Welcome to Ivybridge Community College



It is a privilege to be the Principal of Ivybridge Community College and to be given the opportunity to share my passion and enthusiasm for education in a high performing College. Students and staff at Ivybridge Community College are driven by the commitment to providing an excellent experience for all students. Each individual is celebrated for all their gifts and talents. Inherent in everything we do is a culture of high expectation and aspiration.

We believe that all students should have access to a high quality, relevant, knowledge-rich and challenging curriculum, which promotes intellectual curiosity and prepares them for the future. The welfare and happiness of our students is of paramount importance to us and we have a dedicated pastoral care team working alongside our teachers to help students to flourish.

The students that gain the most out of being here are those who become involved in all parts of College life and we are exceptionally proud of our comprehensive and inclusive enrichment programme.

I hope that you and your child are ready to embark on this exciting journey with us.

Rachel Hutchinson Principal

Ivybridge Community College stands out within our Trust for the clarity of its leadership, the strength of its values and the professionalism with which it engages with others. Whether welcoming visitors, supporting system-wide improvement or working openly with colleagues, the College consistently demonstrates generosity of spirit alongside a relentless focus on getting better for its students. This culture is evident in the calm, purposeful environment across the College, the confidence and maturity of its young people, and the way staff work together with ambition and care. Ivybridge Community College has built a reputation not only for strong outcomes but for being a school others learn from, and that combination of excellence, openness and integrity gives me great confidence in its future.

Nat Parnell CEO, Westcountry Schools Trust

WESTCOUNTRY
SCHOOLS TRUST



Enrichment Opportunities

Participation in enrichment opportunities begin before students even start at the College but we build on this within the first few days with an Enrichment Assembly delivered to the Year Group outlining what is on offer at the College.
We have a booklet on our website detailing all the clubs and activities we offer during College breaktimes and before and after College.
We are truly inclusive and encourage all students to take part.



Ivybridge Community College Transition Programme

We know that change can be daunting and the leap from primary school to secondary school is a big step. At Ivybridge Community College we are here to guide you and your child and support you to make sure the transition is as seamless as possible.

The last year of primary school is filled with opportunities to start the transition process. We run Open Mornings at the end of Year 5 and an Open Evening at the start of Year 6. We also run 1-1, small group tours and specific transition talks throughout the year. Once places have been allocated, a member of our transition team visits every single primary school to talk to staff and get to know as much as possible about each student as an individual. We run a Parent Information Evening in July where parents/carers and students meet their Tutor, followed by an Induction Day the same month so students spend a whole day with us meeting staff and other students. We also run enhanced visits for certain students recommended by primary schools to alleviate any anxieties about starting secondary school.

During the school year, we aim to run a variety of events where teachers go out into primary schools to run activity days and we also invite students in regularly to the College to experience extra-curricular opportunities. Over the summer we run enrichment opportunities which our new students are more than welcome to attend and we provide as much support as possible to ensure they can do so. It is of the utmost importance to us to create as many opportunities as we can for students to experience life at Ivybridge Community College before they join: relationships between the child, parents/carers and the College are fundamental.

We operate on a staggered return during the first day back in September so that Year 7 students feel confident before the other Year Groups return to the College. All Tutor Groups are assigned a small group of carefully selected Year 10 Mentors who have been well trained to ensure they help the students settle in as quickly as possible.

Each student is assigned a Tutor and each Year Group has a non-teaching Pastoral Leader and a College Director. We also have a range of other pastoral support available as well as our dedicated Inclusion Team.

- Year 5 Open Mornings (June)
- Year 6 Open Evenings (September)
- Partner primary schools parent information evenings (September-October half term)
- Transition Team visits to primary schools to meet Year 6 teacher (April-July)
- Meet the New Tutor Event (July)
- Year 6 Induction Day (July)
- Summer enrichment opportunities (July-August)

Any queries about Year 6-7 Transition please contact:
transition6@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk



Character Education at Ivybridge Community College

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

The choices an individual makes determines their future, and the purpose of developing good character is the ability to make good choices.

Character allows us to flourish as individuals, and as a wider society.

The College received the Association of Character Education Quality Mark in 2025 in recognition of its work as a school of character.

