



Options

Key Stage 4 Curriculum



Mr Beard

College Director – Year 9

Objectives

- Understand the options process
- View options available
- Find out how to apply
- Look beyond Year 11



Mr Cresswell

Deputy Principal

We are a College that strives for
academic excellence,
develops character and provides
exceptional opportunities
for all.



Respect • Aspiration • Integrity • Compassion



Ivybridge Community College

Key Stage 4 Initial Headlines 2025

Headlines	2023	2024	2025
Progress 8	-0.15	0.36	-
Attainment 8	47.8	54.7	54.71
Basics 7+	12.6%	18.0%	21.6%
Basics 5+	51.9%	65.8%	71.1%
Basics 4+	70.4%	82.5%	84.6%



Ivybridge Community College



Congratulations Year 11

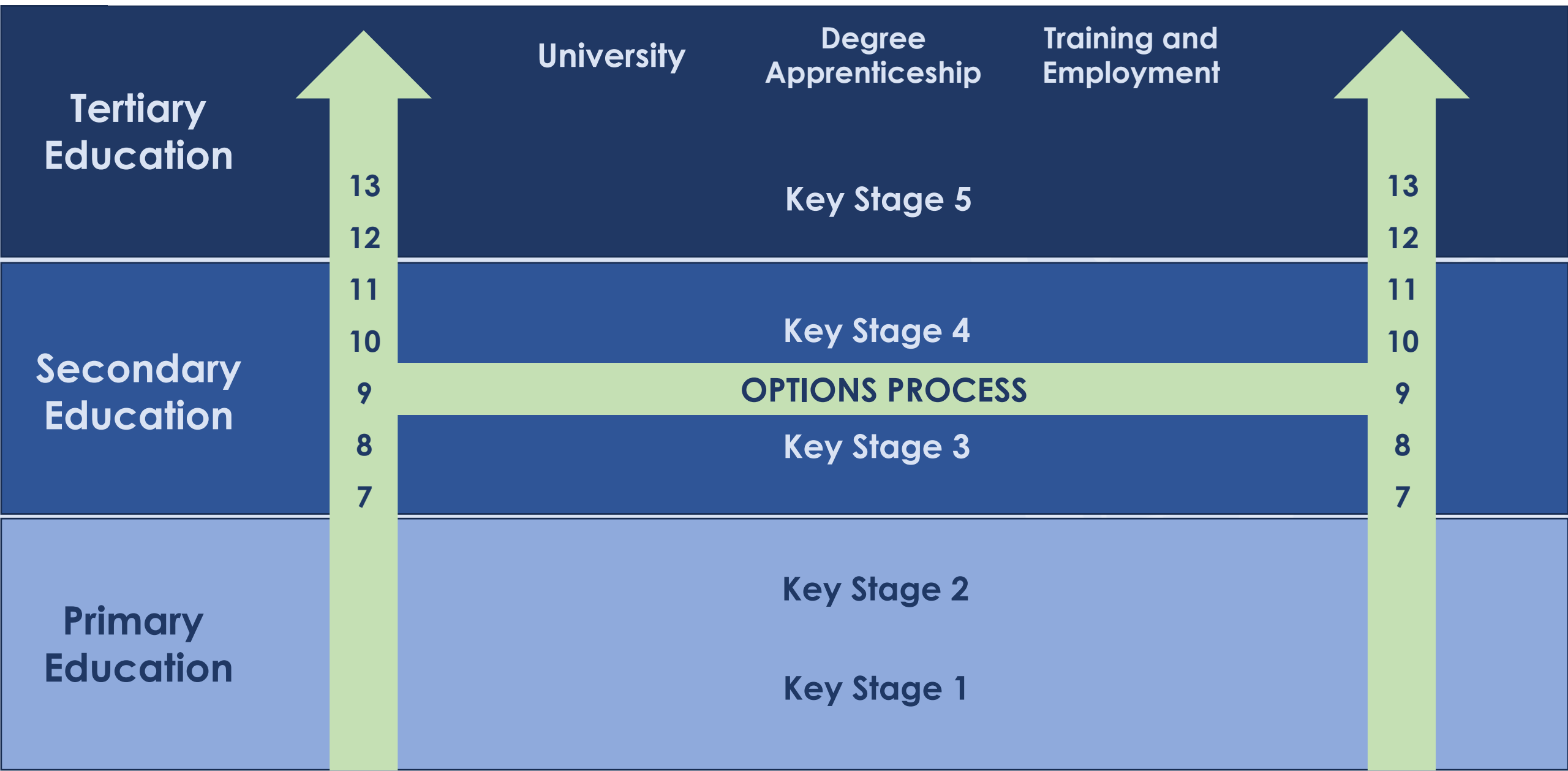
Class of 2025



Respect • Aspiration • Integrity • Compassion



Your Academic Journey



Your Key Stage 4 Curriculum

- **Nine Level 2 GCSE or Equivalent Qualifications**
- Personal Development Curriculum
- Physical Education (PE)
- Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PHSE)
- Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)
- Religious Education (RE)
- Extensive Enrichment Opportunities
- Careers Advice, Guidance and Work Experience

GCSE – (9-1)

New GCSE Grades	Old GCSE Grade
9	A*
8	
7	A
6	B
5	
4	
3	C
2	
1	
U	

BTEC - Vocational

BTEC Grade	GCSE Grade Equivalent
Level 2 Distinction *	8.5
Level 2 Distinction	7
Level 2 Merit	5.5
Level 2 Pass	4
Level 1 Distinction	3
Level 1 Merit	2
Level 1 Pass	1.25
Fail	U

Year 9 Options Process - 3 Stages

1. **Decision** - Which options you would like?
2. **Selection** - via Applica online – 6 Feb 2026 Deadline
3. **Allocation** - Informed by College of your allocations.

Stage 1 - Decide

Step 1 - Core Subjects

All students study:

- ☒ GCSE English Language
- ☒ GCSE English Literature
- ☒ GCSE Mathematics



Step 2 - Science Pathway

Make one selection:

- ☐ GCSE Combined Science (Two GCSEs) or
- ☐ GCSE Separate Sciences (Three GCSEs)



