



# S3 Events

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19-20 Report

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**April 2020**

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## Overview

An annual evaluation of the S3 event programme and its outcomes is carried out in order to ensure the programme is coherent and concise. An overview as well as recommendations will be outlined. This report intends to evaluate the S3 event from a number of angles. It intends to source out good practice whilst identifying recommendations for the future.

S3 is the first year group that LIFT OFF engages with. The event is held in our Tier 1 partner schools (see Fig. 1) over a double period. The aim is to give pupils an introduction to Higher Education and the LIFT OFF team and programme.

As pupils do not sign-up to be a LIFT OFF core pupil until S4, we ask school contact teachers to select up to 60 S3 pupils to attend the event based on the set LIFT OFF Pupil Selection Criteria. Student Volunteers deliver the materials to groups during the event with support from Development Workers. There is also an adapted event which staff can deliver when volunteer availability is limited. After the event pupils can register their interest in becoming a Core Pupil by signing an interested sheet.

**Fig. 1 School Partnerships: list of LIFT OFF Tier 1 partner schools (January 2020)**

<b>Fife Council</b>	
Beath High School	Glenwood High School
Lochgelly High School	Levenmouth High School
St. Columba's RC High School	Woodmill High School
Glenrothes High School	Kirkcaldy High School
<b>Dundee City Council</b>	
Baldrigon Academy	Craigie High School
Morgan Academy	St. John's RC High School
St. Paul's RC Academy	Braeview Academy
<b>Angus Council</b>	
Arbroath Academy	

## S3 Event Schedule

LIFT OFF S3 events are scheduled between January – March (due to rescheduling). The table below lists the date of each event:

School	Date
Beath High School	08/01/20
Glenrothes High School	09/01/20
St. Columba's High School	13/01/20
Baldragon Academy	14/01/20
Lochgelly High School	15/01/20
St. John's RC High School	17/01/20
Arbroath Academy	21/01/20
Morgan Academy	28/01/20
Craigie High School	30/01/20
Woodmill High School	06/02/20
Braeview Academy	12/02/20
Kirkcaldy High School	09/03/20

The following schools did not receive S3 input from LIFT OFF this academic year due to scheduling changes and the COVID-19 school closures:

School
Glenwood High School
Levenmouth Academy
St. Paul's RC Academy

## S3 Event: Aims & Objectives

LIFT OFF S3 Event Objectives:

- To introduce pupils to the concept of HE and the choices available.
- To introduce pupils to LIFT OFF and SHEP.
- To introduce interaction with the LIFT OFF team and Student Volunteers.
- To work with guidance staff to begin to identify pupils who might be selected as LIFT OFF core pupils (target cohort).

## S3 Event: Curriculum for Excellence

The content of the workshop aims to achieve the following Curriculum for Excellence Health & Wellbeing Experiences and Outcomes:

*I am investigating different career/occupations, ways of working, and learning and training paths. I am gaining experience that helps me to recognise the relevance of my learning, skills and interests to my future life. (HWB 3-20a)*

*I am developing the skills and attributes which I will need for learning, life and work. I am gaining understanding of the relevance of my current learning to future opportunities. This is helping me to make informed choices about my life and learning. (HWB 3-19a)*

*Based on my interests, skills, strengths and preferences, I am supported to make suitable, realistic and informed choices, set manageable goals and plan for my further transitions. (HWB 4-19a)*

## Training: LO Staff

All LIFT OFF staff were invited to a S3 team meeting. During the meeting the team discussed the event outcomes and Curriculum for Excellence experiences and outcomes targeted. We discussed the 18/19 report and highlighted recommendations for this academic year. Staff were introduced to the PowerPoint and all the materials/resources available to the pupils.

We also discussed scheduling and ensured cluster leads contacted their Tier 1 schools to confirm a date and time for the event.

Workshop	Aims & Objectives
Jargon Buster	The aim of the task is to get the pupils to learn the definitions of common higher education terms.
Name that Job	The aim is to get pupils thinking about different career areas outside of the everyday roles they think about at school. Pupils are invited to think about different career areas that support a specific roll to open their eyes to more career pathways.
Day in the Life	The aim of the task is to get pupils thinking of how a day at college or university differs from their own day at high school. It allows them to draw their own comparisons and observations.
Admissions	The aim is to put pupils in the shoes of an admissions tutor at college or university. It allows them to consider a number of factors admissions tutors take into consideration when reading an application.
Post-it Notes	To allow pupils to ask questions about higher education.

