



UVHS  
Year 8 Options

**ULVERSTON VICTORIA HIGH SCHOOL**

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**Options 2021**

**Key Stage 3**

**Study Guide**

*An exceptional school at the heart of the community*



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## *Year 8 Options*

We continue to offer a rich, ambitious curriculum to all our students and we have recently introduced a broader range of KS4 options including an extra language, GCSE Spanish, more choice in performing arts, GCSE Dance, and an additional vocational qualification, Sport Studies. You may also be aware that GCSEs have changed over the last few years as they have become more challenging and content heavy. Consequently we feel that we need to allow more time in some subjects during Key Stage 3 to prepare children for their GCSEs in Year 10. This means that pupils will study slightly fewer subjects in Year 9, to have more time in others, but they will also have a chance to learn something new before they make their final GCSE choices.

**All students will continue to study:** English, Maths, Science, Geography, History, a language (either French or German), ICT/Computing, DT/Food, BPE and PE.

**Students will then choose three additional subjects from:** Dance, Drama, Music, Computer Science, Art, French, German and Spanish.

Students will specialise further at the start of Year 10 as part of the KS4/GCSE Options programme.

Students must read the information in this book carefully. It may not be possible to pick up some subjects in Year 10 that they did not study in Year 9. Spanish is open to students who are demonstrating a high level of aptitude for languages and would normally be in high ability French and/or German classes. Students will not be able to study French in Year 9 if they are not currently doing so in Year 8.

If in doubt it is important to speak to the relevant subject teacher or subject leader. Please note options chosen are a request and it is possible that some students may not receive their first choice.

**If you require any further information please contact  
Mr A Nayler (Assistant Headteacher)**



## *French*

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### **Outline of Year 9 Course and the qualification it leads to in three years**

The study and understanding of another language opens doors to a brighter future.

By choosing to study French you will be able to communicate more confidently with French speakers. Foreign language skills are also essential for many jobs in global businesses such as computing, marketing and finance.

In Year 9, you will build upon what you have learned in Years 7 and 8 and you will become more confident with speaking, writing and translation. You will be taught through a range of different topics and activities.

You will be able to use a variety of online resources—Quizlet, Linguascope to build up your understanding of grammar and vocabulary.

Learning French is an exciting opportunity to improve your communication skills and learn about the wider world and different cultures. Students who study French in Year 9 will have the opportunity to study the full AQA GCSE qualification in Years 10 and 11.

### **Possibility of doing this subject in Year 10 if not studied in 9**

If you do not study this subject in Year 9 you will not be able to study it in Year 10.

### **Contact Name**

**Mr Bates**



## *German*

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### **Outline of Year 9 Course and the qualification it leads to in three years**

Allow yourself to be immersed in a new world.

German is the most widely spoken language in Europe (100 million speakers, vs. 60 million for English, French, and Italian), and it is especially important as a language of business in the emerging markets of Eastern Europe.

By choosing to study German you will be able to communicate more confidently and accurately with German speakers. Foreign language skills are also essential for many jobs in global businesses such as computing, marketing and finance.

In Year 9, you will build upon what you have learned in Years 7 and 8 and you will become more confident with speaking, writing and translation. You will be taught through a range of exciting activities.

You will be able to use the different tenses confidently, and using our online subscriptions to Quizlet, your range of vocabulary will grow quickly.

Learning German is an exciting opportunity to improve your communication skills and learn about the wider world and different cultures. Students who study German in Year 9 will have the opportunity to study the full GCSE qualification in Years 10 and 11.

### **Possibility of doing this subject in Year 10 if not studied in 9**

If you do not study this subject in Year 9 you will not be able to study it in Year 10.

**Contact Name**

**Miss Beardsley**



## Spanish

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### **Outline of Year 9 Course and the qualification it leads to in three years**

Spanish is the second most widely spoken language in the world. It is the mother tongue of Spain and all the Spanish territories in Europe and Africa and of most South and Central American countries from Argentina and Chile to Mexico.

By choosing to study Spanish you will be able to communicate more confidently and accurately with Spanish speakers. Foreign language skills are also essential for many jobs in global businesses such as computing, marketing and finance.

In Year 9, you will begin Spanish from scratch and quickly progress through different topic areas and grammar concepts. You will learn to speak and write confidently on a range of topics, including school, family, pets, hobbies and holidays. You will be able to use the different tenses confidently, and using our online subscriptions to Quizlet, your range of vocabulary will grow quickly.

