



ULVERSTON VICTORIA HIGH SCHOOL

Options 2017

Key Stage 4

Study Guide

Every day is a learning day



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Dear Parents

As your child approaches the most important stage in his/her school life so far, we feel that making the correct decisions and choices is of vital importance. This study guide will guide you through the subjects and courses available at Key Stage 4, and we hope that every student in Year 9 will make an informed choice in the subjects he/she would like to study in Years 10 and 11.

Every student will have the opportunity to study between 5 and 10 GCSEs or equivalent. This includes the core subjects which every child must study. Each child will be advised to select courses suitable to his/her strengths.

The National Curriculum allows all students to have some choice in the subjects they study at Key Stage 4. The staff at Ulverston Victoria High School will do their very best to implement these arrangements as effectively as possible within the confines of available resources.

This study guide has been put together to help your child make the right decisions. We hope that you will have a chance to read through this guide with your child and discuss the choices available. Your child should also seek help from his/her tutor and subject teachers, who are always available to offer advice and guidance on appropriate courses.

The study guide is in three sections: General information; Core subjects; Optional subjects. At the back is a copy of the Options Form; **this is a sample copy for your records.**

On **Wednesday 11th January** your child will be given the **official** Options Form.

Please complete this separate copy of the Form and return it to your child's Form Tutor by **Friday 27th January**.

We cannot guarantee the availability of all subjects. Alterations may have to be made depending on student choices and availability of staff. In the event of an oversubscribed group, the Headteacher will make the final decision. The Year 9 Parents' Evening on Thursday 19th January will be an opportunity for you and your child to discuss the information in this study guide with staff.



The English Baccalaureate

Implications for Students' Option Choices

What is the EBacc?

The EBacc is a performance measure which was introduced into school league tables in 2011. It is not a qualification in itself. The measure shows where students have achieved a Grade 5 or better across a core of academic subjects – English, Mathematics, History and Geography, The Sciences and a Language.

The Purpose of the EBacc

One purpose is to reverse a perceived trend in students taking non-academic qualifications which the government feel do not carry real weight for entry to higher education or for getting a job.

Another purpose is to encourage more students to take core subjects such as modern foreign languages, history or geography at Key Stage 4 and to encourage students from disadvantaged backgrounds to take academic subjects.

The EBacc and 'UVHS'

Government policy has meant that we are making it compulsory for all students to take either History or Geography in addition to English, Maths and Science.

If you require any further information regarding option choice please contact:

Mr M Hardwick (Head of School)



Dear Student

During the first three years of secondary school, most students study the same subjects. As you enter Year 10 you have some choice about the subjects that you study. You are also starting to study these subjects to GCSE. Options are about choosing the right subjects for you. This might mean....

- continuing a subject you study now
- dropping a subject you study now
- starting a new subject

For the first time you have some control over which subjects you study. It is important that you make the right choices.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Why have I got this study guide?

This guide helps you plan your next two years at Ulverston Victoria High School, for some of you these will be your final two years. Most of you will go on to Further Education, some of you will get a job, but whatever you do you will find your career will involve further training.

What does this study guide contain?

This guide contains information about the courses you could follow and the choices you will make. Read it carefully and discuss these options with your parents, subject teachers, Form Tutor and Mr Ford (Pastoral Leader). The more information you can get the better!

Why do I have to make a choice?

The next two years are a foundation for the rest of your life. Whatever you decide now may make the difference between success or failure. You are not able to take all your current subjects to examination level and there are subjects you have never studied before available to you. It is important you keep your options choices broad in order to get a balanced education.

Can I choose whichever subjects I want?

Not exactly - you must study Mathematics, English, Science, PE and Beliefs, Philosophy and Ethics. After that you should not attempt to specialise too much as this might limit your opportunities for the future.

What do I have to do to succeed?

The next two years are very important, and you must aim to learn as much as you can for the basis of your future qualifications. Careful planning and serious revision are the key to examination success. Ulverston Victoria High School has a very good record of examination success because students take their education seriously.

Will I get my first choices?

It is hoped that most students will get their preferred choice of option subjects but with a huge number of students all selecting different subjects it is sometimes impossible to satisfy everyone. However, the majority are successful. You should therefore make sure that your options reserves are subjects that you definitely want to study, because it will be impossible to change afterwards. You have been given several weeks to make sure that you are certain about your decisions, so ensure you use this time wisely and speak to as many different people as possible.

Should I choose the same subjects as my friend?

You need to think very carefully about the subjects that **you** want to study. There is no point choosing a subject you do not like, just because your friend wants to do it. The way the timetable works out, you might not even be in the same group as your friend anyway!

How do I decide?

The first thing you must do is find out as much as you can about the subjects concerned. You can do this by looking at this study guide but more importantly by talking to the teachers of the different subjects.

You need to find out if there is any subject you need to study if you have a particular type of job or career in mind for the future. Make use of the information available in the Careers section of the school library.

If you have not decided on the type of employment you would like in the future, you need to choose courses that are not going to limit your choices later. You should think about your own strengths and the subjects that you like doing at the moment. You are far more likely to be successful if you choose subjects that you are interested in and enjoy.

There are three important questions for you to ask yourself...

- 1. WHAT AM I GOOD AT?**
- 2. WHAT DO I ENJOY?**
- 3. WHAT DO I NEED?**

What happens next?

