

MORRISON'S ACADEMY

Developing the whole child



Sixth Year

Summary and aims of S6

The aim of the redesigned S6 year is to ensure that S6 is viewed as something special, a valuable challenging year that is a transition from school to university and celebrates the culmination of a pupil's school career.

S6 is an important stage in the development from school pupil to adult. It provides the opportunity for pupils to:

- » Expand knowledge, skills and experience
- » Gain excellent advanced academic qualifications
- » Take responsibility for themselves and for younger pupils
- » Contribute to the life of the school
- » Prepare for university-style education

In order to prepare young Morrisonians as confident leaders of the future, the year focuses on developing responsibility while retaining academic study as the central aim of the year. Major elements of the year include a challenging academic programme for all, including Advanced Higher for most, leadership opportunities and responsibilities, voluntary service, interest courses, S6 privileges including the use of the S6 Common Room and S6 Study Room and self-registration. An extra layer of support is available to pupils through S6 tutors who guide pupils through the year and assist them with the university application process.



"Sixth year at Morrison's has been the icing on top of the cake and a great way to finish off our Morrison's days"

Orientation

S6 begins with a residential orientation event.

The purposes of this event are:

- » Develop understanding of the demands and responsibilities of S6
- » Develop a sense of unity within S6
- » Plan and prepare for the year ahead
- » Pupils and tutors working together

This event takes place at the start of the S6 year, including a two night stay. There is a charge for this but the cost is subsidised by the school.

“Those few days definitely brought us all together and got us ready for the rest of the year, and we would come to longingly remember the relaxing time and fun that we had there.”



Commitment



As a member of S6, pupils are part of an elite group within the school and a role model for the entire school. Consequently, high standards are expected.



When pupils become members of S6, the school expects them to commit to giving their best to the wide range of opportunities and responsibilities available to them.

The elements of this commitment are:

- » A challenging academic programme
- » Interest courses
- » Voluntary service
- » Co-curricular activities
- » Leadership roles
- » Study periods and time management

S6 pupils are expected to commit to a programme which consists of at least 40 points of which there is a minimum of 28 academic points.

All members of S6 are expected to play a full part in a programme that challenges them academically and which will provide excellent preparation for study in tertiary education.

Points are allocated as follows:

- » Each Advanced Higher course = 12 points
- » Each Higher / Intermediate 2 course = 8 points
- » Baccalaureate Interdisciplinary Project = 2 points

Other aspects of the commitment are:

- » Compulsory classes: Civics, PE, Games
- » Study periods
- » Interest courses (1 point each)
- » Voluntary service activities (2–4 points each)
- » Co-curricular activities (1–2 points per term)
- » Leadership roles (1–3 points each)

Pupils make a written commitment to all of the above at the start of the session, agreed with parents and S6 tutor.

Details of the S6 year



S6 is a year of transition and preparation for higher education.

In recognition of this, and the developing maturity and expectations of S6 pupils, there are privileges and responsibilities discrete to S6.

Members of S6 are given the exclusive use of two rooms: a common room and a study room.

S6 pupils operate a system of self-registration. Registration continues to be recorded by the school and any unauthorised lateness or absence is followed up. Only S6 pupils may “sign out” of school during a private study period and may go into Crieff during break.

S6 pupils have a mailbox in the S6 study room which is used for communication, including letters from the school.

All members of the school recognise the importance of the S6 year through S6 pupils wearing a distinctive uniform with an S6 tie.

S6 pupils receive support from an S6 tutor who provides guidance throughout the year on academic and pastoral matters. In addition to this, the Head of Year continues to provide pastoral support and act as the point of contact between home and school.

Members of S6 follow school rules in the same way as the rest of the school. Rules governing uniform and appearance continue to apply; indeed S6 pupils are role models to younger pupils and set an example by appearance, behaviour and manner. The school expects the very best from S6 pupils. The ethos of the school depends on the contribution of members of S6 to maintaining high standards. By developing independence and maturity and carrying out responsibilities effectively, S6 pupils earn the respect of everyone in the school and form a working partnership with staff.



S6 fortnight

The culmination of S6 is a celebration of the end of secondary schooling and preparation for the next step.

During the fortnight following SQA exam leave, there are a variety of activities.

Some of these are purely for fun e.g. big day out at XScape, some are in preparation for the future e.g. jive lesson and some will be opportunities to give to the community e.g. work in Macrosty Park. The climax of the fortnight is the S6 Leavers' Celebration Ball. Pupils have the opportunity to shape their S6 Fortnight through a committee of volunteers who plan the activities along with S6 tutors.

"The S6 fortnight was a great end to the year as it allowed the whole year to get involved and have a lot of fun together for the last time. We, as a year, took part in many fun activities, but also activities which enabled us to give back to the local community and the school."

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