Learning Spanish is an exciting opportunity to improve your communication skills and learn about the wider world and different cultures. Students who study Spanish in Year 9 will have the opportunity to study the full GCSE qualification in Years 10 and 11.

### **Possibility of doing this subject in Year 10 if not studied in 9**

If you do not study this subject in Year 9 you will not be able to study it in Year 10.

**Contact Name**

**Miss Beardsley**



# Computer Science

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## **Outline of Year 9 Course and the qualification it leads to in three years**

**Programming with the Python Language**—This unit teaches you the basics of programming using Python. You create a variety of coded solutions to simple problems and use variables, data types, If statements, advanced If statements and loops. This unit helps you learn about computational thinking skills and planning code and is the perfect introduction to more advanced programming and builds on what you learned in Scratch.

**Computer Networks**—This unit teaches you about networks. You look at network topologies, the hardware and software needed in a network, system tools such as PING and IPCONFIG and what a network administrator does. You also learn about the internet and dangers which can be transmitted over a network such as viruses, Trojan horses and worms.

**Data representation & the CPU** - In this unit you will learn about how data, such as: images, sound, text and numbers, are stored and processed in a computer system.

**Databases** - in this unit you will learn about databases and how they are very powerful tools used in all areas of computing. It is a key computing skill to be able to organise data, create databases and control data using query languages.

## **Possibility of doing this subject in Year 10 if not studied in 9**

Generally this will not be possible, but there will be some room for negotiation.

## **Contact Name**

**Mr Evason**



## Dance

The Year 9 Dance course aims to provide you with the following skills:

### **Workshops based on different dance styles**

During the course we will spend time studying different dance styles analysing movement material and choreographic intent. We will create pieces in different dance styles such as: Street and commercial dance, contemporary, lyrical, jazz as well as multi-cultural dance styles. This will help develop technique in these disciplines and gain an understanding of the range of different dance styles.

### **Technique development**

Pupils will spend time developing correct dance technique working on the basic dance actions. During technique classes pupils will understand the different dance actions and work to improve them.

### **Choreography workshops**

Pupils will have many opportunities to create choreography's that derive from a stimulus. We will spend a lot of time studying the choreographic process and develop ways of creating interesting movement that conveys a theme/stimulus.

### **Performance opportunities**

Pupils will have the opportunity to perform at the Dance Platform. This is a fantastic opportunity for pupils to showcase their work and perform to an audience.

### **Appreciation of professional dance pieces**

Some time will be spent analysing professional dance pieces such as Phoenix Dance Company's performance of Shadows. Pupils will develop analytical skills when looking at costume, lighting, aural and physical settings as well as performing in the style of these professional pieces.

### **Possibility of doing this subject in Year 10 if not studied in 9**

We would highly recommend you take this course if you are looking to study GCSE Dance in Year 10.

### **Contact**

**PE Department**





## *Drama*

The Year 9 Drama course is both a practical and written affair, in light of the heavy weighting towards written work on the GCSE course.

The aims of the Year 9 course are to develop and encourage the personal qualities of creativity, empathy, sensitivity, moral values and an understanding of cultural change and development. It seeks to allow the students to promote themselves as individuals and to recognise the values of team work in a safe and stimulating environment. The course also sets out to help the students gain physical confidence and develop their perceptual skills, whilst offering opportunities for leadership. It also seeks to encourage the understanding of Drama in a social and historical context and the appreciation of text through academic study and practical performance.

The course helps students begin to examine world theatre and how it has influenced our own culture. Students also learn about how Drama is used to explore issues and ideas. There is a greater emphasis on performing to a live audience and this takes the form of performing to peers within small group class performances and to younger year groups in the school as well as opportunities to perform to the wider community. Students will be taught how to evaluate their work through discussion; using more sophisticated technical vocabulary.

This course begins with the study of a play script and allows students to examine and explore different styles of theatre and the opportunity to write their own scripted scene and how to stage and perform it.

The Spring term sees students develop their skills in improvisation and the ability to develop an open and sharper mind with which to adapt to situations with confidence and spontaneity.

The Summer term moves closer to resemble the content of the GCSE Drama syllabus. Students will be taught how to transfer the creative and theoretical skills they have developed in rehearsal to performance, complete with lighting, sound and set design.

By the end of Year 9, most students will be expected to be producing performance work of a GCSE Grade 5+ standard - should they wish to develop their Drama education further into Year 10, they would be expected to develop their skills further in this unit to Grade 7-9.

