you will learn to demonstrate the depth of your understanding of a piece of writing as well as displaying your own communication skills.

### **Writing**

The course covers the different types of writing found in everyday life. Although longer compositions will be set as homework or part of class work, other, less formal writing exercises are a regular feature of Form 1 English. From a single sentence to an extended project, all writing is regarded as an important indication of your progress.

### **Listening and Talking**

These two skills are difficult to separate. Considerable stress is laid on oral work and the creative use of language. As well as drama, usually stemming from the plays set as class texts, you might be expected to give class talks and you will work in groups where talking and listening are an essential part. Informal assessment as well as constructive criticism is given to help you discover your strengths and develop your confidence.

## Geography

In Forms 1 and 2 we aim firstly to develop your appreciation and understanding of the world around you and secondly to introduce you to the skills of the geographer, such as mapping, sketching, data processing, reasoned argument and the application of information and communications technology. Many of these skills will help you with other subjects you are studying.

The topics selected for study will introduce you to these important skills in the context of both Physical and Human Geography.

The topics studied in Form 1 are:

- what is Geography and how do we study it?
- weather and climate
- the geography of crime
- mapping skills
- exploring China.

In Form 2 you will study:

- population and development
- earth forces (plate tectonics, earthquakes and volcanoes)
- people and the planet – fashion and food
- river environments

All classes follow a common course using a wide range of stimulating and creative resources including iPad technology and audio-visual reference material to bring the world outside the classroom to life inside the classroom. You will also have the opportunity to broaden your experience of Geography through fieldwork and educational visits.

You will be assessed continuously throughout the session by end-of-unit assessments and through the completion of investigations during the weather unit in Form 1 and the earth forces unit in Form 2.

## Health and Food Technology

The Health and Food Technology course in Forms 1 and 2 is made up of an 18-week block.

We hope that the course will help you to make progress in a number of ways. It will:

- improve your basic nutritional knowledge
- improve your manipulative skills
- develop your knowledge of food hygiene
- enhance your organisational skills
- improve your ability to work with others
- increase your self-confidence.

This will be undertaken through practical work in food preparation, producing an array of different dishes. A progress file will be completed weekly, using the iPad.

### Form 1

Through practical cookery you will learn basic food preparation skills, a knowledge of food hygiene, and how to use kitchen equipment safely and hygienically.

Assessment procedure: you are awarded a grade based upon the following aspects of the course:

- your practical and organisational skills
- your ability to interpret written and oral instructions
- your ability to work cooperatively with others

### Form 2

Through practical cookery you will learn about different aspects of nutrition and healthy eating habits. Pupils will carry out a Food Technology project, developing and producing a recipe for the school Dining Hall. This will be undertaken through practical work in food preparation.

Assessment procedure: you are awarded a combined grade based on your performance in the following aspects:

- your practical and organisational skills
- your ability to interpret written and oral instructions
- your ability to work cooperatively with others.

## History

The History course is designed to introduce you to a number of key skills:

- knowledge and understanding
- evaluating
- source handling
- investigating
- cross-curricular skills; memory and revision techniques and improving fluency through the use of connectives.

Particular emphasis is placed on building competence in reading, research, organisation, extended writing and revision, and you will be introduced to techniques which will be developed progressively as you move through the different year stages in the school.

The main topics will be:

- The mystery of Tollund man.
- William Wallace: 'Braveheart or Blackheart'?
- Who murdered Lord Darnley?
- What was killing Mrs Oowler? (a local History investigation).
- Why did so many die on the 'Titanic'?

The time when History was just about the study of dates and lists of kings is now long gone. We now focus on progression and on building skills which will lead to success at Intermediate level, Higher and beyond. This is why we concentrate on issue-based, rather than topic or project-based coursework. In Forms 1 and 2 we shall show you how to investigate imaginative and stimulating issues that by their very nature demand to be analysed and explored. This will also require you to develop their own opinions and express them, something that is central to any thinking subject.

Assessment is continuous and varied, rather than a single end-of-year examination, and focuses particularly on drawing conclusions based on investigations. This allows you to develop cross-curricular skills, particularly writing fluency and organisation, which will be of benefit in many other subject areas.

