

# 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   |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|---|---|
| <b>9</b><br><b>Age</b><br><b>14-15</b><br><b>years</b>  | 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 offered as two-year N4/N5 courses in both subjects. Skills are developed: reading, writing, speaking & 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 & 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                    |
| <b>10</b><br><b>Age</b><br><b>15-16</b><br><b>years</b> | 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 lessons in chemistry, biology and physics 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 & German continue with the second year of the N4/N5 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                    |
| <b>11</b><br><b>Age</b><br><b>16-17</b><br><b>years</b> | 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 & 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   | N5 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 |
| <b>12</b><br><b>Age</b><br><b>17-18</b><br><b>years</b> | 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 the these Higher courses   | ICT incorporated where appropriate into subject lessons  | French & German continue as Higher subject courses with the exams in May  | HISTORY of ARCHITECTURE, including opportunities to design real structures; History is sometimes offered as a Higher course  | Geography is normally offered as a one-year Higher course; WORLD GEOGRAPHY: exploring 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 |

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

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

| Class   | ARTS & CRAFTS  |   |  | RELIGION & DRAMA  | MUSIC & EURYTHMY  |   | PSHE & CAREERS  | RESIDENTIAL TRIPS   |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| <b>9</b><br><b>Age</b><br><b>14-15</b><br><b>years</b>  | 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                         |
| <b>10</b><br><b>Age</b><br><b>15-16</b><br><b>years</b> | 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 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   |
| <b>11</b><br><b>Age</b><br><b>16-17</b><br><b>years</b> | 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'                 |
| <b>12</b><br><b>Age</b><br><b>17-18</b><br><b>years</b> | 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 |