You should talk to your parents, subject teachers and Tutor and listen to their advice, then fill in the separate Options Form and return it to your Form Tutor. A few individuals may have difficulty completing the form and they will be offered an individual interview about their choices. Your choice of subjects will be agreed and we will then try to give you that combination of subjects. Each year a small number of students cannot be given all their first choices because of group sizes and facilities. If this is the case you will be given an individual interview to help you to finalise your choices.

A *sample* Options Form is in the back of this guide. Use this to prepare your choices before completing the separate Options Form and return to your Form Tutor by:

Friday 27th January 2017



Important Dates

Monday 9th January 2017	Key Stage 4 Options Evening
Wednesday 11th January 2017	Reports plus Options Study Guide and Application Form issued to students
Thursday 19th January 2017	Year 9 Parents' Evening
Friday 27th January 2017	Options Form returned to Form Tutor

Terminology

Here is a short explanation of some of the words and phrases used in this guide:

Core subject	A subject you must study to GCSE Level
Controlled Assessment	Exam work which you do during the course, usually assessed by your teachers
Final examination	An assessment which you complete at the end of the course (usually)
GCSE	General Certificate of Secondary Education
Key Stage 3	The collective name for Years 7- 9
Key Stage 4	The collective name for Years 10 - 11
National Curriculum	The subject areas every student in England must study
Optional subject	A subject which you can choose to study (usually GCSE) in Years 10 - 11
Specification	The information you have to know and the things you must be able to do by the end of the course
Terminal examination	Same as final examination
Tier	The level of exam for which you are entered - Foundation or Higher



Assessment

SCHOOL POLICY ON EXAMINATION ENTRY

Certificates at GCSE/Key Stage 4 are awarded by:

AQA	Assessment and Qualifications Alliance
PEARSON UK	Edexcel GCSEs and A Levels provider
BTEC	Business and Technology Education Council
OCR	Oxford, Cambridge and RSA Examinations
WJEC	(formerly Welsh Joint Education Committee)

Most of the courses offered lead to public examination. The school has a good record of success in these for students of all abilities. However, examination entry is not guaranteed, and as you will see as you read on, the level you obtain will often depend on which examination papers you take. Furthermore, you will not be entered if you have made insufficient progress, through lack of effort or failure to complete the required controlled assessments.

Fees are the responsibility of the School Governors. Our fees, paid out of the school budget amount to many thousands of pounds each year. Students who complete the necessary components in any subject will be guaranteed payment by the school. Parents may be asked to pay for entries in some subjects when the level of attendance to school is deemed to be unacceptable. Details of this are explained at the Year 11 Parents' Evening.

Entries are compiled by the Subject Leader. Entry procedures are operated by the School Examinations Officer in consultation with staff, students and parents, in January of Year 11. Parental attendance is very important at the Year 11 Parents' Evening.

Attendance on a regular basis is essential throughout the course. Unauthorised absences will be recorded. Whilst serious ill health can be covered by a doctor's certificate with the examining board concerned, casual absences lead to a reduced grade or no grade at all.

Work Rates continuous, consistent, planned effort, effective revision and homework organisation, and determination to succeed are the qualities needed for exam success. There is no easy way to pass an examination. Teachers give regular advice in the necessary study skills but you cannot rely on your teacher to carry you through the course. The school has a good record at GCSE mainly because the vast majority of students have developed good work habits and attended regularly.

Grades From the summer of 1994 onwards, Key Stage 4/GCSE results have been awarded and reported by a grade within the range A* - U. GCSE courses starting in September 2017 will be awarded grades as numbers 1 to 9 - 9 being the highest. A grade 4 is equivalent to an old style C grade and grades 8 and 9 being both equivalent to A*, so grade 9 will be very rare but significantly outstanding. ICT, Health & Social Care and Design & Technology will be graded Distinction*, Distinction, Merit and Pass.



Assessment (continued)

GCSE Tiering Subjects will be divided into two groups; **no tier** and **two tiers**.

1. Subjects without any tiers are Art, Music, Drama, History, BPE (Religious Studies), the Vocational GCSE Health & Social Care, Computer Science and Food and Nutrition.

All students following these courses will take the same examination papers and the grade awarded will be in the range 9 - 1.

ICT, Health & Social Care and Design & Technology also have no tiers but will be graded as follows for students beginning these courses in September 2017:

Distinction *, Distinction, Merit, Pass

ICT Level 1:

Distinction, Merit, Pass

2. Subjects with two tiers include Mathematics, English, Science, Geography and Modern Foreign Languages. You can be entered for the Higher tier (to achieve grades 9 - 4) or the Foundation tier (to achieve grades 5 - 1).

Higher	9	8	7	6	5	4			
Foundation					5	4	3	2	1

Where there are two tiers, candidates on the Higher tier who fail to attain the minimum mark for grade 4 will be unclassified (U). On Foundation tier, candidates cannot gain above grade 5.

For more information please see Mr M Hardwick (Head of School)



What are the qualifications?

GCSE General Certificate of Secondary Education

Most subjects are studied to GCSE. If you pass a GCSE exam you will receive a grade in that subject from 9 to 1. If you fail to reach the minimum grade for the tier for which you are entered, you will be ungraded (U) and will not receive a certificate in that subject.

Many occupations and Further Education courses require a minimum GCSE grade in certain subjects. Historically this was often a grade C, but may be a higher or lower grade. Under the new system, the equivalent will be a grade 4/5.

In some subjects there is a compulsory element of controlled assessment which counts towards the final examination grade. If the controlled assessments are not completed you will be unable to gain a grade.