At Ivybridge Community College we demonstrate:

Respect	by valuing others and our College environment and by acting with responsibility.
Aspiration	by aiming high in everything that we do.
Integrity	by doing the right thing even when no one is looking.
Compassion	by seeking to understand the feelings of others and by showing kindness.



Character education is embedded in the following areas:

Leadership and Management

All staff are role models of Character Virtues. All staff and students wear lanyards with the College values. All PowerPoints used have the College values at the bottom of the screen. These values are shared in every staff briefing and every event the College hosts. Character is caught through its prioritisation in College culture, language and role modelling.

Quality of Education

All teachers follow aspirational curriculums that strive for academic excellence. Assessments are coordinated centrally and moderated across Trust schools to support a rigorous feedback model that upholds integrity. Teachers have high aspirations for their students and prioritise the development of independent learning opportunities through an effort-driven approach. Aspirational students are celebrated through the Star Student award every lesson, Celebration Assemblies and the annual College Speech Day.

Character education is taught across a number of subjects, but is explicitly focused on in CPSHE lessons which all students receive once per fortnight within their Tutor Groups, delivered by their Tutors.

Behaviour and Attitudes

Respect is the key value that runs throughout the College's Behaviour Policy and strategy. The College's behaviour rooms (Reset and Reflection rooms) feature character displays and a restorative Behaviour Curriculum for the four values as well as for discriminatory incidents. A compassionate approach is fostered through close collaboration between the Behaviour, Pastoral and SEND Teams.

The College uses the platform ClassCharts to recognise and celebrate students showing the character virtues with positive points and Star Student Awards. There is a Character Award for students displaying excellent Personal Development in addition to Star Student. These are celebrated weekly with all staff and students in briefings and assemblies and is a way in which character is **caught** and **sought**.

Character Education

The College's Character Education programme is aligned against the College's four core values, alongside a wider Tutor Programme and assembly schedule. This links with the CPSHE programme which focuses on the four core values and British Values. Students also engage in a Literary Canon reading programme featuring books that have been chosen because of their character education themes.

Character education is sought through student engagement in the numerous enrichment opportunities for all students, with over 200 clubs running throughout the year, numerous charity endeavours and a wide range of student leadership opportunities. All students participate in the Ivybridge Charter in recognition of their enrichment engagement.

> "The personal development programme is a strength of the College."
>
> Ofsted 2025

“The very well-structured curriculum builds pupils’ knowledge skilfully over time.
Leaders and staff have designed impressive subject-specific resources which enable pupils to review their knowledge continually.”

Ofsted 2025

Excellence in Curriculum

Our Curriculum Vision

At Ivybridge Community College, it is our core purpose that all learners have access to a high quality, knowledge-rich, relevant, and challenging curriculum. Learners experience a broad and balanced curriculum that promotes intellectual curiosity and prepares them for the future.

Our aim is to deliver a coherent curriculum that inspires and builds on developing learners' knowledge and skills, helping them to become successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens.

The curriculum embraces creativity alongside a mix of more traditional subjects, blended with extensive extra-curricular enrichment opportunities, and places a high value on students' spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development; this is The Ivybridge Way.

Curriculum Design

At Ivybridge Community College, our Curriculum is a blend of three key components:

- Academic Subjects
- Personal Development
- Enrichment

Our academic curriculum is carefully designed and delivered by subject experts. For each subject, powerful knowledge is deliberately chosen and carefully sequenced at each stage to allow students to make connections and challenge and deepen their thinking and understanding.

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At Ivybridge Community College, we believe that alongside a rigorous academic curriculum, it is essential that students are provided with the opportunity to explore and develop as young learners, ready to embrace the ever changing world around them, and be encouraged to take part in a wealth of enriching experiences and activities whilst at the College.

Students will follow our CPSHE programme, alongside Character Education, which supports academic studies by helping students to develop skills such as teamwork, communication and resilience which are crucial to navigating the challenges and opportunities of the modern world. Our CPSHE programme also incorporates careers advice, guidance and information, development of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural qualities and the Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) curriculum.

Throughout Years 7 to 11, students take part in Core Physical Education each week; the College fully embraces the notion of sport for all: for enjoyment and for physical and mental well-being.

