

## Educational Services

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Our Ref: DH/JS

Your Ref:

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014

If phoning or calling ask for Douglas Hutchison



Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Proposed Changes to the Curriculum in South Ayrshire Council**

The headteacher and senior management team have carried out a consultation exercise with parents, young people and staff about proposed changes to the curriculum in the Senior Phase (fourth, fifth and sixth year). The change is planned for session 2015-16. I am writing to let you know that we will adopt the new curriculum model next session. Detailed planning is now underway, although senior staff have been working on the model and testing it in our schools for some time.

In summary, the main benefit of the new model is that we are more able to meet the individual needs of all young people, allowing them to personalise their learning and career pathways through the Senior Phase and beyond.

In future, young people in the Senior Phase will choose a maximum of six subjects or learning experiences in fourth, fifth and sixth year. This is instead of the current arrangement of seven subjects in fourth year and five subjects in fifth and sixth year. This is not a cost saving exercise. Staffing allocations will remain unchanged and are based mainly on the number of pupils in the school.

Young people will be able to progress through the Senior Phase at a pace that meets their individual learning needs. For the first time, all courses at all levels will remain open to all young people throughout the Senior Phase. There is also likely to be a reduction in the number of classes where two or three levels, e.g. National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher, are taught in one class by one teacher.

Young people will be better prepared for life after school and more likely to move on to a positive destination at work, college or university. Our young people will also have a wider range of qualifications, personal achievement awards and other learning experiences designed to develop skills for learning, life and work.

If you want to find out more you will find a list of frequently asked questions at <http://bit.do/CfE-Senior-Phase-FAQ>

Thank you to all parents/carers who took part in the consultation exercise. The feedback we received from you has been very helpful in planning the way ahead and making sure we deliver the best possible outcomes for all of our young people.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Douglas Hutchison'.

**Douglas Hutchison**  
**Director of Educational Services**