Step 3 - Humanities Pathway

Make one selection:

- ☐ GCSE Geography
- ☐ GCSE History
- ☐ GCSE Geography and GCSE History



Step 4 - Languages Pathway

Selection

- ☐ GCSE Spanish or
- ☐ GCSE French or
- ☐ No GCSE Language



Qualification	Maximum 9
GCSE English Language	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GCSE English Literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GCSE Mathematics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GCSE Combined Science	<input type="checkbox"/>
GCSE Combined Science	<input type="checkbox"/>
GCSE Separate Sciences (Biology)	<input type="checkbox"/>
GCSE Separate Sciences (Chemistry)	<input type="checkbox"/>
GCSE Separate Sciences (Physics)	<input type="checkbox"/>
GCSE Geography	<input type="checkbox"/>
GCSE History	<input type="checkbox"/>
GCSE French or	<input type="checkbox"/>
GCSE Spanish	<input type="checkbox"/>
Choice 1 _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Choice 2 _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
*Choice 3 _____ (Only available if studying GCSE Combined Science and no languages option)	<input type="checkbox"/>
**Choice 4 _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
**Choice 5 _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Step 4 - Guided Subjects Max 3

Arts subjects

You can choose:

- ☐ GCSE Art and Design (Art, Design and Craft) or
- ☐ GCSE Art and Design (Textiles) or
- ☐ GCSE Art and Design (3D Design)

You can also choose

- ☐ GCSE Art and Design (Photography)

Performing Arts subjects

You can choose:

- ☐ GCSE Drama or
- ☐ BTEC Technical - Performing Arts (Dance)

You can also choose

- ☐ GCSE Dance
- ☐ GCSE Music

Human Sciences

- ☐ GCSE Psychology
- ☐ GCSE Religious Studies
- ☐ BTEC Tech Award in Health and Social Care
- ☐ BTEC Tech Award In Child Development

Professional subjects

You can choose:

- ☐ GCSE Statistics
- ☐ GCSE Business
- ☐ GCSE Media Studies
- ☐ BTEC Tech Award in Business Enterprise

