



YEAR 8

OPTIONS 2022-23



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Year 9

Welcome



Steve Wilson
HEADTEACHER

I am pleased to introduce the Year 8 Option Choices to you through this booklet.

In Year 9 at Whitley Bay High School, you have three options to select.

Your first is your **language option**. You can choose **one** of:

- French
- German
- Spanish

In order to choose German or French, you must have studied them at Middle School. You do not need any experience of Spanish to choose this as your **language option**. (Please note that you can opt to study two languages by selecting another as your **additional option**).

Your second options are your **technology options**. You can choose **two** of:

- Design Technology
- Information Technology (IT)
- Food Preparation
- Textiles

Your third option is your **additional option**. You can choose **one** of:

- Drama
- French
- German
- Jewellery Technology
- Music
- Philosophy and Ethics
- Physical Education
- Robotics

Contents

The language option (choose one)

- French
- German
- Spanish

The technology option (choose two)

- Design Technology
- Information Technology (IT)
- Food Preparation
- Textiles

The additional option (choose one)

(French and German also available as an additional option)

- Drama
- Jewellery Technology
- Music
- Philosophy and Ethics
- Physical Education
- Robotics

FRENCH



French is an important European language. You will have a fantastic opportunity to learn, build on and use French for the future. You should consider this option if you have a real interest in language. Some of the topics you study are: Shopping and Food, Lifestyle, Holidays and Culture.

Student View

What do you do in lessons?

“In lessons you learn the culture and language of French.”

“We usually start off with a find the mistakes starter then we carry on with the lesson which is a mix between verbal and writing tasks.”

“We learn French using a wide range and variety of methods, from French songs and video clips to reading authentic texts and writing our own short pieces in French.”

You will enjoy this subject if...

“... you enjoy active lessons and like languages”

“... French has really helped me understand the culture of France and the way they communicate and how different it is to English.”

“... you want to learn not only French as a language but also discover the culture of France and all the French speaking countries across the world.”

Is the subject what you expected?

“This subject is what I expected because it’s an introduction to the basics of French.”

“The one thing I didn’t expect was how much you need to concentrate and get stuck in with group activities so you can get a chance at actually using your knowledge.”

“It is much better than I expected and very engaging as the cultural elements of it bring the subject alive. We also learn grammar, so we can really understand how the language works and be confident using it ourselves.”

GERMAN



German is an important European language, so if you enjoyed studying German at middle school this would be a good option for you. You have to have studied German in Year 8 to take this subject.

Some of the topics you study are:

Shopping and Food /Lifestyle/ Holidays/ Modern Media.

These follow on from what you have studied in middle school.

Student View

What do you do in lessons?

“You learn lots of new German vocabulary and practise using it in different ways. There is a lot of variety in how we learn.”

“You play games to help you learn new words and phrases, which I really like. You work in groups and in pairs, all improving your skills together.”

You will enjoy this subject if...

“... you love words and languages. People who are keen and prepared to work together will get a lot out of this.”

“... you are the kind of person who can concentrate because German needs close attention, especially how to pronounce the words and apply the grammar.”

“... you enjoy learning vocabulary and are willing to do that bit extra to get ahead.”

Is the subject what you expected?

“No, because it is more interactive than in Year 8. It is more fun than I expected.”

“Yes, it is what I expected. You learn a lot and cover topics more quickly.”

SPANISH



With an estimated 460 million native speakers, Spanish is the world's second most widely spoken language, which spans from countries as diverse as Mexico and Argentina to the USA and Spain. The influence of Hispanic and Latino culture is seen across the globe in football, music, cinema, and more topics which you will study through engaging and interactive language lessons. If you want to take Spanish for GCSE when you are in Year 10, then you will need to have studied it in Year 9.

Student View

What do you do in lessons?

"We have lots of engaging activities to take part in, like playing fun games both in class and online, such as Kahoot and Blooket. There are lots of open, friendly discussions in which we can all get involved in, and techniques which make language learning fun and interesting."

You will enjoy this subject if...

"You would like to expand on your knowledge of Spanish or learn a new language all together, and if you like to be engaged and have fun in your lessons."

Is the subject what you expected?

"It's better than I expected. Starting high school can be very daunting, but the friendly and fun atmosphere that came with my Spanish lessons really helped me settle in and made me want to learn more about different languages."

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY



Design Technology in Year 9 builds on the experiences from middle school, but extends them significantly using the schools equipment and facilities to produce an exciting and relevant STEM subject. Students will use and become confident with further work using timber, electronics circuits and the laser cutter as well as developing skills to make them better designers. We spend some time looking at new and exciting development such as the Mars Rover and future journeys to the planet.

Student View

What do you do in lessons?

“In lessons we have done lots of different things such as learning about what colours mean and what goes well together and also soldering our circuits and laser cutting the case.”

“Lots of the lessons are practical. We don’t always make things though and I enjoyed using the gears to work out how fast the Mars Rover would go.”

“We get to use the computers a lot for drawing in 3D and also using the drills and electric saws to make our projects.”