In several subjects there are different levels of examination papers. You will be given advice by your subject teacher as to which level will give you the best opportunity for success.



Core Subjects

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GCSE English—Exam Board AQA

All students will complete a two year course leading to two GCSE qualifications: GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature.

English Language: Over the two years you will study and compare a range of high-quality, challenging fiction and non-fiction texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. You will have opportunities to develop higher-order reading and critical thinking skills that encourage genuine enquiry into different topics and themes. You will also produce your own creative writing using a range of stimulus materials.

You will sit two terminal examinations to secure your final GCSE grade – see below. 50% of your mark is for reading and 50% of your mark is for writing: **20%** of your final mark, however, is awarded for **quality of written communication**, that is, accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar.

The course also requires you to complete at least one speaking assessment, presenting to a real audience on an issue or topic of your choice. Your score will be recorded as a level (1 – 5) on your final GCSE certificate. This level does not affect your overall GCSE grade.

English Language assessment overview

Assessments

All texts in the examination will be unseen.

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing	+ Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives	+ Non-examination Assessment: Spoken Language
What's assessed Section A: Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> one literature fiction text Section B: Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> descriptive or narrative writing 	What's assessed Section A: Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text Section B: Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> writing to present a viewpoint 	What's assessed (AO7–AO9) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> presenting responding to questions and feedback use of Standard English
Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes 80 marks 50% of GCSE 	Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes 80 marks 50% of GCSE 	Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> teacher set throughout course marked by teacher separate endorsement (0% weighting of GCSE)
Questions Reading (40 marks) (25%) – one single text <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 short form question (1 x 4 marks) 2 longer form questions (2 x 8 marks) 1 extended question (1 x 20 marks) Writing (40 marks) (25%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy) 	Questions Reading (40 marks) (25%) – two linked texts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 short form question (1 x 4 marks) 2 longer form questions (1 x 8, 1 x 12 marks) 1 extended question (1 x 16 marks) Writing (40 marks) (25%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy) 	

For more information please contact Mr Stubbert

English Literature

Alongside the English Language specification you will study and compare a range of prose, poetry and drama from different cultures and periods. Studying GCSE English Literature will encourage you to read widely for pleasure and serve as preparation for studying literature at a higher level. This is a varied and enjoyable course, introducing you to different authors and literary traditions which will influence your own reading and writing. You will develop the skills required to respond to and compare whole texts and their authors' intentions, as well as the ability to respond to unseen extracts, demonstrating understanding of language, form, structure and context.

English Literature assessment overview

Assessments

All assessments are closed book: any stimulus materials required will be provided as part of the assessment.

All assessments are compulsory.

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel	+	Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry
<p>What's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shakespeare • The 19th-century novel 		<p>What's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modern texts • Poetry • Unseen poetry
<p>How it's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes • 64 marks • 40% of GCSE 		<p>How it's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written exam: 2 hour 15 minutes • 96 marks • 60% of GCSE
<p>Questions</p> <p>Section A Shakespeare: students will answer one question on their play of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole.</p> <p>Section B The 19th-century novel: students will answer one question on their novel of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.</p>		<p>Questions</p> <p>Section A Modern texts: students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose or drama text.</p> <p>Section B Poetry: students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from their chosen anthology cluster.</p> <p>Section C Unseen poetry: Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.</p>

For more information please contact Mr Stubbert



GCSE Maths—Exam Board Edexcel

Every student has already embarked on their three year GCSE Maths course leading to a final linear external examination in the summer of their Year 11. The course covers the topics of number, algebra, geometry, data handling, kinematics and problem solving. There is a greater emphasis on reasoning and applying the mathematical skills that are learned in the classroom to real life problems. There is also a greater emphasis on proof and mathematical rigour. This is a new GCSE and will require candidates to learn many of the formula which they will then apply to solve a problem.

There are two tiers of entry: Foundation with available grades 1 to 5 and Higher with available grades 4 to 9. Grade 5 will be the equivalent of a present high grade C. Grades 8 and 9 will be equivalent to the present A*. Grade 9 is the highest grade achievable. The decision on tier of entry will be delayed until later in Year 10.

Students are able to borrow a homework book which also contains a DVD copy of the appropriate textbook covering the course. The students are encouraged to use the DVD of the textbook at home to help consolidate topics and for use with the set homework.

The new revision books are available and we will give students the chance to buy them through us at cost price (in the past this has been 50% of normal retail).

The maths department also make ample packs of example maths papers available in Year 11 for students to practise their skills. In addition , students are encouraged to make good use “Methodmaths”, an interactive website for practising past exam type questions.

Assessment is entirely by examination.

**For more information please see Ms Hirst
or email maths@uvhs.uk**



GCSE Combined Science— Exam Board AQA

At UVHS we believe that Science has something to offer every student. From a trainee chef to a nuclear physicist, a construction apprentice to a cancer researcher, everyone needs some level of relevant science understanding. The GCSE Science options that are available to students have changed again under the direction of the DfE and Ofqual and we hope to offer Key Stage 4 (KS4) qualifications, to suit students of all abilities and all aspirations. Students will have started covering key concepts during Year 9 to prepare them for the step to GCSE. All Science courses will cover aspects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The new style GCSEs are being 100% examined, there are no coursework elements. All of the written GCSE exams for Science will be at the end of Year 11. The A* to G grades will be replaced by 9 to 1. There are two pathways available to students in Science.