Technology subjects

- ☐ GCSE Design and Technology
- ☐ BTEC Tech Award in Hospitality and Catering
- ☐ GCSE Computer Science

Physical Education subjects

- ☐ GCSE Physical Education
- ☐ Cambridge National Certificate in Sport Studies



Step 1 - Core Subjects

- ☒ GCSE Mathematics
- ☒ GCSE English Language
- ☒ GCSE English Literature





Step 2 - Science Pathway

- ☐ GCSE Combined Science (2 GCSEs) **or**
- ☐ GCSE Separate Sciences (3 GCSEs)

Science - Combined vs Separate?

- Both lead to Science Advanced Level Pathways.
 - (Grade 6 or 66 required to study A level)
- No requirement for ANY course at university, employment or Level 3 Apprenticeship.

Science - Combined vs Separate?

- Separate Science – Limited spaces – Max 96 students
- Available to engaged students only
 - Class Charts information
 - Attendance
 - Students' Year 9 assessment
 - Homelearning - Educake completion and attainment
 - End of Unit tests
 - Progress reports
 - Class Teacher Guidance

Science - Combined vs Separate?

Combined Science	Separate Science
Worth 2 GCSEs	Worth 3 GCSEs
Can select 4 other qualifications	Can select 3 other qualifications
2 GCSE Grades <i>e.g. 9-9; 6-6; 4-5</i>	3 Grades <i>e.g. Biology 8; Chem 7; Physics 9</i>
9 Hours per fortnight	14 Hours per fortnight
Specialist Teachers	Specialist Teachers
Available to all	Available to those selected based on assessment and commitment



Step 3 - Humanities Pathway

- ☐ GCSE History **or**
- ☐ GCSE Geography **or**
- ☐ GCSE Geography **and** GCSE History



