

# Knox Academy Equity in our Curriculum



## ‘What we do for everyone’

As per East Lothian Council's Excellence & Equity : Raising Attainment for All Strategy, Knox Academy is fully committed to providing the best education possible through a relentless focus on Inclusion, Achievement, Ambition and Progress for All.

Within this document, each faculty sets out how they ensure Equity across their curriculum in order the above can happen effectively for all learners.

The document is split into the following sections

1. Communications
2. Numeracy & Computing
3. Social Subjects
4. Health & Well Being
5. Science
6. Expressive Arts
7. Meadowpark

# Communications Faculty

## Modern Languages

The department ensures that all students attain the best qualification in their language course, this is achieved initially through ensuring that pupils are coursed appropriately and into the correct level. MFL give the students a voice, incorporate their view and try for the highest possible qualification throughout the year for every young person.

In S3, all young people are assessed and supported to achieve their Level 3 Languages for Life and Work Award, giving real purpose to their final year in BGE. Whether young people look to achieve at National 4 or National 5, they are supported in and out of class to do so. Opportunities are available throughout the year to change level where and when appropriate.

Senior candidates who may be at risk of not passing the exam or who are not sitting the exam are fully supported by the department to successfully complete associated unit assessments in Reading, Writing, Listening and Talking.

These approaches ensure all candidates leave the subject with a qualification either in by the end of S3 or S4 depending on the young person's chosen pathway.

## English

In English, the majority of students follow the 'traditional' qualification pathway in their Senior Phase: National 5 followed by Higher. Yet, there are many alternative routes that we offer to tailor the English experience at Knox Academy, to each young person.

The opportunity to achieve is not solely for those in exam years. In S3, our students can attain elements of the Level 5 Literacy qualification, providing meaning to the end of the BGE and beginning their route to achievement in the Senior Phase.

As stated, we offer the National 5 and Higher route, but for those who might find the jump from S3 to National 5 somewhat more challenging, we offer a timetabled National 3 and 4 class. Alternatively, we can also course young people into a Level 5 Communication and Literature Course (C&L) which is assessed at a similar level to National 5, however, without the need for a formal exam at the end of the course, instead a combination of professional judgement, unit assessments and coursework is used. The C&L course can be followed by a Level 6, or coursing into a National 5 class.

There are study support sessions offered Monday to Thursday after school and at lunchtimes to support all young people in our faculty with their attainment. Also, later in the year our Curriculum Leader offers 1:1/small group intervention classes to ensure all young people are engaged and achieving.

# Numeracy & Computing

## Faculty Equity Toolkit pursuing equity in everything we do

In September 2023 we agreed the following as the Vision for our 5-year planning cycle.



Pursue **equity**  
in everything we do



**Key focus:** learning &  
responsive teaching










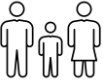

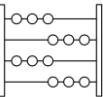
Provide young people with  
**opportunities for success**

We read Education Scotland Inspection reports and discussed our Stars, Clouds and Lightbulbs as we planned for how to pursue equity in everything we do. This was collated and forms the basis of the content of this document.

On the next page you'll find our Faculty Equity Toolkit, framing and pulling together what we aim to do.

This will remain a live document supporting our work as we reflect on successes and our cohort diversity.

A key resource that supports what we do is [Scotland's Equity Toolkit](#) which provides evidence and research to understand approaches, resources and conditions required to support equity and sustainability.

	<b>Climate for Learning</b>	Relationships Pupil Voice Choice and Consequences
	<b>Knowing our young people well</b>	Wellbeing Scan with concerns raised GIRFEC SfL handbook 'at risk' flagged (inc. S5 N5, S6 Higher + Q1 & 2)
	<b>Attendance</b>	Registration anomaly checking Policy Communication with the Pupil and Home
	<b>Moderation Cycle</b>	Moderating planned learning Understanding Standards Consistent experiences across classrooms
	<b>Pedagogy</b>	Manipulatives: "most equitable pedagogy" Responsive teaching techniques Curriculum Quizzes
	<b>Professional Learning</b>	Manipulatives DM calendar priority CIRCLE Understanding Standards
	<b>Assessment</b>	Verification processes (before, during, after) AAA processes Recording data in useful ways to allow interrogation
	<b>Use of data</b>	1:1s Identify poverty-related attainment gaps DM discussion and 'pause' periods
	<b>Parental Engagement</b>	Regular updates of class progress and advice CAT/Inservice phone calls Assessment Profiles Regular homework
	<b>Interventions</b>	Banking Qualifications in S3 Supported Study SfLmaths recovery style
	<b>Family Learning</b>	S1 Workshops 'How to Pass' Evening
	<b>Curriculum pathways</b>	Level change process Adding breadth and depth to what we offer: pathways Primary-Secondary liaison
	<b>Numeracy</b>	Consistent methods Use of data (SNSA, assessment) Banking Qualification in S3 Level 6 Numeracy