GCSE Combined Science

This course is for students who would benefit from an underpinning Science curriculum. This forms part of a student's core curriculum. Students have specialist Science teachers and 6 lessons of Science per week.

Changes from DfE and Ofqual—Exams 100%

Combined Science will have a 17 point grading scale, from 9–9, 9–8 through to 2–1, 1–1. This replaces grades A*–G that you may be familiar with.

As practical work is at the heart of Science, students will conduct 16 required practicals, that will be examined in the final exam. Good attendance is therefore essential.

Combined Science GCSE content

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cell biology • Organisation • Infection and response • Bioenergetics • Homeostasis and response • Inheritance, variation and evolution • Ecology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atomic structure and the periodic table • Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter • Quantitative chemistry • Chemical changes • Energy changes • The rate and extent of chemical change • Organic chemistry • Chemical analysis • Chemistry of the atmosphere • Using resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forces • Energy • Waves • Electricity • Magnetism and electromagnetism • Particle model of matter • Atomic structure

Exams

Six papers: two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics. Each will assess different topics.

Duration: all the papers are 1 hour 15 minutes each.

Tiers: Foundation and Higher.

Weighting: the papers are equally weighted. Each is worth 16.7% of the grade and has 70 marks

Question types: multiple choice, structured, closed, short answer and open response.



For more information please contact Mrs Hodgson at rho@uvhs.uk



Functional Skills ICT— Exam Board OCR

This course has been designed to develop general ICT skills needed by everyone in the 21st Century. It will lead to you sitting a Functional Skills Certificate in ICT. Otherwise it is **NOT** an examined GCSE subject.

Content—

You will have the opportunity to further your learning in :-

- what a computer system is: Input, output, CPU, memory and storage
- ESafety
- File management and Health and Safety
- Software including:
 - ⇒ Word Processing,
 - ⇒ Desk Top Publishing
 - ⇒ Presentation software,
 - ⇒ Spreadsheets
 - ⇒ Databases,
 - ⇒ Web browsers and e-mail

You will sit the 2 hour exam on the computer in the Spring Term of Year 11. where you will be given a scenario and asked to complete a set of IT tasks for your manager to help them further their business.

For more information please see Mrs Silcocks



GCSE Religious Studies

(Philosophy and Ethics) Short Course

Exam Board: AQA

The Philosophy and Ethics GCSE offers students the opportunity to explore the world of belief and religious life through the study of, and reflection on, stimulating philosophical and ethical issues. Students will have the opportunity to offer personal responses and informed insights on these fundamental questions and issues.

For this full course exam students will study 2 components:

Component 1: The beliefs, teachings and practises of 2 religions. Christianity and Buddhism.

Component 2: Two ethical and philosophical themes:

1. Peace and conflict. This includes the use of nuclear weapons, the role of multi-national organisation such as Nato, terrorism and pacifism
2. Relationships and the family. This includes gender roles, equality, gender prejudice and discrimination.

In this GCSE we will study these philosophical and ethical issues through the perspectives of two religions, depending on the topic. Students will also be encouraged to explore and research the viewpoints and perspectives from other faiths. In the assessment students are encouraged to argue from a secular viewpoint and, where appropriate, to explore perspectives from faiths other than the six major world faiths.

There are no controlled assessments for this GCSE. Assessment is by exam only (a 1 hour 45 minute written paper).

In the exam students will be expected to show sound factual knowledge relating to the issues and an ability to demonstrate understanding and explanation of religious viewpoints. The ability to describe, explain and analyse using appropriate knowledge and understanding will be important, as is the ability to produce a personal view in response to modern ethical concerns.

This is a valuable GCSE which is respected by sixth form colleges, universities and employers. It will help to develop enquiring minds, critical thinking and the ability to respond to a range of philosophical and ethical issues through the development of analytical skills.

For more information please see Mr Peake



Core Physical Education

Students in Years 10 and 11 have a double lesson of Physical Education per week. There may be an opportunity for students to gain a certificate of achievement for regular participation in all activities and making good progress.

The subject format is:

Year 10

The programme of activities is a continuation of Key Stage 3. Students are involved in a wide range of activities.

Boys: Football, Basketball, Badminton, Cross-country running, Athletics, Cricket, Softball, Rugby, Hockey, Fitzone Gym, Rounders, Volleyball, Handball, Ultimate Frisbee and Trampolining.

Girls: Netball, Hockey, Badminton, Athletics, Rounders, Tennis, Volleyball, Boxercise, Gym Circuits, Volleyball, Handball, Fitzone Gym, Football, Rounders, Ultimate Frisbee and Trampolining.

Year 11

Boys: Football, Basketball, Badminton, Cross-country running, Athletics, Cricket, Softball, Rugby, Aussie Rules Football, Volleyball, Handball, Rounders, Ultimate Frisbee and Trampolining.

Girls: Netball, Hockey, Badminton, Athletics, Rounders, Tennis, Volleyball, Aerobics, Boxercise, Volleyball, Handball, Rounders, Ultimate Frisbee and Trampolining.

All have the opportunity to take part in leadership activities throughout Key Stage 4, which includes assisting with activities in the local Primary Schools.

For more information please see Mrs Hayton, Mr Pearson, Mr Pierce, Mr Quint, Mrs Hartley or Miss McKenny.



Additional Option Choices

Students have a choice of three or four of the following subjects depending on their choice of Science course.