Key Stage 3 Curriculum Overview

Ivybridge Community College works closely with its partner primary schools to ensure continuity and progression from the primary phase to the secondary phase.

Our curriculum in Key Stage 3 (Years 7 to 9) recognises the National Curriculum as a minimum entitlement. All students, regardless of their starting point, follow an ambitious and far reaching curriculum. Students will study the following subjects: English, Mathematics, History, Geography, Religious Education, Science, Technology, Modern Languages (French or Spanish), Art, Drama, Music, Physical Education, ICT and Computer Science, and CPSHE.

Excellent Teaching

We provide a broad and balanced curriculum that is knowledge-rich, well sequenced and personalised. The latest research in cognitive science and education underpins our curriculum development and our learning strategy. Through its delivery in lessons, our carefully constructed curriculum challenges our students to become better thinkers, problem solvers and future learners who are intellectually curious and prepared for the future that awaits them, so that fires are burning brightly for them when it is their turn.

Below are some core principles and techniques that teachers at Ivybridge Community College are committed to.

In our lessons, you should expect to see:

100% disruption-free learning

At Ivybridge Community College, we are committed to ensuring that all students experience an education free from disruption and distraction.

Threshold

As students arrive at their lessons, teachers greet them at the door and welcome them into the classroom.

Silent starter

When students enter the classroom, the learning begins immediately. Teachers will clearly display questions for students to complete in silence, ensuring a purposeful and predictable start to lessons.

Common silencing strategy

When teachers require students to be silent they will say: “pens down, eyes on me, silence in 3-2-1.” (This might vary slightly in a computer room or a practical lesson.)

Checks for understanding

When teachers explain new knowledge or show students how to perform new skills, they will check that students understand. Teachers might ask all students to participate using whiteboards; ask students to discuss their thoughts with a peer; or expect selected students to share their answers with the whole class.



Silent independent practice

After new knowledge and skills have been taught, students will be set tasks where they practise individually for extended periods so that teachers can provide effective feedback and students’ learning becomes secure.

Live marking

When students are practising within lessons, teachers will circulate the classroom to ensure engagement with the task and evaluate student responses so that teaching can be adapted according to need. All students should receive timely and specific feedback, either live or deferred.



Literacy

At Ivybridge Community College we see reading as a gateway to the curriculum. In addition, our focus is to ensure all learners read more; read better and read for pleasure so that they can meet or exceed age-related expectations.

We have a mission to incorporate what is called Disciplinary Reading and Disciplinary Literacy in each and every subject. This involves teachers regularly reading to or with learners; encouraging extended writing using evidence-based writing strategies and employing Accountable Talk so that oracy and discussion follows a focus upon community, knowledge and reasoning.

We offer a clear diagnostic pathway for learners who require a tailored literacy catch-up curriculum to ensure that students who enter the College with low levels of literacy make rapid progress so they can access every curriculum area - even if that is a high challenge. Students are all tested on entry with a reading test which is nationally benchmarked, and which highlights the pathway they may take in their small-group intervention.

As part of the wider curriculum offer, we strongly encourage reading for pleasure and large numbers of students engage in multiple reading challenges and awards throughout the year. Our library is truly inspirational. As part of character education, all students read high quality and popular texts in our 25-minute morning Tutor Time.

Learning Resource Centre

Research has shown that reading for pleasure can promote better health and well-being and at Ivybridge Community College, we are incredibly lucky to have a fantastic space to facilitate reading in our on-site library which we call our LRC. The LRC hosts over 17,000 books but also provides audio books, DVDs and computers for students to use.
The LRC is accessible to students between the hours of 8.00am-4.30pm daily.

Our focus is to celebrate reading and we hold annual celebrations including World Book Day, the Carnegie shadowing programme, Read-a Thon and a Harry Potter day.

In addition to these celebrations we also offer:

- A whole College reading challenge that sees students read up to 42 book titles, gaining praise points along the way and culminating in our annual pizza party in July.
- Author Visits – Chris Bradford, Non Pratt and Tanya Landman have been our most recent guests.
- Weekly Reading Club available for all students across all years.

Our love for the LRC shows in the fabulous decorations around us, from painted ceiling tiles, flying books, bunting and rainbow organised books. You can not help but fall in love with reading here at Ivybridge Community College.