# Social Subjects

Department	Extra-curricular Support Classes	At Risk Spreadsheet	At Risk Matrix	Alternative Courses	National 3/4 available	Use of Learning Assistants & ASN Support	Individual mentoring as necessary
Business				e.g. Retail: Skills for Work			
Admin							
Economics							
History				e.g. People in Society			
Geography				e.g. Travel & Tourism			
Modern Studies							

In Social Subjects the majority of students follow the 'traditional' qualification pathway in their Senior Phase: National 5 followed by Higher and Advanced Higher. However various departments within the Faculty can offer alternative courses.

For example in History for the S3 pupils National Units at National 3 Level are banked. Courses such as Travel and Tourism, People in Society and Retail: Skills for Work are offered by the Business, Geography and History Departments.

All Departments in the Faculty offer extra-curricular support classes throughout the session. Staff also make use of the data generated both for the school as a whole as well as data gathered by staff themselves. Attendance, progress and achievement are all monitored with early interventions used if needed.

On a day-to-day basis, all staff make use of differentiation, partnership working with Learning Support Assistants and volunteer senior pupils acting as classroom support in order to ensure lessons remain accessible to all.

# Health & Well-Being

## Physical Education (PE)

Pupils in S3 have the opportunity to select 'PE Performance' in which they receive 3 extra periods a week. This focuses on developing both physical ability for practical assessments, as well as giving them a head start in understanding the theoretical aspects of the course. By the end of this year, each pupil should have banked National 3 by completing a simplified portfolio and one practical assessed performance.

Further to this, there are opportunities to achieve PE at National 3, 4 and 5, as well as a newly introduced National Progression Award in 'individual sports' and 'team games'. These are both Level 5 awards and provide a vocational approach to achievement, with a practical focus on units including; participating, coaching, and officiating.

PE has recently started a **kit borrowing initiative**. This is a mixture of donations from the community as well as kit we have used/don't wear. This has helped encourage maximum levels of participation among all year groups by taking away the burden for those who do not have access to suitable active wear, thus allowing all to have equal opportunities to work to the best of their abilities.

PE offers multiple **free extra curricular clubs** not only after school (when pupils may struggle with travel/pickup) but also at lunchtimes. This means there are no barriers for those who want to socialise, improve and engage in extra sport at no cost.

## Food & Health (FHT)

Health and Food technology has been introduced to the department as another pathway for pupils, this runs all the way up to Higher. Pupils can bank N3 HFT in 3rd year.

There is opportunity for pupils to achieve N3 Practical Cookery at the end of S3 by completing a series of end of unit assessments and work booklets.

Practical cookery is offered N3, N4 and N5.

Pupils get to take part in Practical Cookery and Health & Food Technology at no additional cost as per the Scottish Government Scheme which allows all pupils to have the chance access this part of the curriculum should they wish to.

# Science

All pupils experience all three sciences as part of the BGE curriculum in S1 and S2. This provides a wide breath of experiences and outcomes and a solid base of science skills to support progression into S3

## Third Year

### Biology

Pupils experience a wide range of topics that will be beneficial in preparation for N4 science, N4 Biology or N5 Biology. In order to inform progress we use a mixture of formative and summative assessments to help plan for the best pathway for each individual. Learning Outcome 1 is completed by all pupils, which will provide a head start in N3 and/or N4.

As of session 2024/25 all pupils will sit National 3 biology assessments in S3 which will allow for appropriate coursing and a backup for those who require it, for example, if a child does not continue with Biology into S4 or does not achieve N4 biology the next academic year.

