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Welcome to
**Ulverston
Victoria
High School**



Ulverston Victoria High School

An exceptional school at the heart of the community





Ulverston Victoria High School

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Introduction from our Headteacher

Ulverston Victoria High School is an exceptional school, well established at the centre of the vibrant town of Ulverston and the Furness Peninsula. I am proud to say that UVHS is a nurturing, warm school, characterised by a calm purposeful atmosphere. The relationships between staff and students are excellent and all the adults who work at our school are proud of our students. In many ways, UVHS is a traditional school, placing a strong emphasis on mutual respect, high expectations and a shared sense of community.

UVHS has many excellent features and our students thrive here. Our school has delightful students and a very supportive and interested parent body. The town of Ulverston is proud of its school and its school is proud of its town.

We are also delighted to welcome students from communities throughout the Furness Peninsula.

This is an exciting time for your child to be a member of Ulverston Victoria High School; a time when he or she can benefit from the buzz of being in an exceptional school whilst drawing on the school's traditional strengths.

The selection of a school by parents for their child is a great act of trust. I am confident you will be pleased with your decision as time unfolds.



Mr Matthew Hardwick
Headteacher

Our School

Ulverston Victoria High School is a happy and thriving 11-18 school and sixth form and is at the **heart of the community** in the picturesque South Lakeland market town of Ulverston.

In our last full Ofsted Inspection (Sept 2025) we achieved a **Good** judgement across all inspection areas. Inspectors commented that 'pupils form trusting relationships with staff, who care for them extremely well' and 'the school has designed a **broad and ambitious** curriculum'.

A **multi-million pound refurbishment** was completed in 2015 which resulted in new and improved facilities in several areas - a fantastic Sixth Form Common Room and a new Resource Area, a superb new Cloister Corridor, improved accommodation for the Special Educational Needs Department, refurbished Science facilities and Art rooms, three modern Maths rooms and a new Engagement Centre.

These improvements to UVHS mean that we now have the facilities that match our true potential.



With over 1300 students on roll, including more than 350 in our sixth form, we are in a position to offer a **wide GCSE** and **A Level curriculum** with specialist teachers and equipment in every area.

One of the major strengths of our school is our outstanding pastoral care and student welfare structure. Our students are supported by form tutors and pastoral heads of year. We also have access to other external support agencies. **Behaviour** and **attendance** are **excellent** at UVHS and our students are highly motivated, keen and enthusiastic.

They are warm, welcoming and have a good working relationship with staff, built on mutual trust and respect.



Our Curriculum

At Key Stage 3, students in Years 7, 8 and 9 follow a **broad and balanced curriculum**. Subjects include: English, Mathematics, Science, Geography, History, BPE (RS), Modern Languages (Spanish and German), Computing, Design Technology, Food, Art, Music, Dance, Drama and Physical Education.

Typical Year 7 Timetable





At Key Stage 4, students in Years 10 and 11 are given the choice to further **focus their learning** by opting for **four additional subjects** outside of the **compulsory core** of English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and Combined Science (2 GCSEs). These are selected from subjects previously experienced at Key Stage 3 such as Humanities, Modern Foreign Languages, Performing Arts and Technology. UVHS is **unique in the region** as students are able to specialise their own learning routes if they wish to, by studying up to three Modern Languages, three Performing Arts subjects, three Humanities or three Technology & Art subjects in their options.

Current KS4 Options

GCSE

Geography
History
French
German
Spanish
Separate Science
Computer Science

Design & Technology
Food & Nutrition
Fine Art
Drama
Dance
Music
Business

Cambridge Nationals

Creative iMedia
Health & Social Care

Sport Studies

Sixth Form

The Sixth Form is open to all who wish to continue their education beyond the age of 16, provided they have met the appropriate entry requirements. The majority of students in the Sixth Form pursue academic courses in preparation for their A Level examinations. Well **over 80%** of students gain entry to courses at **universities** or **higher apprenticeships** to continue their education.