Reading underpins the entire curriculum.

"From Year 7, pupils who struggle with reading are supported very well through targeted and personalised provision.
Engaging and informative texts enhance pupils' learning across the curriculum."

Ofsted 2025


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Culture and Ethos at Ivybridge Community College

We are an effort driven College where high expectations promote excellence. Everyone is expected to take pride in themselves, their environment and in their learning. The highest standards of conduct are promoted and positive attitudes across our community support our learning culture. This enables our students to flourish through their curriculum so they can gain excellent qualifications, allowing them to secure their chosen future pathway. Ivybridge Community College students are empowered to impact positively on society.

At Ivybridge Community College, we pride ourselves on having a culture of excellence both inside and outside of the classroom. Our four values centre on compassion, integrity, aspiration and respect and we promote these in every aspect of College life. We have exceptionally high expectations of our students and give them every support to help them to reach their goals. Our dedicated, well-qualified and approachable staff body provide excellent teaching, support and guidance to ensure that students have every success in all aspects of their life. These high expectations mean that students can learn without disruption and can flourish as they should.

Champion Every Child

It is the social entitlement of every child, from every household and every background to learn about the best of what has been thought and said. We champion each and every learner ensuring equal access to a high-quality academic curriculum and enrichment beyond the classroom. Our inclusive environment celebrates diversity and supports all young people to become their best self, harnessing their talents and interests.

Ivybridge Community College promotes a strong and safe culture of safeguarding. Every student that joins the College has a Tutor who they see every morning, a non-teaching Pastoral Leader and a dedicated College Director.

We have a strong knowledge of all of our students: we believe in the importance of good quality, strong relationships between staff and students. We have pastoral systems in place for students who may need further support and our team will work closely with students and parents/carers to put in place suitable intervention if necessary.

Safeguarding

Ivybridge Community College is committed to the safeguarding of all its students, staff and visitors. Safeguarding is of paramount importance and we have a moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all of our students, by providing a caring, positive, safe and exciting environment, whereby the personal, social, physical and moral development of the individual child is supported.

The College ensures that safeguarding legislation and guidance are adhered to and taken into account when developing and revisiting policies, procedures and associated arrangements.

> “The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.”
>
> Ofsted 2025

Enrichment At Ivybridge Community College

The Ivybridge Charter

Our Charter recognises that every student is entitled, regardless of their background, to develop their character and skill so they can excel to be the very best that they can be. It offers all students the opportunities to excel and achieve their aspirations, whether in creative, sporting, academic or leadership fields, to support them in their chosen future pathways, through a wide range of opportunities.

From the day a student starts College to the end of Year 13, every time they are involved in an activity that meets the charter's criteria, this will be officially recorded in their Charter Recognition file. This recognises a student's participation and achievements.

Enrichment

Enrichment is at the very heart of Ivybridge Community College, woven into all parts of College life and helping to provide a truly rounded educational experience for all students.

The Enrichment Programme offers a broad range of clubs and activities. We update the Enrichment Programme every half term and advertise it on the College website and on social media, email it to all parents/carers and place it in the College Bulletin.

Enrichment opportunities include Athletics, Art, Chess, Dance, Debating, Drama, Fitness, Football, Green Power, Gymnastics, Knitting, Music, Musical Theatre, Netball, Photography, Reading, Rugby, Student Leadership, Tennis, Writing Clubs and many more.

Developing students' passions

While a large proportion of Ivybridge Community College students' time is spent on ensuring their academic success, we also believe in helping students develop their characters; find out more about their interests and passions; and invest in their social, moral and cultural life skills. The enrichment activities provide opportunities for students to learn new skills, make new friends and develop their confidence, teamwork and communication skills.

Ivybridge Community College follows the Department for Education (DfE) and Ofsted's guidance to ensure there is enrichment entitlement for every child, aiming for a well-rounded education covering high-quality opportunities across five core areas:

- Civic Engagement: Focused on volunteering and community impact.
- Arts and Culture: Expanding creative horizons.
- Nature and Outdoors: Including outdoor adventures and residential trips.
- Sports: Promoting physical health and teamwork.
- Life Skills: Practical training in areas such as cooking, personal finance and coding.