You will enjoy this subject if...

“... you want to become better at designing and making things and enjoy using your knowledge to solve problems.”

“... you enjoy learning about how technology is being used to find out new things.”

“... you are creative and can come up with ideas that maybe nobody else has thought of.”

Is the subject what you expected?

“It is much more advanced than middle school and that is good.”

“To start with some of the topics like the Mars Rover didn’t appeal to me but after a few lessons I found them really interesting.”

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT)



This option will provide the opportunity to learn, develop and perfect important digital literacy skills that can be used across all subjects and in life outside of school. Students will learn aspects of digital interface design, digital accessibility as well as data modelling and manipulation skills. The course has been designed to suit students of all levels of digital literacy, and is equally suited to girls and boys.

Student View

What do you do in lessons?

“This is a creative and dynamic lesson using computers to plan, design and create eye-catching and accessible IT systems.”

“I have learned lots of different IT techniques that not only help me in this lesson, but in all of my other lessons, and even outside of school!”

“I have been supported to experiment with different design principles, and how best to use my creativity to design and make a system that users would really love to use, and want to keep coming back to.”

You will enjoy this subject if...

“... you enjoy working on computers using different software packages.”

“... you want to learn why companies make their software look and work like it does.”

“... you want to level up your IT skills and equip yourself for the future.”

“... you want to be part of the digital revolution!”

“... you really want to have fun while learning a range of new skills.”

Is the subject what you expected?

“I thought I would be using the computers every lesson, but I loved learning about the different parts of IT, and why companies make the decisions they do.”

“I have learnt so much more than I originally thought, and I am now so much more confident when using technology.”

FOOD PREPARATION



This food option allows you to learn about food and develop a range of cooking skills. If you are interested in food then this is the option for you. During year 9 you will learn about food ingredients and develop a range of practical skills.

Student View

What do you do in lessons?

“It’s a really good subject and you do lots of practical lessons where you learn how to use different pieces of equipment and make a range of different foods.”

“We do theory lessons too and have learnt about the role of different ingredients.”

“We have researched meal planning and designed and made a meal for a person. I did a meal for an athlete.”

“You have to be well organised as you need to be prepared for your practical lessons.”

You will enjoy this subject if...

“... you are passionate about food.”

“... you enjoy doing practical work.”

“... you are keen to learn about the theory behind food and how recipes work.”

“... you are super organised and like to get involved in different activities.”

Is the subject what you expected?

“Yes, it is, you do lots of practical work and learn how to use different food equipment.”

“We get a chance to learn more about food.”

“This course is an excellent foundation to GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition.”

TEXTILES



This Textiles option allows you to get creative. If you are interested in fashion and creative textiles then this is the option for you. During year 9 you will complete two modules, one based around creative textile techniques, the other fashion drawing and simple garment construction.

Student View

What do you do in lessons?

“It’s a really creative and practical lesson where you can develop your own ideas.”

“We have learned about lots of different textile artists and decorative techniques such as applique, quilting, transfer and lino printing.”

“We have done fashion drawing which was really fun, even if you are not very good at drawing the teachers show you how to do it.”

“You do a design and make project and make a textiles product using the skills you have learnt”

You will enjoy this subject if...

“... you are passionate about fashion and textiles.”

“... you enjoy doing practical work.”

“... you want to make original and creative textiles work.”

“... you enjoy working with a range of different materials and equipment.”

Is the subject what you expected?

“Yes, it is , you do lots of practical work and using the sewing machine.”

“We get a chance to do so many more techniques.”

“This course is an excellent foundation to GCSE Art and Design Textiles.”

DRAMA



Drama is a creative and practical subject where you learn about thinking on your feet, improvising, working with scripts and performance.

Student View

What do you do in lessons?

“In Drama we work in pairs or groups to devise plays based on a theme or stimulus.”

“Drama is all about understanding what it’s like to put yourself in somebody else’s shoes. You will have the opportunity to create your own work as well as look at professionally written plays.”

“As a class we read plays and then act out scenes. We also get to write our own scripts.”

“As well as acquiring the skills involved in creating and performing, you will also be able to develop skills in working with others and problem solving and communication. You will find that Drama will help you feel more self-confident and prepare you to deal with a range of different situations and people.”

You will enjoy this subject if...

“... you are quietly confident. You need to have ideas or be good at developing other peoples’ ideas. Don’t worry if you haven’t got many skills yet, the teachers will help you develop them.”

“... you like working with different people and don’t get embarrassed about showing your work to others.”

“... you are fairly outgoing and like to be on your feet doing things.”

Is the subject what you expected?

“This subject is what I expected, but it is also more of a challenge. You have to concentrate but the lessons are also fun and I look forward to drama every week.”

“Yes, this lesson is what I thought it would be - good fun and the teachers are great.”

JEWELLERY TECHNOLOGY



This option will provide an opportunity for students to experience several different techniques used in making jewellery and other small items. The course has been designed to suit students with little or no experience and is equally suited to boys and girls.

Student View

What do you do in lessons?

