ULVERSTON VICTORIA HIGH SCHOOL

Options 2022

Key Stage 3 Study Guide

An exceptional school at the heart of the community

Contents

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, DT/Food, Music, BPE, PE, a foreign language (either French or German) and either Computer Science or Creative iMedia/ICT.

Students will then choose two additional subjects from: Art, Dance, Drama, French, German and Spanish.

Students will specialise further in 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

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

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

Computer Science

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

Text programming — using Python you will create a variety of coded solutions to solve problems using variables and selection & repetition constructs. You will enhance your computational thinking skills and develop coding skills as a perfect introduction to more advanced programming, which builds on what you can already do in Scratch.

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. This is followed by diving into how CPUs execute programs.

Data modelling and structures — this unit will look at how scenarios can be modelled using computer systems, such as event planning, testing a space rocket launch or predicting the weather. You will then investigate how decentralised systems use simple agents to achieve complex behaviour. This unit uses a mixture of Access, StarLogo TNG and computer-based simulators.

Computer networks — you will study network topologies, the hardware and software needed in a network, tools to explore networks and request information . You will also learn about the internet, attack vectors and how to prevent them.

This course will prepare you for GCSE Computer Science having studied both the practical and theoretical side of the course. In addition to experiencing some wider applications of computing concepts.

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

It may be possible to pick up Computer Science GCSE in Year 10 if not studied in Year 9, depending upon individual circumstances.

Contact Name

Mr Evason

Creative iMedia / ICT

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

Digital graphics — in this unit you will analyse and review digital graphics. You will investigate the design decisions that have been used to make graphics suitable for the target audience, including colour choices and composition. You will plan and create a digital graphic to meet the needs of a client brief. Finally you will be expected to use photo editing software to create your own product.

Websites — in this unit you will learn how web development has progressed through time. You will be required to plan and create a website for a client and meet the needs of the target audience. This will include creating a logo and strapline for your client, to raise the company profile and create brand awareness. Finally you will go on to use a web authoring software package to create a multi-page website.

Animation — in this unit you will learn about the history of animation (thaumatrope, optical illusions). You will start with introductory animation software and progress to creating your own animations from scratch using a tween based package.

Data modelling — in this unit you will take part in a project that looks at how the Y9 options process is carried out. You will collect data, analyse it and progress to creating a flat file and relational database to interrogate the data and output this data in a professional manner.

Digital society — in this unit you will look at how ICT is used in society. We will be looking at fake news, bias, digital careers as well as how data is used and threats to cyber security.

This course will prepare you for Creative iMedia (level 2), and provide you with the skills for further study in subjects such as media, journalism, design or business. It also prepares you for a range of creative and technical job roles within the media industry.

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

We would recommend students take Creative iMedia / ICT in Year 9 to maximise their potential in Creative iMedia at KS4, although it is not seen as a requirement.

Contact Name

Mrs Beswick

Art

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

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

Miss Bird

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

Spanish

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

Year 8 Options Form 2022

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

All Students will study the following subjects in Year 9:	
English, Maths, Science, Geography, History, DT/Food, Music, BPE and PE	

	Option Subjects	Choices		
A	**French** **German**	**Choose one subject from Box A**		
B	**Computer Science** **Creative iMedia/ICT**	**Choose one subject from Box B**		
C	**Art** **Dance** **Drama** **French** **German** **Spanish**	**Choose two subjects from Box C**		
		Subject		Priority
				1
				2
		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.		
D	Please choose one additional subject from **Box C** as a reserve choice.	**Reserve Subject**		

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

***** Please complete online by <u>Friday 11th February 2022</u> *****