



ULVERSTON VICTORIA HIGH SCHOOL

Options 2020

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, BPE and PE.

Students will then choose four additional subjects from: Computer Science, Dance, Drama, Music, Art, Design and Technology, Food and Nutrition, 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

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



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



Computer Science

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

Mrs Silcocks/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 Name

Miss A 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



Music

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

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



Design & Technology

The Year 9 Design & Technology course will continue to provide students with an enjoyable experience where they have the opportunity to develop their designing and making skills to produce high quality prototype products. We think that Design & Technology should involve rigorous, challenging and relevant work, which encourages independent analytical thinking and problem solving that will enhance skills demanded by further study, business and industry. Students will carry out focused design and practical tasks and also have the opportunity to apply valued judgments of a social, moral, economical and aesthetic nature. They will learn a range of communication techniques including verbal, graphical and 3D computer aided design modeling, which they can use to design successful products. The challenges and experience gained from designing and making within a context are unique to this subject. We give the students an opportunity to use a range of traditional and modern manufacturing methods that instill confidence and satisfaction.

We have shared the content of the KS3 & KS4 D&T courses with local employers and other institutions and found they value the wide variety of skills, knowledge and experience students gain from studying this subject. They believe it forms an excellent foundation for those who consider applying for an apprenticeship. Employers were particularly impressed with the opportunities students have to work independently and as part of a team to solve real problems through designing and manufacturing prototype solutions.

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

If a student does not study this subject in Year 9 we would need to have a discussion before deciding if the KS4 course is going to be appropriate for them.

Contact Name

Mr D Barlow



Food & Nutrition

The Year 9 Food & Nutrition course will allow students to continue working in an enjoyable, practical environment and allow them to develop:

1. Their own personal interests and passion for the subject, appreciating its every day applications
2. Their understanding of nutritional principles
3. Their knowledge of the importance of the function of ingredients
4. Extend the repertoire of their own personal ability and cooking techniques

Food & Nutrition is an exciting subject to study and allows for practical successes every week. No two lessons will ever be the same, and content will be delivered through a variety of exciting ways; always with an overriding focus on hands on learning.

Personal confidence is a key consideration in our subject planning, and students will be encouraged to challenge themselves in a positive, stimulating environment. Students will be expected to be proactive in their organisation of ingredients and recipes at home, and develop independence practically in lesson.

The majority of the course will be based around learning the 12 practical skills below:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ⇒ S1 – General practical skills | ⇒ S7 – Prepare, combine and shape |
| ⇒ S2 – Knife skills | ⇒ S8 – Sauce making |
| ⇒ S3 – Preparing fruit and vegetables | ⇒ S9 – Tenderise and marinate |
| ⇒ S4 – Use of the cooker | ⇒ S10 – Dough |
| ⇒ S5 – Use of equipment | ⇒ S11 – Raising agents |
| ⇒ S6 – Cooking methods | ⇒ S12 – Setting mixtures |

Students will also have regular theory lessons (normally at the start of every half term when the new 6 week module is introduced).

If after this course, your son/daughter decides that they would like to further themselves in Food, we have a GCSE in place which allows for students to flourish in a fast paced and well resourced course. We are as always, delighted to use our links with external businesses which show a professional application for those students interested in this as a career, and can support students with making an informed choice beyond KS4.

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

If a student does not study this subject in Year 9 we would need to have a discussion before deciding if the GCSE course is going to be appropriate for them.

Contact Name

Mrs F Ford

Year 8 Options Form 2020

Student Name: Form:

All Students will study the following subjects in Year 9:			
English, Maths, Science, Geography, History, PE, BPE and ICT/Computing			
Option Subjects		Choices	
A	French German	Choose one subject from Box A	
B	French German Spanish Computer Science Dance Drama Music Art	Choose one subject from Box B	
C	French German Spanish Computer Science Dance Drama Music Art Design and Technology Food and Nutrition	Choose three subjects from Box C	
		Subject	Priority
			1
			2
			3
		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	
E	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.	Literacy	
		Numeracy	

Parental Signature: Date:

***** Please return form to reception by Friday 28th February 2020 *****