### **Possibility of doing this subject in Year 10 if not studied in 9**

With negotiation - if they have not taken Drama in Year 9, students would need to be predicted to achieve at least a Grade 6 at GCSE in English as well as show a willingness to perform in any of the schools extra-curricular Drama opportunities or with a drama group outside of school.

### **Contact Name**

**Mr M Vogler**



## Music

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The Year 9 Music course is almost entirely practical and builds on the skills developed throughout Years 7 & 8. All double lessons are split into two contrasting activities which both require similar skill-sets, thus enabling students to learn how to apply the same skills to different musical contexts.

In term 1 students will work on keyboards and learn how to devise melodies over chord progressions (creating an instrumental song), and then how to set words to music (resulting in a full song composition) - these two projects focus on composition and performance skills. In the other weekly lesson students will be using 'Mixcraft' software and learning how to create soundtracks to accompany films, developing all the necessary IT and sequencing skills to be able to convert, import and edit films as well as composing a new, effective musical soundscape.

In term 2, students continue to develop their song-writing skills in one lesson, but in the other move onto a theory course where we build on the notation skills introduced in Year 7 and enable students to develop their ability to read and write music, whilst continuing to embed all the compositional techniques covered throughout term 1.

The final term is spent back on computers, returning to 'Mixcraft' software in one lesson, and further developing sequencing skills (including live recording/sampling, splicing and midi converting), and using 'Sibelius' software in the other lesson which requires students to use their notation skills from term 2 and learn how to use this professional composition software.

By the end of Year 9, many students will be producing work that could be entered at a grade 4/5 standard at GCSE level. Should they opt to take Music in Year 10, this gives an excellent springboard to access grades 7-9 by the end of Year 11, although other elements of the syllabus would come into the scheme of work, most notably the need for students to be receiving instrumental or singing lessons in order to be able to take the 'performance' element of the examination.

### **Possibility of doing this subject in Year 10 if not studied in 9**

With negotiation - if they have not taken Music in Year 9, students would need to be able to play an instrument or sing to at least Grade 4 standard as well as have studied music theory to at least Grade 3 standard.

### **Contact Name**

Mr R Butler



# Art

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The Year 9 art course aims to provide students with an exciting introduction to the themes and opportunities developed later in the full GCSE Art course. Students interested in choosing Art and Design need to show a technical proficiency in the skills learned so far at KS3, 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.

During Year 9 students will complete a GCSE style project on the theme of 'Dreams' and a ceramic sculpture project. Through which, they will focus on developing practical skills, idea development and understanding surrealist artists' work - including its significance to contemporary art, film and advertising. We also look at the work of illustrators such as Jon Burgerman and Jonathan Calugi to further explore the pathways that students can take should they wish to pursue a career in the wider art and design industry.

There will also be a section of work to explore Art Textiles.

## **Possibility of doing this subject in Year 10 if not studied in 9**

We would recommend students to take Art in Year 9 to maximise their potential at GCSE, although it is not seen as a requirement .

## **Contact Name**

**Mr D Appleyard**

## Year 8 Options Form 2021

**Student Name:** ..... **Form:** .....

| All Students will study the following subjects in Year 9:                          |  |   |                 |
|--|--|---|-----------------|
| English, Maths, Science, Geography, History,<br>ICT/Computing, DT/Food, BPE and PE |  |   |                 |
| Option Subjects  |  | Choices   |                 |
| <b>A</b>   | <b>French</b><br><b>German</b>   | <b>Choose one subject from Box A</b>  |                 |
|  |  |   |                 |
|  |  |   |                 |
| <b>B</b>   | <b>French</b><br><b>German</b><br><b>Spanish</b><br><b>Computer Science</b><br><b>Dance</b><br><b>Drama</b><br><b>Music</b><br><b>Art</b>  | <b>Choose three subjects from Box B</b>   |                 |
|  |  | <b>Subject</b>  | <b>Priority</b> |
|  |  |   | <b>1</b>        |
|  |  |   | <b>2</b>        |
|  |  |   | <b>3</b>        |
|  |  | 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. |                 |
| <b>C</b>   | Please choose one additional subject from <b>Box B</b> as a reserve choice.  | <b>Reserve Subject</b>  |                 |
| <b>D</b>   | Some students may benefit from literacy or numeracy support but this would replace one of the subjects chosen above. Please tick a box if you wish to be considered and we will discuss this with you. | <b>Literacy</b>   |                 |
|  |  | <b>Numeracy</b>   |                 |

**Parental Signature:** ..... **Date:** .....

**\*\*\* Please complete online by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021 \*\*\***