Overall, the course is designed to give you a lively and interesting insight into History through a range of learning experiences and at the same time provide you with skills which will help you to achieve success in all your future studies.

## Languages

All Form 1 pupils will study French as their first foreign language.

**French** is the native language of some 200 million people and is the second language of millions more. In Europe, it is spoken in France, Belgium, Switzerland and Luxembourg. In the Americas, it is an official language of Canada and spoken in the Caribbean. French is also an official working language in the United Nations, UNESCO, NATO, the International Red Cross and international courts.

Proficiency in French is a prerequisite for anyone planning a career in international organisations. French is a language of business. Today, American companies have over 2,000 subsidiaries in France, and French companies have over 600 subsidiaries in the United States. More than 800,000 jobs in the US require French. Major corporations with headquarters or subsidiaries in the United States and France include Du Pont, Hewlett-Packard, Xerox, Apple Computer, Michelin, Renault, Bic and many more.

French is a language for learning other languages. It is a very good base for learning Romance languages (Spanish, Italian, Portuguese and Romanian) as well as English, since 50% of current English vocabulary is derived from French. In addition to French, pupils will study a second language, choosing from German, Latin, Mandarin and Spanish. HSD pupils are therefore in a fortunate position, and will be well placed to take their place in our increasingly global society.

### German

There is so much more to Germany than sausage, beer and Lederhosen, although these may be three of the stereotypes which spring to mind when the country is mentioned.

Did you know, though, that Germany has widely influenced present-day Europe? It has been home to many of the world's greatest composers (Bach, Beethoven), philosophers (Kant, Marx), writers (Goethe, Böll) and engineers (Porsche, Benz). Its people are among the best-educated in the world. It has the biggest, most powerful economy in Europe, and the third biggest globally, and is the home of much that is best in pharmaceuticals, chemicals, medicine, science, manufacturing, engineering and sport – think Adidas!

HSD pupils on trips to Germany have been able to testify that the people are welcoming, outgoing and hugely hospitable – wonderful ambassadors for this major trading partner of the UK.

Germany offers a wealth of job opportunities to anyone with a qualification in German, whether it be at N5 or at University level. The study of this language is an important and enjoyable introduction to all that Germany offers, either to the business traveller or the tourist.

Of course, German is spoken not only in Germany – it is the native language of Austria and of the majority of Swiss citizens, as well as being a significant minority language of much of Eastern and Central Europe. Knowledge of German can only enhance your job prospects, whether or not the UK is no longer a member of the EU.

## Latin

The study of Latin brings many benefits, since the foundations of modern Europe were laid by the Romans, who spoke Latin.

Many major European languages, including French, derive significantly from Latin. Knowing Latin helps you understand the meanings and genders of words in these languages as well as their spelling. An example of this is the French word **fils** (son), which has an unpronounced 'l'. It is easier to understand the spelling of this word when you discover that **fils** is a shortened version of the Latin **filius**: the French have shortened the Latin word, but retained the original 'l'.

Latin is of similar use in understanding English. A large number of English words are derived from Latin, and Latin helps us with their meaning and spelling. An example is 'plumber', where the 'b' is explained by the fact that the word is derived from **plumbum**, the Latin for lead.

Latin is used for medical, zoological, botanical and other scientific terminology, and for legal terms, since the law of Scotland and of most of Europe is based on Roman law.

Latin helps the study of history. It was the main language of Europe into early modern times, and history books and public documents were written in Latin. Our knowledge of Robert the Bruce and William Wallace comes from books written in Latin. The Declaration of Arbroath – the Scottish Declaration of Independence – was written in Latin, as was the Magna Carta, the most important document in English constitutional history.

## Spanish

Some people associate Spain only with sun, sea and sombreros, but here are a few facts that might surprise them:

Spanish is the fourth most widely-spoken language in the world after Mandarin, English and Hindi. Besides being spoken in Spain, it is the official language throughout most of South America and is either an official or a primary language in 25 countries. In total, 350 million people speak Spanish as their first language, and around 100 million as a second language. The demand for Spanish courses has doubled worldwide in ten years, and it is one of the largest markets for business and one of the most useful languages for travel.