### Chemistry

Experience a wide range of topics that will support them with preparation N4 Science or N5 Chemistry in S4.

### Physics

Pupils are assessed in N4 units 1 and 2 and gain a Learning Outcome 1, which can help in S4 if N5 is not achieved and alternative qualification is required

## Fourth Year

### Biology

N4 and N5 distinct classes to support learners, their needs and their route to achievement/progression.

### Chemistry

N5 only with N4 being achieved within the class on a case by case basis

### Physics

N5 only with N4 being achieved within the class on a case by case basis

### N4 science

This is offered as an alternative to young people who would like to gain a Science qualification but that require an alternative to the above and would benefit from accessing a qualification with no final exam. This is also a distinct class, which allows from more support for individual young people and their needs.

## Fifth Year

### Biology, Biology & Chemistry

Higher Human Biology, Biology, Chemistry & Physics are offered. There is the option of Unit Only if required, determined on a case-by-case basis)

NPA in forensic science is offered as an alternative, although young people must have an N5 in Maths and N5 in at least one Science to access this course.

N5 Lab Science is also offered as an alternative for those who might not cope with higher or do not meet the requirements for Forensic Science but are still interested in studying science. This is an N5 course that does not include a final exam but is assessed throughout the year.

## Sixth Year

All three sciences are offered at AH level.



# Expressive Arts

## Art

The Department offers N3 to Higher level courses in 'Art and Design' and also 'Photography' at Level 4/5 and Higher. This allows for a broad range of creativity skills to be offered and staff are keen to have learners achieve Level 3 or Level 4 Unit(s) by the end of S3 to allow for easier progression in S4.

There is also another Level 5 qualification NPA 'Drawing Ability' which many seniors use as part of their 'Portfolio' for college, employment or University. This course is different from the traditional Art courses so widens opportunities to study in the department.

Learners can borrow equipment, as we know specialist equipment can be expensive, if they wish to complete folio pieces at home or during the holidays. This will help to remove any financial barrier to folio completion.

There is also regular after school and lunchtime support for literacy aspects of the folios and for folio pieces, in the department. The Department also has chromebooks which can support the literacy and research aspects of the art folios in class or at after school study.

## Music

The Department offers Music from N3 to Advanced Higher and Music Technology to Higher. Learners can participate in a range of activities out with class time, e.g. the Spring Concert, Xmas Concert, Visiting Musician workshops and S2 'Battle of the Bands' to further support their progression. Any pupil can audition for these and we can include a range of styles from Classic to Heavy metal!

Young people can access the music equipment at lunch, as we are aware instruments can be very expensive. They can use the full size and quality drum kits and guitars in order to ensure access to this equipment does not become a barrier.

In the Senior Phase learners can borrow an instrument to practice for performance at home and Seniors studying SQA courses can receive free tuition via East Lothian Instrumental Service.

[https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/file/31314/parentcarer\\_information\\_booklet\\_2021-2022](https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/file/31314/parentcarer_information_booklet_2021-2022)

Register here <https://forms.gle/wiGSma1i1nuMHNeQ7>

Learners who choose Music Technology will study a mix of sound production and sound editing using everyday sounds from the environment and from musical instruments.

Learners with an interest in music but who do not wish to play instruments can choose this course as an alternative.

## **Drama**

The Drama Department offers courses from N3 to Advanced Higher, with a studio setup to also allow learners to access Drama skills out with acting, such as, directing, lighting, props management & make up.

The department also offers a range of free workshops, for example – Creative Scotland Make Up Artistry Workshops after school.

Theatre visits are organised throughout the year and learners can apply for Equity funding to allow them to access these if necessary.

There is large supply of costumes and props therefore learners do not need to buy any of these for their chosen play/performances.

## **CDT**

The Department offers N3 up to Advanced Highers in a range of subjects. The subjects range from the very practical Practical Woodwork, to the more technical Graphics and Design.

All courses use the department equipment and machines. Furthermore, pupils have the opportunity to use/access new technology, such as, Laser Cutters and 3D Printers.

We offer also N3 Design & Technology which is a mix of the above subjects.