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• Health and Social Care	31
• Religious Studies (BPE)	32
• Drama	33
• Music	34



GCSE Geography—Exam Board Edexcel

The Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9–1) in Geography A consists of three externally examined papers.

Students must complete all assessments in May/June in any single year.

Component 1: The Physical Environment

Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes

37.5% of the qualification 94 marks

- Topic 1: The changing landscapes of the UK – including optional sub-topics from which students choose **two** from three, 1A: Coastal landscapes and processes, 1B: River landscapes and processes and 1C: Glaciated up-land landscapes and processes.
- Topic 2: Weather hazards and climate change
- Topic 3: Ecosystems, biodiversity and management

Component 2: The Human Environment

Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes

37.5% of the qualification 94 marks

- Topic 4: Changing cities
- Topic 5: Global development
- Topic 6: Resource management – including optional sub-topics from which students choose **one** from two, 6A: Energy resource management and 6B: Water resource management

Component 3: Geographical Investigations: Fieldwork and UK Challenges

Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes

25% of the qualification

64 marks

- Topic 7: Geographical investigations – fieldwork
- Topic 8: Geographical investigations – UK challenges

For more information please see Mr Mitchell



GCSE History—Exam Board AQA

Paper 1: Understanding the modern world. Written exam 50% of GCSE

Section A

America 1840 – 1895 Expansion & consolidation. This focuses on the development of America during a very turbulent half century of change. It was a period of expansion & consolidation as Americans expanded to the West. Students will study the early settlers & the challenges they faced; the Plains Indians' culture; the conflict between the Pioneers & the Plains Indians; the American Civil War; the continued settlement of the Wild West and the final bloody battles between them and the Native Americans.

Section B

The Cold War 1945 – 1975. This course follows on well from what students studied in Year 9 and examines the nuclear conflict between America and the USSR that developed soon after the end of the Second World War. This wider world depth study enables students to understand the complex & diverse interests of different individuals & their conflicting ideologies. The course looks at the causes & events of Cold War conflicts. Students will study topics such as the Iron Curtain; the building of the Berlin Wall; the Cuban Missile Crisis; the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

Paper 2: Shaping the nation. Written exam 50% of GCSE

Section A

Britain's health & the people. This course will look at how medicine and public health developed in Britain since the fall of the Roman Empire until the 20th century. Students will study the Middle Ages, including the Black Death; the Renaissance including the Great Plague; the development of Pasteur's Germ Theory; the revolution in surgery, including the development of anaesthetics and antiseptics; and modern treatment of disease, such as penicillin, the influence of the two world wars, modern surgery, x-rays and finally the development of the NHS and the Welfare State.

Section B British depth study including the historic environment.

Elizabethan England 1568 – 1603. This course looks at the final 35 years of Elizabeth I's reign including problems over her marriage, relations with parliament, the Elizabethan theatre, problems with the poor, Catholic plots, Mary Queen of Scots, English exploration, Drake & Raleigh and the defeat of the Spanish Armada. Students will also get a chance to study a specific site in depth and examine its historical context. This site will be a Tudor manor house, or a theatre or a village or a battle site.

For more information please see Ms Lomas



GCSE French—Exam Board AQA

The aim of the course is to develop your language skills through the topic areas of film, holidays, leisure, school environment, social issues and global issues, customs and festivals.

The GCSE course will improve your language, thinking and communication skills as well as develop your cultural understanding. It will broaden your horizons and prepare you for further language study. A GCSE language qualification is highly regarded by universities and employers.

Assessment

Listening	Speaking	Reading	Writing
25%	25%	25%	25%

All four skills will be tested at the end of the course. Translation from and into the target language will be assessed in the reading and writing exams. The speaking test will be conducted by your teacher and will involve a role-play, photo card discussion and conversation. This will be marked by the exam board. You can be entered at Foundation Tier (grades 1-5) or Higher Tier 9 (grades 4-9). All four skills must be taken at the same tier.

You will have the opportunity to go on the French visit to Paris at the end of Year 10 where you will be able to practise the language you have learned. You will have the opportunity to correspond with a penfriend from France.

For more information please see Mr Bates



GCSE German—AQA Exam Board

“One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way”. Frank Smith

The importance of foreign language learning is now becoming more essential within our expanding European community and the world of work. With stronger business links with other countries, the ability to use a foreign language is becoming more and more important. The GCSE German course contains three themes which run through all four exam papers:

- ◆ Theme 1: Identity and culture
- ◆ Theme 2: Local, national and international areas of interest
- ◆ Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

The GCSE course builds upon what has been studied throughout Years 7, 8 and 9 and is based on the four key language skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing.

The examinations are divided into two levels and students will be entered for the one most suited to their ability. Students will be expected to keep a vocabulary book into which useful phrases, vocabulary and dialogues will be written.

The emphasis is placed equally on the four key skills, with each worth 25% of the final GCSE grade. All skills will be assessed by examination at the end of the course in Year 11. Students of all abilities can choose a language at GCSE and the most able linguists would be encouraged to do so.

GCSE German is an exciting opportunity to build your communication skills and to gain a better insight into the world and cultures around you!

Assessment

Listening	Speaking	Reading	Writing
25%	25%	25%	25%

For more information please see Miss Beardsley



GCSE Spanish—AQA Exam Board

“You can never understand one language, until you understand at least two”. Geoffrey Willans

The importance of foreign language learning is now becoming more essential within our expanding European community and the world of work. With stronger business links with other countries, the ability to use a foreign language is becoming more and more important. The GCSE Spanish course contains three themes which run through all four exam papers:

- ◆ Theme 1: Identity and culture
- ◆ Theme 2: Local, national and international areas of interest
- ◆ Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

The GCSE course builds upon what has been studied in Year 9 and is based on the four key language skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing.

