



Ivybridge Community College Curriculum Guide

The Academic Curriculum

What we want our curriculum to do

Curriculum – The knowledge and skills selected for students to learn, structured over time. The sum of all the experiences and learning from the moment a student walks through the gates to the moment they go onward in their educational journey.

At the heart of the Ivybridge Community College's learning experience is our curriculum. Learning at Ivybridge Community College encompasses far more than the knowledge and skills developed in the classroom. Students enjoy an enviable range of clubs, societies and enrichment activities and our Personal Development programme, supported by our exceptional Careers Guidance, provides an all-round educational experience that is the foundation for future success.

Students at Ivybridge Community College experience a curriculum which contributes to a well-balanced education, developing the abilities and skills of individuals so that they take a valuable, positive and active place in society.

Through our curriculum:

We aim to enable every student to excel

We offer a thoughtfully sequenced curriculum which encourages academic progress by allowing all students to master the foundations and develop the confidence to engage with ambitious and challenging material.

We aim to broaden and nurture students' interests

We ensure all students have the opportunity to engage with, and enjoy the richness of, a wide range of subjects and experiences, and encourage them to pursue those they are passionate about.

We aim to develop students' sense of self and community

We provide a safe environment in which all students can reflect on and evolve their personal points of view and understand these in relation to the world around them.

At Ivybridge Community College, our curriculum is designed with the clear purpose of achieving academic excellence while nurturing the personal development of all students. We aim to provide an ambitious and inclusive curriculum that empowers every student, regardless of their background or starting point, to reach their highest potential.

Guided by our core values of **Respect**, **Inspiration**, **Aspiration**, and **Compassion**, we foster a learning environment of high expectations of student behaviour, where students are challenged academically while being supported holistically. Our curriculum is broad, balanced and structured to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills of our young people to make informed decisions about their future, guiding them from novice to expert.

We believe in building character alongside academic success. Through a rich offering of extracurricular opportunities and leadership experiences, we cultivate students who are not only academically successful but also respectful, compassionate individuals prepared to contribute positively to society. Our curriculum actively promotes personal growth, social responsibility and ethical understanding, in line with our commitment to fostering well-rounded citizens.

Through habitual evaluation, evolution, training and clarification, we are continually adapting and refining our curriculum in response to the evolving needs of our students and the wider world. We are dedicated to inspiring aspiration for lifelong success, considering both our local context and in response to the globally best thinking in each subject area.

Ivybridge Community College is committed to creating an environment where excellence in both education and character development goes hand in hand, ensuring every student leaves equipped with the knowledge, understanding, skills and values they need to thrive in their future endeavors.

This curriculum is rooted in our mission to be a College of academic excellence, aiming for the best possible set of qualifications for each child, ensuring future doors are wide open and that every child can reach their life's fullest potential.

Curriculum Leaders

Megan Bellis	Assistant Principal, Director of English
Laura Davies	Assistant Principal, Director of Mathematics
Alan Makeham	Director of Science
Adam White	Head of History
Robyn Bray	Head of Geography
Tor Murphy	Head of Languages
Abigail Newman	Head of Religious Studies
Naomi Philpot	Head of Physical Education
Sara Elston	Head of Creative Arts
Adam Strawford	Head of Design Technology
Sam Brooks	Head of Business, IT and Computing
Helen Ryder	Head of Human Science
Dave Clemow	Head of Media Studies
Courtney Wood	Head of Performing Arts
Declan Farrell	Assistant Principal – Director of SEND - SENDCo
Charlotte Hanton	Assistant Principal – Character Education - CPSHE Lead

Curriculum Structure for 2026 - 2027

Key Stage 3 – Years 7, 8 and 9

Students each study 14 subjects. On entry into Year 7, students enter a French or Spanish pathway.

Students study RSE, CPHSE in Personal Development Sessions.

Students spend 25 minutes per day reading in our Strong Starts reading programme. Students read a text from our College Literary Canon.

Numbers indicate hours per fortnight:

	Year 7 and 8	Year 9
Mathematics	8	8
English	8	8
Science	6	8
History	4	4
Geography	4	4
MFL	4	4
PE	4	4
Art	2	2
Performing Arts (Music and Drama)	3	1 (Music) 1 (Drama)
RE	2	1
DT/Food	2	2
ICT	1	1
CPSHE	1	1
Co-Curriculum	1	1

Key Stage 4 – Year 10 and 11 – Core Curriculum

All students at Ivybridge Community College will study for a minimum of nine Level 2 qualifications. Students study the core subjects of Mathematics (Pearson), English Literature and English Language (AQA) and Combined Science (AQA), with selected students able to elect to study for Separate Science GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics as one of their Key Stage 4 options.

All students choose from either GCSE Geography or History.

Students then select further Level 2 qualifications to ensure they have a program of at least nine Level 2 (GCSE/BTEC) qualifications.

Numbers indicate hours per fortnight

	Year 10	Year 11
Mathematics	8	8
English	8	8
Science	9	9
History/Geography	5	5
Option 2	5	5
Option 3	5	5
Option 4	5	5
Core PE	2	2
Core RE	1	1
CPSHE	1	1
Co-Curriculum	1	1

English Literature – Selected Texts	
Category	Selected Title
Shakespeare	Macbeth
19 th Century Novel	A Christmas Carole
Modern Texts - Drama	An Inspector Calls
Poetry Anthology	Power and Conflict

Key Stage 4 – Elective Curriculum

Level 2 GCSE/BTEC Option Subjects

One of our core aims is to facilitate students electing a pathway that informs their future career choices and supports their interests and passions. As a large Community College, we feel it is imperative to ensure a wide range of GCSE Options subjects above the core offer.

Students at Ivybridge Community College can elect from 28 Level 2 qualifications.

Subject	Qualification	Subject	Qualification
Art - 3D Design	GCSE (9-1)	French	GCSE (9-1)
Art - Art, Craft and Design	GCSE (9-1)	Geography	GCSE (9-1)
Art - Photography	GCSE (9-1)	Health and Social Care	BTEC
Art - Textiles	GCSE (9-1)	History	GCSE (9-1)
Business	GCSE (9-1)	Media	GCSE (9-1)
Business Enterprise	BTEC	Music	GCSE (9-1)
Catering	BTEC	PE	GCSE (9-1)
Child Development	BTEC	Psychology	GCSE (9-1)
Computer Science	GCSE (9-1)	Religious Studies	GCSE (9-1)
Dance	GCSE (9-1)	Separate Sciences	GCSE (9-1)
Dance RSL	BTEC	Spanish	GCSE (9-1)
Design Technology	GCSE (9-1)	Sport	BTEC
Drama	GCSE (9-1)	Statistics	GCSE (9-1)
Economics	GCSE (9-1)		

Co-Curriculum Programme

In order that all students can access life changing opportunities, find a tribe to belong to, and thrive at the College, we have a Co-Curriculum programme to enhance and enrich the student's weekly experience.

Co-Curriculum aims to build character and give students the opportunity to push themselves, build resilience and demonstrate their character. From community projects to horticulture, surfing to orienteering, golf to building a racecar – there is truly something for everyone.

Please see the Co-Curriculum and Enrichment pages of the website for more details.

Key Stage 5 – Year 12 and 13

Students at Key Stage 5 can select from 42 Academic and vocational subjects with pathways to university, higher level apprenticeships, degree apprenticeships or further employment and training.

Students electing to study at Ivybridge Community College have contact time of nine hours per fortnight per subject. Students are also required to attend supervised study blocks per subject per week with guided learning from their course Tutor.

All students are encouraged to elect a minimum of a three and a half A Level-equivalent programme.

Students can elect to study up to five A Level subjects, although most students select three full Level 3 courses and one AS.

All students must study at least one A Level.

For example:

Student A – Future Medic 4 + ½

- A Level Biology
- A Level Chemistry
- A Level Mathematics
- A Level Psychology
- AS Level French

Student B – Future Naval Officer – 3 + ½

- A Level English Literature
- A Level Psychology
- BTEC Uniform Protective Services
- AS Extended Project Qualification

Student C – Future Marketing and Business Executive 3 + ½

- A Level Psychology
- BTEC Applied Business
- A Level Media Studies
- AS Level Mathematics in Context (Core Mathematics)

Our Key Stage 5 Subjects - Level 3

Subject	Qualification	Subject	Qualification
Biology	Advanced Level	Economics	Advanced Level
Chemistry	Advanced Level	Physical Education	Advanced Level
Physics	Advanced Level	Religious Studies	Advanced Level
Environmental Science	Advanced Level	Sociology	Advanced Level
Mathematics	Advanced Level	Psychology	Advanced Level
Further Mathematics	Advanced Level	French	Advanced Level
English Literature	Advanced Level	Spanish	Advanced Level
English Language and Literature	Advanced Level	Business	Advanced Level
Computer Science	Advanced Level	Mathematics in Context (Core Maths)	AS Level
Media Studies	Advanced Level	French	AS Level
Film Studies	Advanced Level	Extended Project Qualification	AS Level
Music	Advanced Level	Sport	BTEC Extended Certificate
Drama and Theatre	Advanced Level	Health and Social Care	BTEC Extended Certificate
Dance	Advanced Level		
Geography	Advanced Level	Applied Business	BTEC Extended Certificate
History	Advanced Level	Introductory Diploma in IT	Level 3 Cambridge Technical
Politics	Advanced Level	Dance	Level 3 Diploma
Design and Technology - Product Design	Advanced Level	Music	Level 3 Diploma
Art and Design (Art, Craft & Design)	Advanced Level	Creative and Performing Arts	Level 3 Diploma
Art and Design (Textile Design)	Advanced Level		
Art and Design (Photography)	Advanced Level		

Personal Development

In addition to the academic programme, all students in Key Stage 5 benefit from a personal development programme comprising of the following elements:

- **Futures Programme** – Careers and future planning
- **Tutor Programme** – Relationship and Sexual Education, Citizenship, Personal, Social, Health and Economic (CPSHE) education
- **Enrichment Programme** – Leadership Opportunities/Elite Sport/Recreational Sport/Performing Arts Enrichment/Peripatetic Music Lessons
- **Early Entry UCAS Support** – For those students wishing to make Oxbridge/ Medicine/ Dentistry/ Veterinary Science applications