## Training: Student Volunteers

Student Volunteers helped to deliver materials during the events. Organising their attendance to the events requires liaising with the SV coordinator who used Facebook to advertise the event, including a link to sign-up via a Doodle Poll. This was followed up by an individual email which included information about the event and transport information.

Pick-up/Drop-off times and locations were posted on the SV Facebook page. Transport on the day for SVs was organised by the SV coordinator, requiring DWs to give lifts to those who required them. The SV coordinator informed DWs of their roles in advance.

The information that has to be provided to the SV coordinator at the earliest possible point is:

- The number of volunteers required.
- The number of pupils they will be responsible for during the event.

- The materials they will be using for the event so that these can be incorporated into the SV training.
- The timings and outline for the event.
- What the SV role is and what is expected of them as SVs.

## Materials

**All materials are available to view in the LIFT OFF S3 shared folder.**

There are various resources that are required throughout the S3 event.

Packs were created for each Development Worker which contained:

- Printed copy of the PowerPoint (with notes section)
- Jargon Buster Task
- Name that Job task
- Day in the Life task
- Admission Task
- S3 schedule
- 'Interested Pupil Sign-up Sheet' (x2 per school)

Student Volunteers received a 'Help Sheet' in advance on the S3 events and were able to contact the LIFT OFF Student Volunteer Coordinator with any questions or ideas for events.

A folder was created for each group lead. These folders contained:

- Group Number poster
- Tasks (Jargon Buster, Name that Job, Day in the Life, Admissions)
- Post-it notes
- Pens

Other materials needed to run the S3 event included:

- LIFT OFF banner
- Prizes (pencils, pens, bands, highlights, trolley tokens, sweets)



## Evaluation

To evaluate the effectiveness of the LIFT OFF S3 events a mixture of quantitative and qualitative data was gathered.

### Quantitative Data

**Fig 2. Attendance v Sign-up**

Council	Attendance	Sign-Up	% of Interested Pupils
<b>Fife</b>	298	205	69
<b>Dundee</b>	231	162	70
<b>Angus</b>	56	28	50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>68</b>

LIFT OFF reached a total of **585** S3 pupils during the events with an interested sign-up of **68%**.

The average attendance at events was **49** pupils.

**Fig 3. S3 Event Attendance 18/29 v 19/20**

School	Attended 2018/2019	Attended 2019/2020	Difference
Arbroath Academy	24	56	<b>+32</b>
Baldrigon Academy	23	43	<b>+20</b>
Braeview Academy	35	38	<b>+3</b>
Craigie High School	45	40	<b>-5</b>
Beath High School	59	56	<b>-3</b>
Lochgelly High School	41	48	<b>+7</b>
Woodmill High School	32	48	<b>+16</b>
Glenwood High School	53	-	-
Levenmouth Academy	110	-	-
St. Paul's RC Academy	56	-	-
Morgan Academy*		60	-
St. John's RC High School*		50	-
St. Columba's RC High School*		54	-
Glenrothes High School*		52	-
Kirkcaldy High School*		40	-