Spanish, like French, has its origins in Latin, and as such it is often easier for students to pick up as a second language. The spelling is based on generally-consistent phonetic principles, and reflects better than most languages the way a word is pronounced. At university level it is possible to combine the study of Spanish, as other languages, with other subjects such as Law, Engineering, Business and Sciences.

If you want to get on in today's modern world, using just English is not enough any more; it really pays to learn at least one more language. Spanish is an obvious choice. Whether you enjoy talking, reading, or mastering challenges, you will have opportunities for all of these in learning Spanish.

## **Mandarin**

Mandarin Chinese, the most common Chinese dialect, has over 800 million speakers worldwide, and is also spoken in Taiwan, Indonesia and Singapore.

Considered one of the most difficult languages to learn on account of its writing system of characters representing words or phrases rather than sounds, Mandarin is filled with similar sounding words which, together with its five tones, means that success in this language is a real achievement.

Use of the correct tone is vital, since the same syllable, spoken in the wrong tone, can dramatically alter the meaning of a word.

Learning Mandarin gives you an insight into the ancient and fascinating culture of China, its arts and crafts, calligraphy and philosophy.

Whichever 'second' language is chosen, HSD's language provision ensures that our young people will be well prepared to take their place in today's international community.

## **Mathematics**

Mathematics plays an important role in all of our lives. Work in Form 1 is designed to encourage you to take an active interest in Maths.

We will help you:

- to understand the nature and purpose of the subject and to appreciate its importance in everyday life, science and technology
- to acquire skills in mathematical thinking and to build a toolkit of mathematical knowledge
- to develop confidence in using and applying Maths and to learn to enjoy its challenges
- to develop personally and socially and involve you in different kinds of learning
- to develop problem-solving skills and encourage you to take part in maths competitions
- to learn concepts, facts and techniques which are essential to the understanding of the subject.

The Maths department aim to encourage pupils of all ability levels to enjoy Maths and at the same time develop to their full potential.

In addition, we would like to enhance your learning experience by making use of the various apps available for your iPad. These include the TI Nspire app which can be used for interactive geometry, spread sheets, graph drawing and programming.



## **Music**

The Forms 1 and 2 Music course offers you the chance to learn to play a new instrument, discover all kinds of unfamiliar music, and create your own songs. You will have the opportunity to try out a wide range of classroom instruments: keyboard, guitar, bass guitar, snare drum pad and tuned percussion, before choosing one to specialise in, preparing for performance as both a soloist and in groups.

You will listen to and study a wide range of musical styles and genres. We begin by learning about the Instruments of the Orchestra and hearing Orchestral Music, and move on to Scottish Traditional Music, Ragtime, Blues, Swing, Music for the Theatre and Films, the Music of Latin America and the Caribbean, African Music, and the history of Rock and Pop Music. Along the way, there are many opportunities for you to perform music in these styles and write some of your own. You will enjoy support from computer software and iPad apps.

Individual lessons in most instruments outside class music are available to you on request by contacting the Music department administrator. The school boasts several orchestras, wind bands, ensembles and choirs in which you are very welcome to participate. All groups perform at least twice a year, many in the Caird Hall, Dundee's premier civic and concert venue.

## **Personal and Social Education**

The course is allocated one period per week and is taught in Form 1 to House groups of 11 -12 by members of the Guidance staff. Occasionally outside speakers are invited into school to speak to you about current issues.

The aim is to encourage positive personal and social development by increasing your self-awareness and self-esteem. Emphasis is placed on the skills that you will be developing rather than the course content.

Topics cover a wide range of issues including your physical and mental development, drug awareness, bullying, safe use of the internet and social networking sites. In subsequent years some of these are reinforced each session and new topics appropriate to the particular year group are introduced.

The overall aim of the course is to ensure that you are prepared to face the challenges of modern society and to make informed decisions.

## **Physical Education**

So what's the point of physical activity?

- it makes our bodies work better
- it makes us feel better about ourselves (usually!)
- it helps to make our brains work better
- it will help us to make new friends
- it gives us new experiences
- it helps us to work with others.

Your three-period block is split into PE and Games.