In S3 pupils complete Units at Level 3/4 or in some instances Level 5. This allows for progression to S4 courses smoothly.

Learners can borrow paper, pens, pencils to help complete design projects at home, at no cost. The Department also has desktop computers for use to allow learners to access should they require the additional support with their literacy skills.

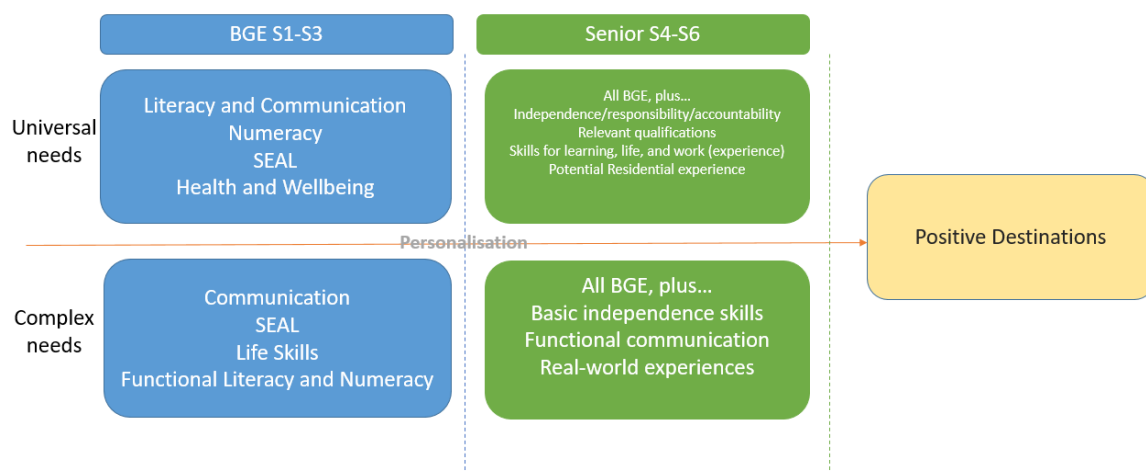
After school support is offered to in the Senior Phase leading up to SQA deadlines for Coursework.

# Meadowpark

We are a specialist communication provision, who although part of Knox Academy, provide places for S1 to S6 young people from across the authority. The needs of our learners are primarily associated with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and may have needs that are associated with a level and pace of learning significantly below that of their peers (across all areas of the curriculum). These needs are complex and require a significantly modified learning environment.

We follow a primary model - our class teachers do not teach one or two subjects to all classes, but rather teach the range of subjects to a single class group each year. Each class is complimented by two learning assistants, also assigned to the class. Class sizes remain small, averaging at 7 pupils per class, in order to best meet the complex learning needs of the students. For even more targeted support, our Pupil Support worker leads tailored maths recovery and AR reading programmes, and Lego Therapy.

Throughout Meadowpark the core subject offer is Maths/Numeracy, English/Literacy, and Health and Wellbeing curricular areas, however additional curriculum subjects are also offered. These core areas are further broken down by complexity of learning need so that every student has the skillset to best prepare them for adulthood.



We offer accredited unit and course qualifications from National 1 through to freestanding National 5's; Wider achievement awards, for instance Personal Achievement, and National Progression awards at SCQF levels 1-5; and other nationally recognised awards such as John Muir, Heritage Heroes, and Duke of Edinburgh. Accreditations are carefully selected for each student, at a level appropriate to their needs and interests. Many of our students also engage in inclusion classes within Knox mainstream, widening their academic and social opportunities.

All students have Positive Support Plans, Child's Plans and an IEP. In the senior phase IEP's become more holistic ILP's which focus even more on the individual skillset and experiences the student requires for their preferred pathway. This leads to smoother transition of learning targets when moving on to post school destinations.

Meadowpark work closely with Speech and Language therapists, Educational Psychology, the NHS Learning disability team, Social Work and CAMHS. Other partnership working to enhance our students outcomes include Play therapy, music therapy, art therapy, Muirfield RDS, Venturing Out, East Lothian Works, and Bridges Project.

In order to minimise the Cost of the School Day, our daily Breakfast Club is open to all students, and is supported by several local businesses. All of our D of E participant places have also been fully funded so no costs are passed on to families.