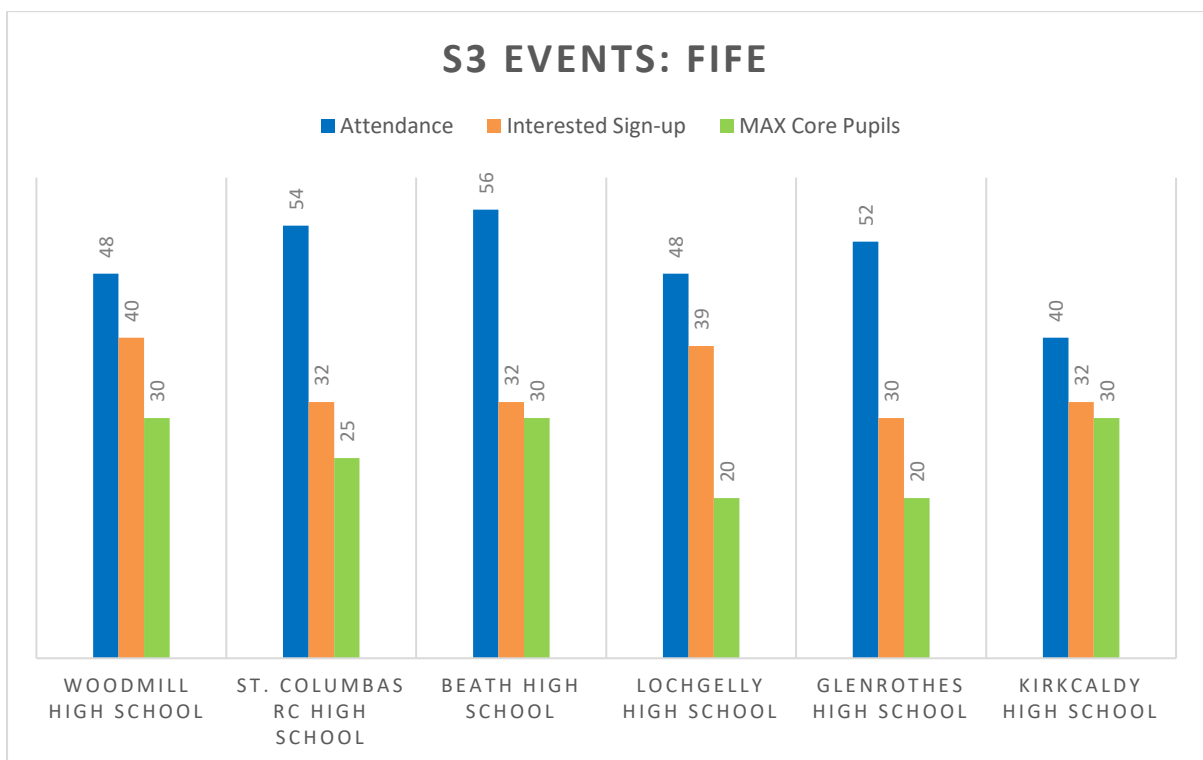
\* new Tier 1 schools 2019/2020 academic year.

By sending schools a copy of the LIFT OFF Pupil Selection Criteria in advance, it enabled school guidance teams to select up to 60 pupils who meet the criteria and would benefit from an additional layer of support with regards to post-school destinations.

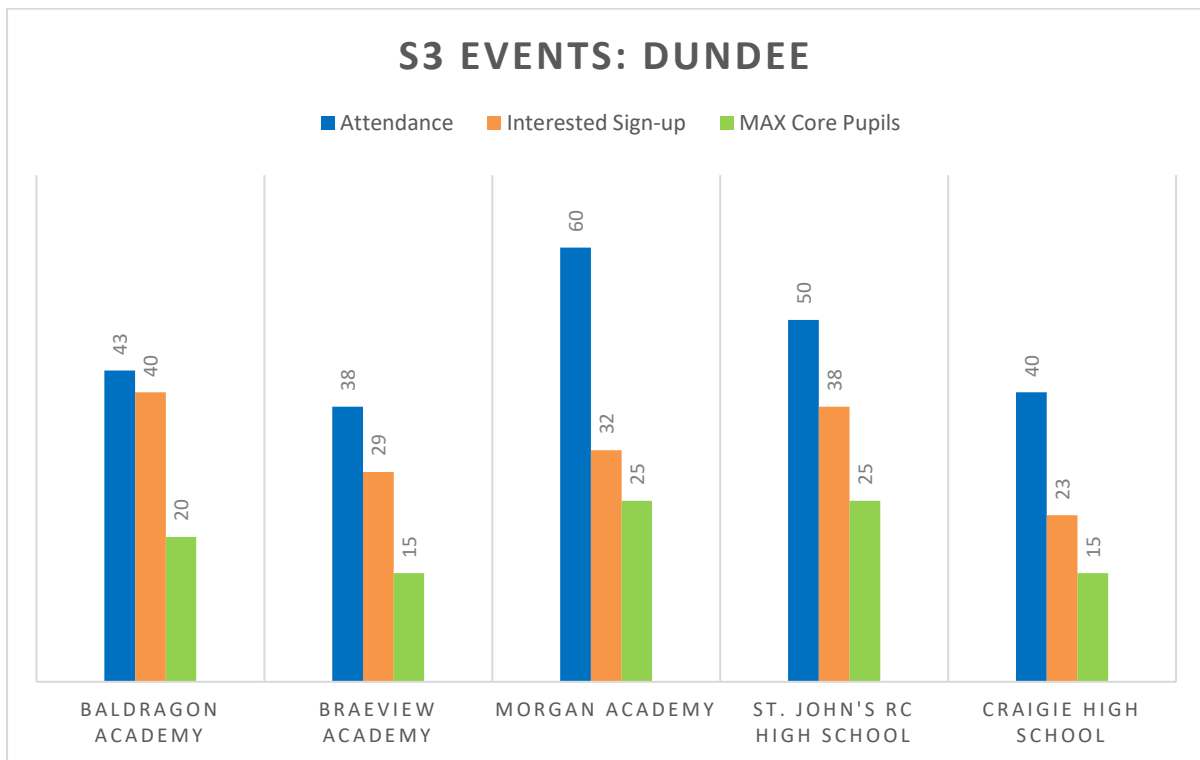
To be able to offer support, LIFT OFF cap core pupil numbers based on the size of school roll:

School Roll	<600	600-800	800-1000	1000+
Max Core Pupil Numbers	15	20	25	30

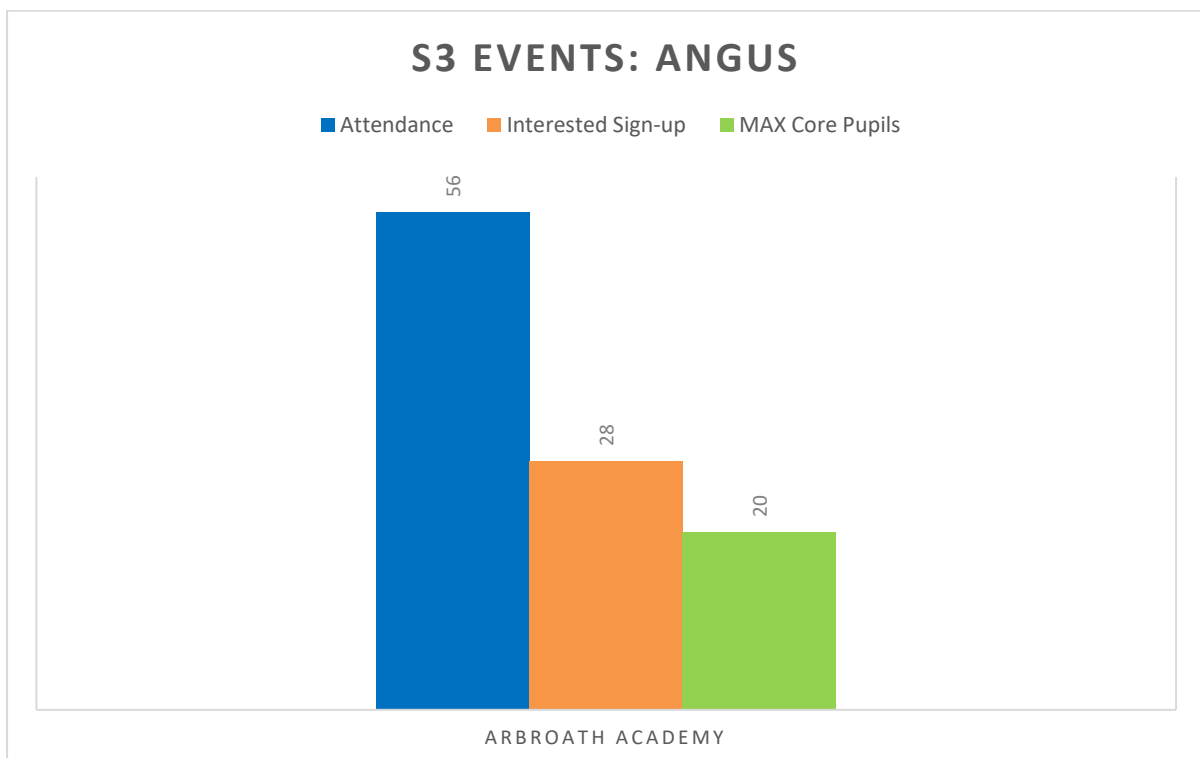
**Fig.4 S3 Events: Fife (Tier 1) schools**



**Fig.5 S3 Events: Dundee (Tier 1) schools**



**Fig.6 S3 Events: Angus (Tier 1) schools**



**Fig.4 / 5 / 6** show the attendance, number of pupils who signed the interested sign-up sheet and the number of core pupils each school is allocated. Each school receives a copy of the pupils who are interested in becoming core pupils in S4. It is important that schools invite these pupils to the next input from LIFT OFF in August/September (S4 Promo).

### Qualitative Data

Development Workers were asked to complete a post-event evaluation feedback sheet which asked the following questions:

- **What went well? / Why did it go well?**
- **What did not go well? / Why did it not go well?**
- **What could you do to improve your practice?**
- **What changes should be made to the S3 events?**

It was important - for formative evaluation purposes - that LIFT OFF staff were reflective practitioners and used this as an opportunity to highlight and identify strengths and areas for development. This self-evaluation opportunity would enable LIFT OFF staff to: reflect on what they have done; think about what they might do next; consider their progress and development, and understand their impact on the pupils they support.

Student Volunteers were also asked to complete a post S3 event feedback form asking:

- **What went well?**
- **What did not go well?**
- **Recommendations for future events**

As this is the first event in the LIFT OFF programme it was important to ensure we had enough staff and volunteers available to ensure the event grabbed the pupils' attention, provided important information (about LIFT OFF and higher education) and allowed pupils to ask questions to volunteers currently studying in higher education institutions. Development workers agreed that having 3 LIFT OFF staff in attendance provided a great opportunity for S3 pupils to meet the team. Staff also found that having 3 volunteers was the preferred minimum number as this allowed pupils to split into 6 small groups.

It is agreed that a large space (assembly hall) is preferable in the school to deliver the S3 event as a number of sessions took place in a room which did not allow for effective group work to take place.

The communication with our contact teachers in Tier 1 schools was well received, evidenced by the IT requirements being set up on arrival. At a number of events school staff did not attend which resulted in LIFT OFF staff having to spend quite a significant amount of time

addressing negative behaviour. Moving forward it is important that the events are attended by staff who are responsible for class organisation and behaviour management.

We collaborated with Skills Development Scotland (SDS) staff at two of our schools, who had the opportunity to talk about their work and what support is available in school.

Splitting the pupils into groups worked well. This was an effective classroom management technique which ultimately helped to reduce behaviour issues. Adding an element of competition increased enthusiasm and concentration levels among pupils. The use of humour worked well to manage inappropriate behaviour and to draw pupil's attention back to the task. Student Volunteer feedback stated that the Jargon Buster task was a great opportunity for volunteers to add their own personal experiences of life in Higher Education. Allowing a pupil to write down their questions on post-it notes ensured they were included in their group discussions. Feedback from volunteers also suggested a need to include more information about college as they felt the event was heavily focused on life at university.

## Conclusion & Recommendations

For the academic year 2019/2020 LIFT OFF reached a total of 585 S3 pupils with an interested sign-up of 68% in 12 of our schools. This is a respectable level of pupil interest in excess of the allotted core pupil places and creates a benchmark target for next academic year (2020/2021).

LIFT OFF staff and volunteers received positive feedback from the pupils and teachers at our Tier 1 schools.

As the data gathered above suggests there are a number of factors to consider moving forward. The following suggestions have been highlighted as areas for future consideration and development:

- Add an 'Icebreaker' task during group work.
- School staff to attend sessions. Make clear during scheduling that school staff are responsible for class organisation and behaviour management. Also important to collect feedback from school staff regarding event.
- Develop resources and group activities - more interactive, engaging and relevant.
- Ensure that information about Higher Education is promoted equally and fairly (LIFT OFF regards Higher Education as SCQF Level 7+ at College and University).
- Room booking – ensure large space is available to run the S3 events.
- Update the Student Volunteer training program to ensure all volunteers are prepared to support delivery of S3 events.