### **PE Time**

Girls will do a range of activities from badminton, basketball, dance, gymnastics, netball, SAQ, Scottish country dance, team building and team games.

Boys will do a range of activities from badminton, basketball, gymnastics, SAQ, Scottish country dance, strength and conditioning, team building and team games.

### **Games Time**

Girls will have the opportunity to do athletics, hockey and tennis.

Boys will have the opportunity to do athletics, cricket and rugby.

### **Co-curricular activities**

Girls have the opportunity to take part in our core sports of athletics, hockey, netball and tennis.

Boys have the opportunity to take part in our core sports of athletics, cricket, hockey, and rugby.

In addition, further co-curricular clubs are offered within Mayfield Sports Centre for a small fee. These include yoga, karate and trampolining.

### **Teams**

For most of the co-curricular activities we run one or two school teams per year group. Matches will be played against other independent schools and some local schools. These will take place on Saturday morning and in some cases, especially netball, during the week.

## Physics

Physics is a fascinating subject which helps us to understand how and why things work. Why do apples fall from a tree? How do electrical circuits work? What happens inside a camera to produce an image? Why does the moon stay in orbit around the Earth?

Physics provides knowledge and understanding of our own world as well as the planets and stars around us to help us answer these questions.

In Form 1 Physics is taught in one double period per week. The course covers:

- making measurements
- forms and uses of energy
- electricity and electrical circuits.

Every lesson involves some learning, problem solving and practical work. You will usually do experiments in small groups. This gives you the opportunity to work in teams – planning, investigating, observing, recording and making sense of results. Using laboratory equipment can be fun, especially when you encounter the hair-raising experience with a charge generator.

Every so often, short written tests will give an indication of your progress. At the end of each school year there is a longer test covering all the course work. Sometimes your ability to carry out practical work and investigations will also be tested.

## **Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies**

### **Exploring a World of Beliefs**

During Forms 1 and 2 you will learn about different religious beliefs and find out about different ways of thinking. Building on what you already know, you will work towards greater knowledge, sense of understanding, and appreciation for your own culture and beliefs as well as those of people in your community and around the world. You will be encouraged to reflect on other points of view and think about your own beliefs about what is right and wrong.

We will begin the year by exploring some of the ideas that lead people to different beliefs. You will be encouraged to think carefully both about religious issues and about matters of right and wrong. Other things we will look at include the relationship between science and religion, and also the use of symbols, symbolic stories, and myths.

In Form 1, you will learn about different ways of understanding the meaning and purpose of human life, and about the idea and the importance of human rights. In Form 2, you will learn about the relationship of belief and knowledge, and some of the ways in which people have argued for and against the existence of God.

## Technology

The Technology course consists of two areas of study; Engineering Science and Graphic Communication. The two areas of study are further split into different topics. The topics you will be studying are microelectronics, modular electronics, mechanisms and structures, computer control, computer-aided design and graphic communication.

Microelectronics is where you find out how to process information, such as using temperature to control a buzzer. There will be real problems to solve which are followed by building and testing your ideas on circuit boards or using a simulation program.

In the modular electronics module you will be using electronic modules to construct electronic circuits which solve particular problems.

In mechanisms and structures you will build and test solutions to mechanical and structural problems.

You will learn how to make flow charts in the computer control module and you will write computer programs to control traffic lights, a house alarm, a car park and screen messages.

The computer-aided design module will allow you to start learning 3D modelling techniques which will enable you to generate 3D models of objects you see.

In Graphic Communication you will be introduced to the international language of drawings so that you can put your ideas on paper and communicate your designs to others. You will use the latest 3D modelling software to create 3D drawings of everyday items including an MP3 player and a construction set brick.

You will learn about the importance of colour in society and will learn skills to allow you to generate ideas using orthographic drawing and isometric drawing techniques

The assessment of your work in Technology will be based on the level of difficulty you reach, the amount of help you receive, and a short test which may be to assemble circuits or produce rendered objects in 2D.

In addition the course allows the pupils to take part in a STEM Leaders Award scheme which is certificated. This is a qualification which is awarded only according to strict criteria and is recognised outwith school. It is part of the Primary Engineer programme.