



YEAR 8

OPTIONS 2019-20

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Welcome

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

To help you make your option choice I asked students studying:

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

the following questions:

Question 1

In your own words describe what you do in a typical lesson.

Question 2

Is the subject what you expected it to be?

Question 3

What sort of person will like this subject?

I have included lots of their comments for you to think about when you make your choices.

We are all looking forward to you joining Whitley Bay High School. I hope you enjoy your last few months in your current Middle School.



Steve Wilson
HEADTEACHER

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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. There isn't much writing."

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."



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.”

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 practical lesson where much of the time students will be designing and making things.

Students will be given the opportunity to experience several processes used in making jewellery such as enamelling, pewter casting, using beads and ceramics.

Students will then be encouraged to experiment with these techniques to design and make small items of personal jewellery or other items such as buckles, badges or hair accessories.

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."

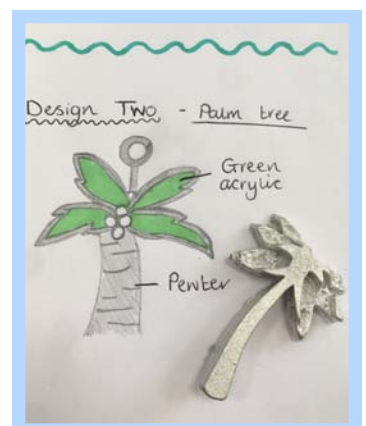
"... you like trying new things and are keen to practise."

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. This option is for students considering taking GCSE 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!”



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?

Most of the lessons will be practical in nature - the students will spend a lot of their time making the parts of the robot, assembling them, testing them and then programming their creation.

Students will also be given lots of opportunities to discover what is happening around us as robotics become more commonplace with such developments as self-driving cars and drones.

This option will involve lots of new skills - making circuit boards, soldering, using Computer Aided Design, working with metal and plastic and computer programming. It's an ideal option for students wanting to learn new skills in these areas.

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 Mars Rovers and also hands on woodwork as well as circuits. I really enjoy this!"

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

SPANISH

Spanish is an important European language. We are introducing this course for the first time for Year 9 students starting in September. You will have a fantastic opportunity to learn, build on and use Spanish 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/ Culture.

Student View

What do you do in lessons?

You will explore the language in different ways, including playing games, listening to Spanish music and also learning about the culture.

You will work in groups or in pairs so you can improve your skills together and practise the language.

You will enjoy this subject if...

You like languages already, and enjoy learning new words and phrases.

You enjoy learning about different cultures. You are prepared to speak aloud in a foreign language but the teachers will make it very easy and comfortable for you!





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