

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

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Class	SCIENCES, MATHEMATICS & ICT		LANGUAGES, HUMANITIES & GEOGRAPHY			ENGLISH & PHILOSOPHY	GYM
<b>9</b>  <b>Age</b> <b>14-15</b> <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	ICT incorporated where appropriate into Main Lessons and other lessons, where appropriate	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	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	Weekly: activities include sport, games and gymnastics
<b>10</b>  <b>Age</b> <b>15-16</b> <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. Elements 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: activities include sport, games and gymnastics
<b>11</b>  <b>Age</b> <b>16-17</b> <b>years</b>	Maths is offered as a two-year Higher course. Chemistry, Biology and Physics are offered as one-year National 5 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	National 5 Geography is offered as a one-year course; SURVEYING: map-making from first principles, on location in the Highlands	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	Weekly: activities include sport, games and gymnastics
<b>12</b>  <b>Age</b> <b>17-18</b> <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; ASTRONOMY	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 offered as a one-year Higher course; WORLD GEOGRAPHY: exploring spatial issues, including globalisation, gender 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. WORLD LITERATURE 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
<b>9</b>  <b>Age 14-15 years</b>	Weekly double period: black and white drawing (contrasts); focus on balance and composition; <b>HISTORY OF ART*</b> 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	One period of religious studies per week; in most years the performance of a full <b>DRAMA PRODUCTION</b> 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	<b>FARMING PRACTICUM:</b> demanding physical work, such as fence building and hands-on experience, such as milking cows
<b>10</b>  <b>Age 15-16 years</b>	Weekly double period: emphasis on the experience of colour, leading to compositional landscapes and still life; <b>COLOUR</b> main lesson	Woodwork, incorporating the more technical methods of joinery; <b>TECHNICAL DRAWING</b>	Stained glass making, using traditional skills	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; Work Experience (two weeks)	An outward-bound activity: challenging outdoor activities and new experiences
<b>11</b>  <b>Age 16-17 years</b>	GCSE Art is offered as a one-year course	<b>BOOKBINDING</b> teaches students a traditional craft involving multiple stages and techniques	<b>HISTORY OF ART</b>	Voluntary participation in annual whole school production; Higher Drama may be offered subject to demand	Music is offered as a two-year Higher course; daily choir with whole Upper School	Weekly Orchestra for musicians	The Class Guardian sees the Class daily for pastoral care; careers guidance	<b>SURVEYING</b> main lesson and trip: currently to the Cairngorms, to collect data for map making; hike up Cairngorm Mountain to appreciate the concept of ‘sustainable management’
<b>12</b>  <b>Age 17-18 years</b>	Advanced Higher Art is offered as a one-year course	The main lesson <b>CLAY HEADS</b> is a reflective exercise leading to a life size outcome	Cooking: preparing and serving school lunches one day per week	All pupils participate in the <b>KINGS PLAY</b> ; performance of the Class 12 play: a gift to the school before leaving	The second year of the Music 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; ongoing individual careers guidance throughout the year; UCAS applications	Class 12 Conference bringing together students from other Steiner schools for review and reflection; Class 12 trip, normally abroad, typically eastern Europe, Greece, Italy or Turkey