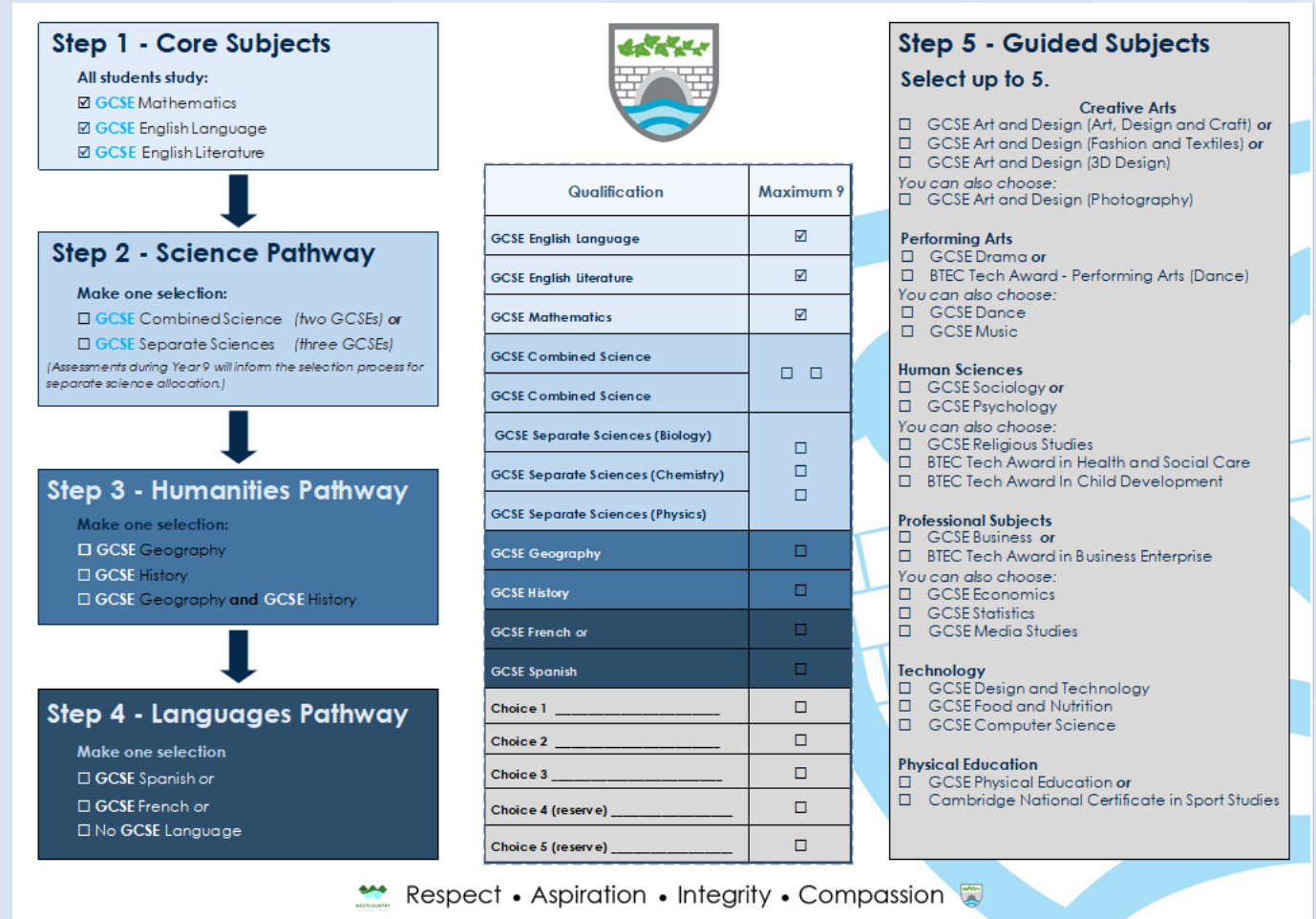
Step 4 - Languages Pathway

- ☐ GCSE French **or**
- ☐ GCSE Spanish **or**
- ☐ No GCSE Language



Maximum – 9 x Level 2 Courses

- ✓ GCSE Mathematics
- ✓ GCSE English Language
- ✓ GCSE English Literature
- ✓ GCSE Biology
- ✓ GCSE Chemistry
- ✓ GCSE Physics
- ✓ GCSE Geography
- ✓ GCSE French
- ✓ GCSE History



Step 5 - 21 Guided Subjects

3D Design
Art and Design
Business Studies
Business Enterprise
Child Development
Computer Science
Dance
Design Technology
Drama
Fashion and Textiles
Hospitality & Catering
Health and Social Care
Media Studies
Music
Performing Arts (Dance)
Photography
Physical Education
Psychology
Religious Studies
Sports Studies
Statistics

Creative Arts

You can choose either:

- ☐ GCSE Art and Design (Art, Design and Craft) **or**
- ☐ GCSE Art and Design (Fashion and Textiles) **or**
- ☐ GCSE Art and Design (3D Design)

You can also choose:

- ☐ GCSE Art and Design (Photography)

Performing Arts

You can choose either:

- ☐ GCSE Drama **or**
- ☐ BTEC Technical - Performing Arts (Dance)

You can also choose:

- ☐ GCSE Dance
- ☐ GCSE Music

Human Sciences

You can choose either:

☐ GCSE Psychology

☐ GCSE Religious Studies

☐ BTEC Tech Award in Health and Social Care

☐ BTEC Tech Award in Child Development

Professional Subjects

You can choose:

- ☐ GCSE Business Studies **or**
- ☐ BTEC Tech Award in Business Enterprise
- ☐ GCSE Statistics
- ☐ GCSE Media Studies

Technology

You can choose:

- ☐ GCSE Design and Technology
- ☐ BTEC Tech Award – Hospitality and Catering
- ☐ GCSE Computer Science

Physical Education

You can choose either:

☐ GCSE Physical Education **or**

☐ Cambridge National Certificate in Sports Studies

Student A – Future Teacher

- ✓ GCSE Mathematics
- ✓ GCSE English Language
- ✓ GCSE English Literature
- ✓ GCSE Combined Science
- ✓ GCSE Combined Science
- ✓ GCSE Geography
- ✓ GCSE Religious Studies
- ✓ BTEC Child Development
- ✓ GCSE Psychology
- ☐ GCSE Art and Design (Fashion and Textiles)
- ☐ BTEC Health and Social Care