Extra-curricular and Enrichment

Our provision offers students a diverse range of enriching opportunities, including a **comprehensive programme** for our talented students. We are involved in a range of national initiatives and competitions to motivate, enthuse and excite students. An **enterprise** and **international** focus is also added to our work wherever possible.

At the end of each year we have a series of enrichment days designed to challenge and vary the educational diet of our students.



Extra-curricular and Enrichment

There are numerous opportunities for students to extend and develop their skills outside the curriculum through a range of **weekly clubs** including:

Photography Club

Engineering Club

Reading Allowed

Maths Buddies

Cooking Club

Science Club

Chess Club

Code Club

Art Club

.... to name but a few



The curriculum is further enhanced by a wide variety of **trips** and **visits** including local, national and international opportunities:

Y8 Geography - Ambleside

Y8 Spain

Y9 History - Battlefields of France and Belgium

Y9 Germany

Y10 Spain

Y10/11 Bronze DofE expeditions

Y11 Geography - Sedbergh and Lancaster

All year groups - Music Concert Tour



Students are also encouraged to enter local and national **competitions** including:

Royal Opera House Composition Competition

Junior/Intermediate/Senior Maths Challenge

Rotary Young Writer and Young Chef

Go4Set (with Science Crest Award)

BEBRAS Computational Thinking

Salter's Chemistry Workshop

BAE Submarine Challenge

IET Faraday Challenge

KS3 Lego League

Future Engineers

STEM Challenge

Poetry by Heart

Top of the Form



Performing Arts - Music, Dance and Drama

The **Music** Department is outstanding and rated amongst the **best in the country**. Over 225 students receive weekly instrumental tuition and students are involved in numerous instrumental ensembles as well as the larger groups such as the Wind Band, Swing Band, String Orchestra, Choir and Junior Band. These perform regularly to great **local, national** and **international** acclaim and are in constant demand throughout the year for public, private and corporate engagements. UVHS also has a unique partnership with the Royal Marines Band Service resulting in annual joint concerts, work experience placements for Years 10-13 and also career opportunities.





Example Performing Arts Timetable

The **Drama** Department stages an annual musical production at the Coronation Hall involving up to 100 students as well as a Primary Schools' Pantomime every December. In school there are several 'studio productions' aimed at specific year groups, as well as numerous trips to see live theatre.

Dance is a relatively new subject in school but has already seen regional success. There are regular rehearsals through the week preparing for shows and trips throughout the year.

	Lunchtime	After School
Monday	Clarinet Choir Junior Flute Choir Percussion Ensemble Key Stage 4 Drama	UVHS Wind Band Key Stage 4 Drama
Tuesday	String Orchestra Saxophone Ensemble School Production	Primary Music Centre Key Stage 4 Drama Dance Club
Wednesday	Music Theory Guitar Club Chamber Choir School Production	Little Big Band Pantomime Rehearsals School Production Dance Club
Thursday	Junior Band Senior Flute Choir Brass Ensemble Pantomime Rehearsals	Primary Music Centre School Production Dance Club
Friday	Full School Choir Key Stage 3 Drama	UVHS Swing Band Dance Club

Physical Education and Sport

In PE, inter-house and inter-form competitions run in all sports throughout the year and the school offers an **outstanding programme** of extra-curricular activities, with hundreds of students participating in after-school practices throughout the week.

The school successfully enters teams into **local** and **national competitions** in athletics, cross-country, football, rugby, golf, netball, hockey, cricket, basketball and tennis. Several former pupils have gone on to represent England and GB in their chosen sport.



Learning Support

This operates in all years for students who have a **special educational need**. It is organised through the Learning Support Department and takes the form of support in the classroom, tutorial work and curriculum modification. The students are taught alongside their peers and arrangements for tutorial work are such that they are not prevented from participating fully in the **curriculum** and the **social life** of the school.

More Able Students

We aim to address the needs and **raise the aspirations** of the most able through providing support and teaching which **makes their learning challenging**, engaging and enables them to reach their full potential. The school's curriculum and extra-curricular activities enable the most able pupils to be challenged by applying their learning in a wide range of contexts and challenges. In addition we strive to support the development of **self-reliance** and **independent learning**.





Careers Education

All students are entitled to an ongoing **progressive programme** of careers guidance beginning in Year 7 and moving through to Year 13. This includes a programme of individual interviews with members of the school guidance team as well as working with the school Employability Co-ordinator. A wide range of **employers** support our Y10 Work Ready Day and the Y11 Careers Open Evening enables students and parents to discuss their future options with **businesses** and **education providers**.

Learning Mentors

A team of Learning Mentors provide additional support and guidance for students who are underachieving, or are experiencing difficulties. They use a variety of strategies for **removing barriers** to learning in order to promote effective participation, enhance individual learning, raise aspirations and thus enable students to achieve their **full potential**.

Our Pastoral Care

In a **caring community**, all teachers are concerned with the needs of the individual and teaching is based upon a relationship between the teacher and the student.

Each student is a member of a tutor group. The Tutor is the first point of contact for all students each day at morning registration where announcements are made and information is given. It is the Tutor who has an overview of the **development** and **progress** of the students through their daily contact.

The tutor groups within each year come under the charge of a Pastoral Leader. It is he or she who has the overall pastoral responsibility for the **general welfare** and **academic progress** of all the students in his or her year group. It is the Pastoral Leader to whom you should write or telephone if you need to contact the school about any matter concerning your son or daughter.

Parents should send routine correspondence about illness and reasons for absence direct to the Attendance Administrator at the school. We would be grateful if parents contact school before 9.30am on the first morning of your child's absence and each subsequent day.



Home Links

Throughout the year we have **Parents' Evenings** where, during individual interviews with staff, students' progress is discussed. In addition, on one occasion each term, we will send home a **Progress Review** for every student that will outline current performance and measure the progress made towards achieving their potential. Also included will be students' Attitude to Learning grades which will indicate the levels of work in lessons and at home.

Uniform

All our students from Year 7 to Year 11 have to wear a designated school uniform. We feel that a uniform is an integral part of school life and is necessary to maintain high and **equitable standards**. School uniform policy is strictly enforced and we ask all our parents to support us in this respect.



Catering

Catering is provided by an external company, Dolce, and the school uses a '**cashless**' system. We provide **healthy well-balanced meals** of a very high quality at good prices and the majority of our students stay for school meals. We also offer breakfast at the start of the school day and a mid-morning service.

No students in Year 7, 8, 9 or 10 are allowed to leave the school premises without permission. Parents are requested to notify their child's Tutor in writing if they wish their son or daughter to go home for lunch or in the event of any special arrangements for the midday break. A 'lunch pass' is issued by the Pastoral Leader in response to these written requests.

A photographic lunch pass is issued to students in Year 11 after they have signed a contract agreement with the school. All our ICT suites are open for student use at lunchtimes.

A Typical Daily Menu

Chilli Beef and Rice Taco and Wedges
Chicken Rendang with Fragrant Rice
Tomato and Herb Pasta Bake
Jacket Potato with Cheese and Beans

All dishes are fully compliant with the school food standards and the kitchen has been awarded the highest possible food hygiene rating of **five stars**.

Allergen information is available
on the school website.



School Library

We are proud of our large **state-of-the-art** school library which is equipped with a wide range of books, ICT facilities and up to date newspapers and periodicals to support the curriculum, and also to **inspire** and encourage the habit of **reading** for both information and pleasure.

Being attractively and comfortably furnished, a pleasant environment conducive to **quiet study** has been created - a facility which Sixth Form students in particular appreciate.

The library is staffed at all times by a fully qualified librarian making maximum access possible to this excellent facility. Researching, browsing, reading and borrowing all contribute to the total learning experience of each student.