The examinations are divided into two levels and students will be entered for the one most suited to their ability. Students will be expected to keep a vocabulary book into which useful phrases, vocabulary and dialogues will be written.

The emphasis is placed equally on the four key skills, with each worth 25% of the final GCSE grade. All skills will be assessed by examination at the end of the course in Year 11. Students of all abilities can choose a language at GCSE and the most able linguists would be encouraged to do so.

GCSE Spanish is an exciting opportunity to build your communication skills and to gain a better insight into the world and cultures around you!

Assessment

Listening	Speaking	Reading	Writing
25%	25%	25%	25%

For more information please see Miss Beardsley



GCSE Separate Science— Exam Board AQA

Separate Science GCSEs (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)

This extra option is available for students to take on top of the core Science curriculum; in order to boost their progression to A-level and science related careers. Students will use their core and one option lesson time to study for three separate GCSEs in Science. We strongly advise that any student wishing and capable of Science study beyond GCSE should take this option to give them the best possible foundation. Students will have in total 9 Science lessons per week and will have specialist subject teachers for Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Students will need to achieve at least a grade 6 in Year 9 Science to show that they are capable of meeting the demands of this subject and at least a grade 6 in Maths. This is because the new Physics GCSE has 30% of questions which will require mathematical demand.

It is essential that students conduct 8 required practicals for each of the three GCSEs, which will be assessed in the final exams (15% of questions will be on required practicals). Good attendance to school is therefore essential.

Exams for each of the separate Science GCSEs—Exams 100%

Two papers: each paper will assess different topics.

Duration: both papers are 1 hour 45 minutes.

Tiers: Foundation and Higher.

Weighting: the papers are equally weighted. Each is worth 50% of the grade and has 100 marks available.

Question types: multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.

For more information please contact Mrs Hodgson at rho@uvhs.uk



GCSE Computer Science— Exam Board OCR

This course is aimed at students who are logical and are able to programme well and have enjoyed using Python at KS3.

Unit A451— Computer Systems and Programming—40%

Assessed by external exam in Year 11.

In this module you will learn about what a computer system is and programming languages

These include:

- Input, output, CPU, binary logic, memory and storage
- Software, data types, databases, computer communications and networking
- Programming languages (e.g. Scratch, Python, VB), algorithms and handling data

Unit A452 - Practical Investigation—30%

Controlled assessment in Year 10.

In this module you will carry out a practical investigation of a topic and produce a report analysing, justifying and evaluating the topic.

Unit A453 - Programming Project—30%

Controlled assessment in Year 11.

In this module you will create suitable algorithms and coding, test and evaluate your solution to a problem set by the exam board. You will be expected to programme a solution using Python without Teacher assistance.

For more information please see Miss Clapham



Cambridge Nationals ICT— Exam Board OCR

This course has 4 units, 3 of which are coursework units, internally assessed and externally moderated. The remaining unit is an external exam which is worth 25% of the overall qualification.

Unit 1—Understanding Computer Systems

Assessed by exam in Year 11—1 hour paper

For this exam you will study the computer system on which applications software sits and consider the implications of working with data to create content.

Unit 2—Using ICT to create business solutions

Assessed by coursework in Year 10/11.

In this module you will develop ICT skills that will equip you to operate effectively in a business environment

including:

- Word Processing business documents/Publishing and presentation software
- Spreadsheets/Databases
- Web browsers and e-mail/File management and safety

Unit 3—Create an interactive multimedia product.

Assessed by coursework in Year 10

You will be taught how to create user interaction, navigation systems, transitions and effects as well as combining text, images, sound, animations and video to create a truly multimedia product.

Unit 4—Create a spreadsheet model. Assessed by coursework in Year 10/11.

In this module you will develop ICT skills and be taught how to create and use a model, producing a solution to a problem.

For further information please see Mrs Silcocks



GCSE Fine Art—Exam Board AQA

GCSE Fine Art will introduce you to a variety of materials and processes in Year 10 including painting, sculpture, textiles, ceramics, digital imagery and mixed media work. The Year 11 project is more open allowing you to develop work and specialise in an area of your choice. All GCSE Fine Art courses provide an ideal foundation for A level, further study, and access to the Art and Design industry.

Those wishing to specialise in Textiles (details on the following page) need to opt for this choice in the appropriate column, and be aware that you can only opt for one Art option.

You will be expected to produce observational drawings, to experiment with materials and study the work of artists to support your coursework and exam.

Students interested in choosing Fine Art need to show an enthusiasm for the subject, a willingness to experiment with different materials and methods, and have the ability to research and develop ideas in their own time as well as during lessons.

Controlled assessment is 60% of the final grade and includes classwork, homework and school exams.

The terminal exam is 40% of the final grade which is conducted over a 10 hour period with 5 weeks preparation time.

The final assessment and grading is made at the end of the course.

Please be aware that you can only choose one Art option.

This subject cannot be taken with Textiles Design.

For more information please see Mr Appleyard



GCSE Textiles Design— Exam Board AQA

GCSE Textiles Design will help you develop your creativity, fashion illustration and design skills. During the two years you will; model and make a range of products, work with a variety of fabrics, and decorative techniques.