Student B – Future Economist

- ✓ GCSE Mathematics
- ✓ GCSE English Language
- ✓ GCSE English Literature
- ✓ GCSE Separate Science - Biology
- ✓ GCSE Separate Science - Chemistry
- ✓ GCSE Separate Science - Physics
- ✓ GCSE Geography
- ✓ GCSE Statistics
- ✓ GCSE Music
- ☐ GCSE Business Studies
- ☐ BTEC Health and Social Care



Student C – Future Physiotherapist

- ✓ GCSE Mathematics
 - ✓ GCSE English Language
 - ✓ GCSE English Literature
 - ☐ GCSE Separate Science - Biology
 - ☐ GCSE Separate Science - Chemistry
 - ☐ GCSE Separate Science - Physics
 - ✓ GCSE History
 - ✓ BTEC Tech Award in Hospitality and Catering
 - ✓ GCSE Statistics
 - ✓ GCSE Physical Education
 - ☐ BTEC Health and Social Care
- ✓ GCSE Combined Science
- ✓ GCSE Combined Science
- 

Student D – Future Actor

- ✓ GCSE Mathematics
- ✓ GCSE English Language
- ✓ GCSE English Literature
- ✓ GCSE Combined Science
- ✓ GCSE Combined Science
- ✓ GCSE History
- ✓ GCSE Music
- ✓ GCSE Drama
- ☐ GCSE Media Studies
- ✓ GCSE French
- ☐ GCSE Dance



Student E – Future Photographer

- ✓ GCSE Mathematics
- ✓ GCSE English Language
- ✓ GCSE English Literature
- ✓ GCSE Combined Science
- ✓ GCSE Combined Science
- ✓ GCSE Geography
- ✓ GCSE French
- ✓ GCSE Photography
- ✓ GCSE Art & Design (Art, Design and Craft)
- ☐ GCSE Drama
- ☐ BTEC Health and Social Care



Why we use Choice 4 and 5?

- Clashes between subjects.
- Subjects with limited student numbers.
- Appropriate course for the student.
- Not selected Geography or History choice 1.

Stage 1 – Decision

Step 1 - Core Subjects

All students study:

- ☒ GCSE English Language
- ☒ GCSE English Literature
- ☒ GCSE Mathematics



Step 2 - Science Pathway

Make one selection:

- ☐ GCSE Combined Science (Two GCSEs) or
- ☐ GCSE Separate Sciences (Three GCSEs)



Step 3 - Humanities Pathway

Make one selection:

- ☐ GCSE Geography
- ☐ GCSE History
- ☐ GCSE Geography and GCSE History



Step 4 - Languages Pathway

Selection

- ☐ GCSE Spanish or
- ☐ GCSE French or
- ☐ No GCSE Language



Qualification	Maximum 9
GCSE English Language	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GCSE English Literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GCSE Mathematics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GCSE Combined Science	<input type="checkbox"/>
GCSE Combined Science	<input type="checkbox"/>
GCSE Separate Sciences (Biology)	<input type="checkbox"/>
GCSE Separate Sciences (Chemistry)	<input type="checkbox"/>
GCSE Separate Sciences (Physics)	<input type="checkbox"/>
GCSE Geography	<input type="checkbox"/>
GCSE History	<input type="checkbox"/>
GCSE French or	<input type="checkbox"/>
GCSE Spanish	<input type="checkbox"/>
Choice 1 _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Choice 2 _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
*Choice 3 _____ (Only available if studying GCSE Combined Science and no languages option)	<input type="checkbox"/>
**Choice 4 _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
**Choice 5 _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Step 4 - Guided Subjects Max 3

Arts subjects

You can choose:

- ☐ GCSE Art and Design (Art, Design and Craft) or
- ☐ GCSE Art and Design (Textiles) or
- ☐ GCSE Art and Design (3D Design)

You can also choose

- ☐ GCSE Art and Design (Photography)

Performing Arts subjects

You can choose:

- ☐ GCSE Drama or
- ☐ BTEC Technical - Performing Arts (Dance)