Senior Students

In the final half year of Year 10 and throughout Year 11 students have the opportunity to become 'Senior Students'. To achieve this status, students must demonstrate **high standards** of attendance, punctuality, behaviour, effort and endeavour. The school's Personal Reference underpins students' applications. All applicants must complete an application form and are then invited to a formal interview with a senior member of staff. If they are successful they are awarded the coveted 'Wolf Tie'. Senior students serve as **role models** to the younger students and their peers and help out in school in a variety of ways, such as manning reception during Parents' Evenings. The award promotes **leadership** and **British values**, supporting the school's Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) education and supports our excellence agenda.



Peer Mentors

An important aspect of secondary education for older students is accepting additional responsibilities. This helps develop characteristics of **self-discipline**, **trust** and **reliability**. To help foster this, a number of students have been trained in listening and befriending skills. These students operate a peer mentor service where any students experiencing difficulties with friendships and relationships can discuss the problem and be given some guidance to resolve the situation.

School Parliament

We have a thriving and active School Parliament which is a democratically elected body of students from Year 7 to Year 11. The Parliament meets each half term to discuss the development of the school and **key issues** affecting students. There are smaller sub-groups working on a number of issues including charity fundraising and an eco-committee. For all new teaching appointments, candidates are interviewed by a student panel.

Transition from Primary School

At UVHS, we recognise that the move from primary school to secondary school can be a stressful time for both pupils and parents alike, therefore we have a transition process that aims to promote the **happiness** and **safety** of every single student throughout this journey and, indeed, throughout their entire time at the school.

We have very close links with all of our feeder primary schools across a **wide geographical area** and, through many varied activities have already started getting to know most students by the beginning of Year 6.

The **Primary Transition Co-ordinator** makes several visits to each primary school, observing pupils at work, helping them out in lessons, and generally becoming more familiar with each child's abilities and needs.

Our **SEND Lead** is also in all the schools attending meetings and assisting with the writing of individual education plans where necessary, and the **Engagement Centre** goes into schools to work with those students who may require additional emotional and/or social support through transition.

Towards the end of Year 6, every student is visited in their school to talk about moving up to UVHS, and we also host interviews for every child and their parent(s) to discuss any worries that may still exist, as well as go through the school's expectations and requirements.

Finally, as with all schools in the Furness area, there are two transition days in June for pupils to become even more familiar with the school and start making new friends, all ready for a fresh start in September!



What our students and parents say

Students

“Kind and **welcoming** - teachers always want students to achieve their best”

“**Great atmosphere** and very relaxed - lots of extra-curricular opportunities”

“**Amazing teachers** who teach very well and lessons are well put together”

“School is always there to help with any difficulties and provide **extra support**”

“UVHS helps you to **develop** socially and emotionally”

“Everybody is always happy to help you, everyone is **approachable**”

“Great, caring, **inclusive** - opportunities are open to everybody”

Parents

“**Excellent transition** process, felt integrated and confident”

“Provides a **well-rounded curriculum** and a wide range of **extra activities**”

“Children are **valued** and encouraged to be the best they can be”

“The special needs dept. is **amazing!** My daughter is so well looked after”

“There seems to be a genuine **investment** in helping children develop”

“Super **enthusiastic staff** who can relate to and get to know students quickly”

“Positive approach to children’s overall **wellbeing** and **learning**”

... and finally!

From our most recent Ofsted Report (Sept 2025):

Pupils are proud ambassadors for the school. They make a strong contribution to the calm and respectful atmosphere that exists at the school.

The school has designed a broad and ambitious curriculum. It has thought carefully about the important knowledge that pupils should learn.

Pupils benefit from an extensive range of opportunities that help them to become confident young people. Clubs in music, sport, the arts and the school's 'identity' society help pupils to develop their talents and interests.

The school identifies the additional needs of pupils with SEND accurately. It provides staff with clear guidance and training about how to support pupils with SEND effectively.

The school's personal development programme is central to the school's commitment to preparing pupils for adulthood. Character development is woven into the life of the school.

Reading is a strength of this school. Staff prioritise reading and communication skills, helping pupils who need support to become confident and fluent readers.



Further Information

For all the latest exam results, and information about admissions, uniform, curriculum, enrichment, pastoral support, careers, etc., please visit the school website - www.uvhs.uk



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