Design and making activities are encouraged throughout to prepare you for taking A level courses or for entering the Fashion Industry.

You will be expected to produce drawings, to experiment with materials and study the work of designers, artists and other cultures to support your coursework and exam.

Coursework is 60% of the final grade and includes classwork and homework.

The terminal exam is 40% of the final grade which is conducted over a 10 hour period with 5 weeks preparation time.

The final assessment and grading is made at the end of the course.

Please be aware that you can only choose one Art option.

This subject cannot be taken with Fine Art.

For more information please see Mrs Coates



Design & Technology

Level 2 Technical Award in Materials Technology

This new and exciting Level 2 Technical Award in Materials Technology is a fantastic option as it is challenging both practically and academically. It will allow students to work in a hands-on way to develop the core skills required to design and make high-quality products using woods, metals, polymers and modern materials. Learners will have the opportunity to use traditional skills and also modern technologies, e.g. CAD/CAM. They will develop a whole range of useful knowledge, skills and experience which could potentially open the door to a career in related industries. This qualification fulfils entry requirements for further study on to our A Level Product Design course or a full range of engineering apprenticeships.

The qualification has 60% coursework which has historically suited all students at UVHS.

Unit 1 Demonstrating Practical Skills 30%

Learners undertake a number of mini projects that will allow them to be assessed against 12 practical skills. They will produce a portfolio to evidence their practical activities.

Unit 2 Coursework Portfolio 30%

Learners will undertake an extended design and manufacturing project that showcases the skills they have developed in Unit 1 and the knowledge they have developed through Unit 3. Learners will produce a manufactured outcome in addition to a small portfolio to evidence their designs, planning, development, testing and evaluation stages.

Unit 3 Examination 40%

Learners will be assessed on their knowledge and understanding of the following:

- materials and their working properties
- processes and manufacture
- joining, components, adhesives and finishes
- product specification
- commercial skills and new technologies
- quality assurance and safety.
- careers opportunities.

We have recently shared the content of this new qualification with a range of local employers and colleges and it has been very positively received and described as “a very worthwhile subject to study in preparation for a career in the engineering or construction sectors”.

For more information please see Mr Barlow



Food Preparation & Nutrition

Level 2 Qualification in Food Studies

We are very proud to be able to offer a Food course to our students which is stimulating, exciting, and allows students to flourish in an ever changing subject.

If variety truly is the spice of life, then Food could be a fantastic option as it is challenging both practically and academically, and allows for a modern mix of science and creativity to be applied in all lessons.

Students will work both practically in newly refurbished kitchens and theoretically covering the following topics:

- ⇒ Key practical skills
- ⇒ Nutrition
- ⇒ The function of ingredients
- ⇒ Health, safety and hygiene
- ⇒ Food provenance

The course is designed to be accessible for all students who are thinking of either working in the food industry or who would like to further their own personal ability in the kitchen. Students who have left UVHS in recent years to continue their qualification Post 16 have been accepted at Kendal College, Furness College and have worked in local hotels and restaurants on apprenticeship schemes and have been very successful.

The course will be assessed through both controlled assessment tasks and a written exam paper in the summer of Year 11.

The controlled assessment tasks will test students on their understanding of:

- ⇒ How ingredients work and why we use them
- ⇒ How to plan and prepare a practical set to a brief
- ⇒ Cooking chosen dishes, presented to a high standard

For more information please see Ms Shaw



Health and Social Care

Level 2 Technical Award in Health and Social Care

This new and exciting Level 2 Technical Award in Health and Social is aimed at students who have an interest in developing the skills and learning the theory to prepare them for further study or employment in the health and social care sector. It is practical in nature with 2 units being internally assessed and 1 being externally assessed with an exam.

The qualification has 60% coursework which has historically suited students at UVHS.

Unit 1 Improving the wellbeing of an individual 30%

Learners chose a client and carry out a range of health tests to assess their health. They will then produce and implement a health plan aimed at improving their client's health. They will review their plan and evaluate it's success. This is meant to be a real experience so each student should chose their own client.

Unit 2 Promoting healthy living 30%

Learners will research and evaluate existing health campaigns before planning , delivering and evaluating their own campaign. They will work in small groups to do this. We will be looking to work with the school nurse and Pastoral teams to make this a real experience and to promote healthy living within our own school community.

Unit 3 Examination 40%

This is the underpinning knowledge needed to run the two practical units. You will learn about the stages of growth and development, the expected milestones of development throughout each life stage and the events which may have an impact on this development. You will also learn about the health and social care professionals who will support an individual throughout their life. The exam will be a mixture or multi-choice, short answer and extended writing.

For more information please see Mrs Bell



GCSE Religious Studies

(Philosophy and Ethics) Full Course— Exam Board AQA

The Philosophy and Ethics GCSE offers students the opportunity to explore the world of belief and religious life through the study of, and reflection on, stimulating philosophical and ethical issues. Students will have the opportunity to offer personal responses and informed insights on these fundamental questions and issues.

For this full course exam students will study 2 components:

Component 1: The beliefs, teachings and practises of 2 religions. Christianity and Buddhism.

Component 2: Four ethical and philosophical themes:

1. Peace and conflict.
2. Human rights and social justice.
3. Crime and punishment.
4. Religion and life, including environmentalism, medical ethics, the origins of the universe and evolution.