You can also choose

- ☐ GCSE Dance
- ☐ GCSE Music

Human Sciences

- ☐ GCSE Psychology
- ☐ GCSE Religious Studies
- ☐ BTEC Tech Award in Health and Social Care
- ☐ BTEC Tech Award In Child Development

Professional subjects

You can choose:

- ☐ GCSE Statistics
- ☐ GCSE Business
- ☐ GCSE Media Studies
- ☐ BTEC Tech Award in Business Enterprise

Technology subjects

- ☐ GCSE Design and Technology
- ☐ BTEC Tech Award in Hospitality and Catering
- ☐ GCSE Computer Science

Physical Education subjects

- ☐ GCSE Physical Education
- ☐ Cambridge National Certificate in Sport Studies

Universities – Preference?

Liverpool University - Architecture

▶ WJEC Level 3 Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales - A

▶ Extended Project - A

▶ Leaving Certificate - Higher Level (Ireland) (first awarded in 2017) - H1, H1, H2, H2, H2, H2

▼ GCSE/National 4/National 5

GCSE Mathematics and English at grade 4/C required. Applicants with equivalent qualifications or who do not meet these GCSE requirements will be considered on an individual basis according to their circumstances.

▶ T Level

Universities – Preference?

Cambridge University – Medicine

A*A*A* - A Levels in Chemistry and Science or Maths

No GCSE requirements – Grade 8s and 9s

Universities – Preference?

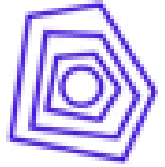
Aerospace Engineering – Bristol University

A*AA – Mathematics + 1 other science

No specific GCSE subjects required

GCSE Maths & English Grade 5+

Apprenticeships



Babcock

Level 6 Degree Apprenticeships

- You'll need a minimum of five GCSEs at grade C/4 or above, including Mathematics and English or equivalent. Plus, one of the following:
 - A-level at Grade A or above in Mathematics and a Physical Science (Chemistry, Geology, Physics & Astronomy), plus an A in one other A-level subject.



Limited Spaces – Why?

GCSE Design Technology
GCSE Separate Sciences
GCSE Psychology
GCSE Business Studies

- Specialist Staffing
- Class sizes for Health and Safety

Limited Spaces – Waiting List

GCSE Design Technology
GCSE Separate Sciences
GCSE Psychology
GCSE Business Studies

- Class Charts information
- Attendance
- Students' Year 9 assessment
- Home learning completion
- End of Unit tests
- Class Teacher Guidance
- Pastoral Team Guidance

Timetable Adjustments Deadline

October 1st 2026

1. **Decision** - Which options you would like.
Today - 6 February
2. **Selection** - via Applica online.
Monday 26 January 2026 – Friday 6 February 2026
3. **Allocation** - Informed by College of your allocations.
Term 6 – Summer Term 2026

What to select?

- **Applicaa** maximises student preference
- First select Geography/ History
- Make five more selections
- All selections may be used – Please consider carefully
- Rank your preference 1-5
- Submit by February 6th
- **Not** first come first serve.



Mrs Johnson

Director of Transition

Advice for making your options

- Do what you love
- Do what you're good at
- Do what you think you're going to need
- Do your research
- Don't pick because your friends have
- Don't pick because of the teacher

Helping Your Decision

- Year 9 Options Evening
- Tutor Taster Sessions
 - Psychology
 - Media
 - Health and Social Care
 - Child Development
 - Business Studies
- Subject Teacher
- Tutor
- 1-2-1 with Senior Leader this evening: B3.08/B3.09

Key Dates

- **Monday 12 January-Friday 23 January 2026:** Year 9 Tutor time taster sessions (for subjects not taught at KS3).
- **Thursday 15 January:** One to one virtual meetings with students who may need extra support with the process.
- **Monday 26 January:** Appicaa Online opens
- **Friday 6 February:** Appicaa Online closes

What to do now?

- Visit Subjects
- Speak to Student Leaders
- Discuss with Parents and Carers
- Review the Decisions Document in pack
- Consider the course requirements in the Subject Guide
- Talk to the experts in B3.08/B3.09
- Take our Parent Survey in C201

12/12/2025



year9options@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk