

# EDINBURGH STEINER SCHOOL: "AT A GLANCE" CURRICULUM OF THE UPPER SCHOOL

\*words that appear in capitals denote the names of Main Lesson blocks

Class	SCIENCES, MATHEMATICS & ICT		LANGUAGES, HUMANITIES & GEOGRAPHY			ENGLISH & PHILOSOPHY	GYM
9  Age 14-15 years	ORGANIC CHEMISTRY*, an outline of chemical processes, the resulting substances and their utility; HUMAN BIOLOGY: an exploration of the 'senses', their physiology and relationship to our perception of the world; the foundations of PHYSICS including heat, pressure and energy; CONIC SECTIONS, their geometry, including parabola and hyperbola, the application of Cartesian equations; SEQUENCES: the mathematics of codes, spirals and number patterns; preparation for National 4/5 maths courses next year	Weekly teaching blocks of ICT, in rotation with other activities	French & German are studied by the majority of students. These are both two-year GCSE course in both subjects. Skills are developed: reading, writing, speaking and listening	MODERN HISTORY, from the French Revolution to the Russian Revolution; the cold war and the rise of the superpowers; the growth of extremism in the 20 <sup>th</sup> century; PERSPECTIVE TECHNICAL DRAWING	GEOLOGY investigating minerals, rocks and fossils; the formation and change of landscapes due to 'fire' and 'ice'	Essay writing, close reading and literary criticism to prepare for National 4/5 examination course next year; The art of storytelling through NARRATIVES; public speaking through DEBATING;	Weekly double period: activities include sport, games and gymnastics
10  Age 15-16 years	The principles of INORGANIC CHEMISTRY with emphasis on the quantitative laws; EMBRYOLOGY and the reproductive system in humans and animals; MECHANICS: forces static and dynamic, the theories of Hooke and Newton explored via experiment; the application of TRIGONOMETRY and its historical roots in surveying and navigation; additional timetabled 'science' lessons in addition to main lessons. SQA Maths courses at either National 4 or National 5 (examination)	ICT incorporated where appropriate into other lessons, for example into English National Courses where essays must be word processed	French and German continue with the second year of the GCSE courses; examinations are taken in May and June	ANCIENT HISTORY, which follows the development of human beings from early hominids to Homo Sapiens, the main lesson looks at ancient technology, society and consciousness	Geography focuses on CLIMATOLOGY, the causes of 'weather' both normal and destructive and the dilemma of climate change	Preparation for National 4 units or for the National 5 English exam in May. Units require varied skills including public speaking or group discussion, writing for a specific purpose, and analysing and understanding both fictional and transactional texts; an appreciation of metrical forms: POETRY from the 14 <sup>th</sup> century to the present day	Weekly double period: activities include sport, games and gymnastics
11  Age 16-17 years	Maths is offered as a two-year Higher course. Chemistry, Biology and Physics are offered as one-year GCSE courses. The CHEMISTRY of METALS explores the properties of a selection of metals by experiment; BOTANY: the nature of plants and their environments; the theory and applications of PROJECTIVE GEOMETRY	ELECTRONICS and modern technology, from electrostatics to nuclear physics	French and German are offered as Higher subject courses studied over two years	History is offered at National 5; MEDIEVAL HISTORY, the age of discovery; PARZIVAL, the epic poem and grail legend	GCSE Geography is offered as a one- year course; SURVEYING: map-making from first principles, on location in the Highlands; Modern Studies (National 5) is sometimes offered	Philosophy is offered at National 5; English examinations courses are offered at a level appropriate to the student National 4, 5 (one year) and Higher (two years); ROMANTICISM: an appreciation of the link between literature, art and landscape	Access to gym facilities is available at lunchtimes; afternoon sports clubs are offered
12  Age 17-18 years	Second year of Higher Maths. Chemistry, Biology and Physics are offered as one-year Higher courses. Main lessons reduce in number due to the pressure of prelims and exams; an increased number of ordinary lessons is offered for each of these Higher courses	ICT incorporated where appropriate into other lessons	French and German continue as Higher subject courses with the exams in May	HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE, including opportunities to design real structures; History is normally offered as a one-year Higher course	Geography is normally offered as a one-year Higher course; WORLD GEOGRAPHY: an exploration of spatial issues, including globalisation and terrorism	English courses conclude with an exam in May for National 5 and Higher students; Philosophy is normally offered as a one-year Higher course. MODERN LITERATURE may be brought as a Main Lesson.	Access to gym facilities is available at lunchtimes; afternoon sports clubs are offered

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Class	ARTS & CRAFTS			RELIGION & DRAMA	MUSIC & EURYTHMY		PSHE & CAREERS	RESIDENTIAL TRIPS
9  Age 14-15 years	Weekly double period: black and white drawing (contrasts); focus on balance and composition; HISTORY OF ART* from Ancient Egypt to the Renaissance	Basket weaving using willow cane: each pupil produces one or more baskets with a variety of integrated patterns and finishing bands	Weekly double periods of Woodwork and Cooking: preparing and serving wholesome school lunches one day per week	One period of religious studies per week; in most years the performance of a full dramatic production involving all members of the Class	Daily choir with whole Upper School; weekly Orchestra for musicians	One period each week of the movement art of Eurythmy	One period per week: issues include alcohol, nutrition and drugs awareness, as well as internet safety; daily contact with Class Guardian for pastoral care	A city break (for example, to London); FARMING PRACTICUM: demanding physical work, such as fence building and hands-on experience, such as milking cows
10  Age 15-16 years	Weekly double period: emphasis on the experience of colour, leading to compositional landscapes and still life; COLOUR main lesson	Woodwork, incorporating the more technical methods of joinery; stained glass making, using traditional skills	Cooking: preparing and serving wholesome school lunches one day per week	Back stage assistance (set dressing, makeup and lighting) for Christmas mystery plays	Daily choir with whole Upper School; weekly Orchestra for musicians	One period each week of the movement art of Eurythmy	One period per week: issues include alcohol, nutrition and drugs awareness, as well as internet safety; daily contact with Class Guardian for pastoral care	An outward bound activity: challenging outdoor activities and new experiences, normally in Wales or the Highlands and Islands
11  Age 16-17 years	GCSE Art is offered as a one- year course	BOOKBINDING teaches students a traditional craft involving multiple stages and techniques	Cooking: preparing and serving wholesome school lunches one day per week	Voluntary participation in annual whole school production; National 5 Drama may be offered subject to demand	Music is offered as a two-year Higher course; daily choir with whole Upper School	Daily choir with whole Upper School; weekly Orchestra for musicians	The Class Guardian sees the Class daily for pastoral care; CAREERS GUIDANCE main lesson; appointments with external advisors	Surveying trip: currently to the Cairngorms, to collect data for map making; a walk up Cairngorm Mountain to appreciate the concept of 'sustainable management'
12  Age 17-18 years	Advanced Higher art is offered as a one- year course	The main lesson CLAY HEADS is a reflective exercise leading to a life size result	Cooking: preparing and serving wholesome school lunches one day per week	All pupils have the opportunity to participate in the 'Kings Play'; performance of the Class 12 play: a gift to the school before leaving	The second year of the Higher course, with the exam in May; daily choir with whole Upper School	Daily choir with whole Upper School; weekly Orchestra for musicians	The Class Guardian sees the Class daily for pastoral care; ongoing individual careers guidance throughout the year	Class 12 Conference bringing together students from other Steiner schools for review and reflection; Class 12 trip, normally abroad, typically eastern Europe, Greece or Turkey