In this GCSE we will study these philosophical and ethical issues through the perspectives of two religions, depending on the topic. Students will also be encouraged to explore and research the viewpoints and perspectives from other faiths. In the assessment students are encouraged to argue from a secular viewpoint and, where appropriate, to explore perspectives from faiths other than the six major world faiths.

There are no controlled assessments for this GCSE. Assessment is by exam only (a 1 hour 45 minute written paper for each unit).

In the exam students will be expected to show sound factual knowledge relating to the issues and an ability to demonstrate understanding and explanation of religious viewpoints. The ability to describe, explain and analyse using appropriate knowledge and understanding will be important, as is the ability to produce a personal view in response to modern ethical concerns.

This is a valuable GCSE which is respected by sixth form colleges, universities and employers. It will help to develop enquiring minds, critical thinking and the ability to respond to a range of philosophical and ethical issues through the development of analytical skills.

For more information please see Mr Peake



GCSE Drama—Exam Board Edexcel

The GCSE Drama course is designed for students who have an interest in Drama and the Theatre. Students must be confident performing in front of others, as well as be prepared to write a significant amount to meet the assessment requirements. There is also a requirement that all students attend at least one live theatre performance over the course - the school will run several theatre trips each year to fulfil this component. A passion and commitment to Drama and a willingness to rehearse outside of timetabled lesson time is crucial.

There are three sections to the course, all of which are connected:

1. Devising (40%)

This is coursework, assessed by the school. Students must create and develop a piece of drama from a stimulus chosen by the group and teacher.

Section A: a portfolio of written work (1500-2000 words) covering the creating and developing process of the piece of drama as well as an evaluation of the process after it has been performed. This is weighted at 45/60 marks. A practical performance to a live audience is also assessed and makes up the remaining 15 marks out of 60.

Section B: the performance or design of the devised piece

2. Performing From Text (20%)

This is also coursework. Students will perform or design two main extracts from a play chosen by the group and teacher. Students will need to submit a piece of writing explaining their creative intentions in realizing their role.

Externally assessed by a visiting examiner

Can include group, solo and/or partner-based performances

3. Theatre Makers in Practice (40%)

Written examination (90 minutes). Students must study one of the eight plays set by EDEXCEL and also see at least one live theatre production

Section A: *bringing texts to life*

Six questions (both short and extended) based on one extract of the play from a prescribed list and selected by the teacher.

Section B: *live theatre evaluation*

Two questions asking the student to analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance that they have seen (notes are allowed in the exam)

The entire course is designed to reflect the theatrical/dramatic experiences of each student whatever their background in the subject, so that they can develop their own skills in both writing and performance. There is one level of entry.

For more information please see Mr Vogler



GCSE Music—Exam Board AQA

The GCSE course is designed for students of all abilities. Students **must** have an interest in music and the ability to play an instrument or sing, as well as appreciate all styles from Classical through to the latest popular music. By the time they start the course, they must also have a basic understanding of reading and writing music. There are four sections to the course, all of which are connected:

1. Understanding Music (40%)

This is a 90 minute exam during which students are required to comment on a variety of musical styles and genres, from Baroque to modern day, under four set Areas of Study.

Section A: answering 8 questions pieces of unfamiliar music. However, all the pieces are related to the four Areas of Study taught in Section B.

Section B: answering specific analytical questions on the 2 Set Pieces studied (chosen by school) from the four Areas of Study.

1. Western Classical Tradition 1650-1910
2. Popular Music
3. Traditional Music
4. Western Classical Tradition 1910-present day

2. Performing Music (30%)

Students are required to produce two performances in Year 11, one solo and one as part of a group, totalling between 4 and 7 minutes. All students **MUST** receive tuition on one instrument (either in school with one of our outstanding peripatetic teachers or, if you wish, with a teacher outside school; although if this is the case we can take no responsibility for progress and/or success) and must take part in at least one musical ensemble. If, by the end of the course, students can perform pieces of Grade 5 standard they can achieve full marks (due to a *difficulty scale*), but beginners can still achieve up to a Grade B in this section.

3. Composing Music (30%)

Students must submit two compositions totalling between 3 and 4½ minutes - one composition written to a brief, set by AQA in September of Year 11, and one free choice composition. These are recorded on either acoustic instruments or using computer technology. Traditionally, most (if not all) UVHS students achieve an A* in this unit each year.

The entire course is designed to reflect the musical experience of each student whatever their background in the subject, so that they can develop their own style in both composition and performance. Historically, UVHS Music Department has not only consistently achieved the top grades in Cumbria for GCSE Music, but also achieved some of the best A*/A and A*-C grades in the country.

For more information please see Mr Butler

Year 9 Options Form 2017

Student Name: **Form:**

Subjects		Choices	
A	Geography History	Choose one subject from Box A	
B	Geography History French German Spanish Separate Science Computer Science ICT Fine Art Textiles Design Design Technology Food Preparation Health and Social Care Religious Studies Drama Music	Choose three subjects from Box B	
		Subject	Priority
			1
			2
			3
		Fine Art and Textiles Design cannot be combined and under normal circumstances students will only be allowed to take one technology subject.	
		We will try our best to give you your first choices, but sometimes we have to disappoint some students. However we will always talk to you first.	
		Reserve Choices	
C	Please identify two additional subjects as reserve choices. We will try our best to give you your first choices but on occasion we might have to use your reserves.	Reserve Choices	
		Subject	Priority
			1
			2

Signed Student: **Date:**

Signed Parent: **Date:**