"This is a really creative and practical lesson where we make lots of different designs of jewellery."

"We have tried loads of different techniques like enameling, pewter casting, metal bending and beading and I really liked the laser cutting project".

"We are really encouraged to experiment with new techniques and try some creative design. We have longer design and make projects and one-off challenges which are really fun and competitive".

You will enjoy this subject if...

"... you enjoy making things (very important)."

"... you have some creative ability."

"... you want to make something never seen before."

"... you want to learn how to make jewellery, even if you have never done it before."

"... you are happy to work with small, often fiddly parts."

"... you like trying new things and are keen to practise."

Is the subject what you expected?

"I expected it to be lots of making things out of metal and it is!"

"I thought it would be using beads but pewter casting and enamel is so much better!"

"I didn't expect that we would be using computers to design our jewellery. This has built my confidence in other areas of technology."

MUSIC



Music in Year 9 involves: Performing - Playing a musical instrument and singing.
Composing - Creating your own music.
Listening - Learning about and listening to different styles of music
Music Technology - Using computer software to produce music.

Student View

What do you do in lessons?

"We listen to music and work out how it's put together so that we can write our own music in the same style."

"We get to play instruments such as keyboards, guitars and percussion instruments as well as our own instruments."

"I love being able to record my composition ideas using the computer software and then listening back to them. I get such a buzz."

"We were singing in harmony; I love singing so it doesn't feel like work."

You will enjoy this subject if...

"... you enjoy playing a musical instrument or singing."

"... you like listening to all sorts of different types of music."

"... you want to improve your understanding of music theory."

Is the subject what you expected?

"No. I hadn't realised how many different styles of music there were. I used to just listen to the latest R&B but now I listen to all sorts of stuff."

"No. I thought it would be all music theory and worksheets. There is some of that but we also get to perform on instruments and sing."

"Yes. I love music so I knew I would enjoy it. I love finding out about different styles of music."

"No. I never thought I would be able to write my own music... and it actually sounded good!"

PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS



Philosophy and Ethics is a course where you get to explore big ideas and questions about human existence. You need to be able to be curious about the world around you and use your reasoning skills to justify your ideas. You will need to be a good listener as well as a good communicator both orally and in written work.

Student View

What do you do in lessons?

“There isn’t really such a thing as a typical lesson. Lessons are very varied. We do a lot of different activities. We might explore a moral issue or we might discuss a situation together and work out what we think might be the right answer.”

“There is no other lesson in which you can express and explain why you do or don’t believe in something.”

“It lets you question things then find out possible answers. It also gives you the chance to find out what others think and believe.”

You will enjoy this subject if...

“... you like ultimate questions, because they make you think and can really confuse you and have no definite answer. It is quite scary when you think about it.”

Is the subject what you expected?

“Lessons are very enjoyable - everyone becomes comfortable with expressing opinions without feeling worried about what others think.”

PHYSICAL EDUCATION



The PE option in Year 9 allows students to take part in activities such as Netball, Volleyball and Fitness and gain an insight into GCSE PE and Sports Studies. This option is for students considering taking an examination course in PE in Year 10.

Student View

What do you do in lessons?

"In lessons, we learn about fitness and team sports. We get the chance to teach a group of four or a pair and to be a leader."

"In PE we get the chance to try out different sports that we don't do in Core PE and to participate in a range of sports that you will practise in GCSE."

You will enjoy this subject if...

"...you care about fair-play and want to be a good team player. This option gives you a lot of confidence so don't worry if you are a bit shy now. You will learn how to improve and the teachers will encourage you."

"... you like taking part in a variety of different sports within school."

"... you are confident and like talking to people about how to improve technique and performance."

"... you are a keen sports performer who is considering GCSE PE."

Is the subject what you expected?

"No. I didn't think it would be this good - but it is! It's great!"

"Yes it was, as we get the chance to take part in a wide variety of sports which was what I hoped it would be."

ROBOTICS



This option will provide the opportunity for students to build a robotic vehicle, add sensors and program it to steer itself around obstacles. Whilst the course sounds complex, no experience is necessary - just a desire to learn about how to build an intelligent self-steering robotic vehicle. The course is suitable for both boys and girls.

Student View

What do you do in lessons?

"I like the practical parts of the lesson and being able to make the parts needed for a robot, like programming, making a PCB and soldering."

"We have learnt about what is happening in the world of robotics, and I liked thinking about new technology and whether all new developments in robotics are moral".

"It's a great subject for people wanting to learn new skills and have fun learning more about D.T".

"It was a good alternative from desk work, and the practical skills come in useful for any coursework projects"

You will enjoy this subject if...

"... you enjoy making things (very important)."

"... you are keen to try new things you haven't done before."

"... you are careful and very precise in your work (very important)."

"... you can work with others - allowing others their opinions and ideas whilst having some yourself."

Is the subject what you expected?

"Not really. We're looking at self driving cars and also hands on accuracy work as well as circuits. I really enjoy this!"

"I was expecting just lots of programming but it's much more varied."



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