

March 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 9 Curriculum 2026-2027

Thank you for choosing Whitley Bay High School for the next stage of your child's education. We are looking forward to meeting you and your child as they begin their High School life. We want this to be the start of a partnership which allows your child to enjoy all aspects of school and then go on to fulfil or exceed their potential. Now that you have received confirmation of your child's place I would like to tell you a little more about our curriculum in Year 9.

Students at Whitley Bay High School follow a compulsory curriculum and they also have three option choices. Details of these options can be found in the Options Information Booklet on the school website (Lower School: Year 8 Options: Year 8 Options Booklet).

Compulsory Subjects:

Students in Year 9 study a number of compulsory subjects already studied in Years 7 and 8. These subjects are English; Mathematics; Science; Physical Education; Life, Enquiry and Values (including Religious Education, Health Education, Careers, Critical Thinking and British Citizenship); History; Geography; Art; a language option and two technology options.

Language Option:

Students choose from French, German (if studied these subjects in Year 8) or Spanish (no prior knowledge needed) as their compulsory language option. Students may then continue this subject in Years 10 and 11 for a GCSE Language qualification if they wish to do so. For students wishing to study two languages, French may also be chosen as an Additional Option, but only if your child studied this in Year 8.

Technology Options:

Students choose their three preferred subjects from: Design Technology, Food Preparation & Nutrition, Information Technology (IT) and Textiles and will study **two** of these choices. There is no requirement to have studied these before.

Additional Option:

In addition to the compulsory subjects, students in Year 9 also choose two additional options and will study **one** of these. We ask students to select a first and second choice for this option as occasionally it is not possible to accommodate the first choice for all students due to constraints of staffing and specialist facilities. The additional option subjects are: Drama, Electronics, French (if studied in Year 8), Jewellery Technology, Music, Philosophy & Ethics, PE - Fitness & Wellbeing and PE - Competitive Sports. Students opting for PE as an additional option should be considering taking PE at GCSE level.

Please can you and your child complete the online Admission Form, by clicking on the link, which can be found on the school website (Lower School: Year 8 Options). Please select the chosen options within this form by Friday 24th April.

If you do not hear from us, your child has secured all of their selected options including either their first or second choice of Additional Option subject. If you have any queries or concerns please email Rachel Thurlow (Assistant Headteacher, responsible for the timetable):
Rachel.Thurlow@whitleybayhighschool.org.

During the transition period, your child's current Head of Year will meet with our school pastoral staff to discuss any ongoing or historical matters they feel we should know about. However, I know that families have exceptional circumstances or sensitive issues which you may wish to discuss prior to your child joining the school. If this is the case please email our Pastoral Assistant Headteachers:
Sarah.Lackenby@whitleybayhighschool.org, Jill.Branch@whitleybayhighschool.org or
James.Mackenzie@whitleybayhighschool.org

We look forward to working in partnership with you during the transition to High School.

Yours faithfully



Steve Wilson
Headteacher