

March 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

### Year 9 Curriculum 2022 - 2023

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 offer 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 or Spanish 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 or German may also be chosen as an Option Choice, but only if it has been studied in Year 8.

**Technology Option:** Students choose two subjects from Design Technology, Food Technology, Information Technology (IT) and Textiles. There is no requirement to have studied these before.

**Additional Option:** In addition to the compulsory subjects, students in Year 9 at Whitley Bay High School also choose one optional subject from Drama, French, German, PE, Jewellery Technology, Robotics, Music, or Philosophy and Ethics.

Students opting for PE as an additional option should be considering taking PE at GCSE level.

It is important that students also select a reserve choice, as it is not always possible to accommodate all students' choices due to constraints of staffing and specialist facilities. However, we do try to meet their individual needs.

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 29<sup>th</sup> April.

If you do not hear from us, your child has secured their first choice option subject. If the reserve choice has been allocated I will write to you to let you know at the beginning of May. If you have any queries or concerns please email Rachel Thurlow (Assistant Headteacher responsible for the timetable) on [Rachel.Thurlow@whitleybayhighschool.org](mailto:Rachel.Thurlow@whitleybayhighschool.org).

As a final point I know that many families have special circumstances or sensitive issues which you would wish to discuss prior to your child joining the school. If this is so in your case please contact Sarah Lackenby or James Mackenzie (Assistant Headteachers) by email on [Sarah.Lackenby@whitleybayhighschool.org](mailto:Sarah.Lackenby@whitleybayhighschool.org) or [James.Mackenzie@whitleybayhighschool.org](mailto:James.Mackenzie@whitleybayhighschool.org).

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

Yours faithfully,



STEVE WILSON  
Headteacher