This initiative seeks to ensure all students have access to extracurricular activities beyond the core curriculum. Ivybridge Community College emphasise the importance of Character Education and Personal Development.

We believe Enrichment will:

1. Help students develop their interests and talents
2. Enable students to develop their character, including resilience, confidence and independence
3. Teach students how to keep physically and mentally healthy
4. Prepare students for future success
5. Equip students to be responsible, respectful and active citizens

What is the Co-Curriculum Programme?

Our Co-Curriculum programme is designed to foster the whole person through our three core pillars: Character, Confidence and Contribution.

The Co-Curriculum is a curriculum enrichment initiative for all students in Years 7-12. Students will take part in activities linked to the following themes:

Innovation (STEM)
New Skills (Awards and Qualifications)
Service (Belonging to something bigger)
Performance and Creativity (Arts and Sport)
Initiative (Leadership)
Resilience (Character)
Excellence (Academic and Skills)

Purpose and Benefits of the Co-Curriculum Programme

- Create memories
- Provide opportunities for all
- Provide opportunities for alternative learning
- Promote attendance in school
- Provide enrichment within the school week
- Sense of belonging throughout the year
- Develop friendships across Year Groups
- Stronger links to future pathway opportunities

The aim of this programme is to reflect the interests and aspirations of our students, empowering every student to grow, lead and thrive.

PE and Sport

PE and Sport plays a central role at Ivybridge Community College. The College has a genuine passion for physical activity at all levels of ability – from participation for all through to high-level competitive sport.

The College has a coordinated approach and structures that support young people in their development of sport. Our vision is to give every child at Ivybridge Community College the opportunity to pursue their interest in sport, physical activity, and physical education. We will do this by providing access to excellent teaching and coaching, and sports provision at all levels of ability.

Students can pursue their interest in sport by accessing opportunities in the following areas:

1. **Physical Education Curriculum** Taught in lessons
2. **Sports' Academy** Additional opportunities with sports coaches for identified students
3. **Sport Talent Support** Additional support for students who are performing at a competitive level
4. **Sport Enrichment** Extra-curricular opportunities in a range of sports
5. **Sport Leadership and Qualifications** Additional opportunities to lead in sport or gain qualifications
6. **Community Sports** Extra-curricular opportunities that extend into our community offer



Ivybridge Community College: Uniform Items



1. Navy blue College blazer
2. College tie (worn with a minimum of five stripes showing below the knot)
3. Standard tartan patterned College skirt, worn at full length with no rolls at the waist
4. Grey, formal trousers, no brushed denim, jeans or chinos. Black is not permitted
5. Navy blue, plain, v-neck, knitted jumper or with embroidered College badge (optional)
6. White shirt/blouse which buttons up to the neck and is tucked in at all times
7. Socks - plain black, grey or white, below the knee; black coloured tights. Sports socks are not permitted
8. Lanyard and identification badge (worn at all times)

Physical Education Kit for Students



Essential

- Navy blue sports top with embroidered College badge
- Navy blue shorts or skort, plain navy blue leggings or tracksuit trousers
- Navy blue sports socks and white sports socks
- Trainers
- Rounded moulded studs (no trainers, blades or metal studs) for accessing the All-Weather Pitch
- Shin pads are compulsory for Football
- Gum shields are compulsory for Rugby

Optional extras

- College three-quarter-zip, long-sleeved top or plain navy blue three quarter zip long sleeve top (no hoodies)

Protective clothing for all students

- **Design Technology**: white or natural apron
- **Food and Nutrition**: clean, hygienic apron

Equipment for Learning

The equipment below is compulsory to support accessing the high quality Teaching and Learning in lessons:

Essential

- Blue/black pen
- Purple pen
- Pencil
- Rubber
- Ruler
- Whiteboard pen
- Calculator
  Casio Scientific Calculator fx-83GTCW-W
- Reading book
- Pencil case

Through our Strong Starts Programme, we support all students to be ready to learn. We provide uniform and equipment if forgotten in the morning.

"There is a well coordinated focus on ensuring that any barriers to pupil's wellbeing and academic success are addressed swiftly and effectively." Ofsted 2025



Information Regarding Bus Services

Full details regarding transport can be found on the College website under the College Information/Bus Routes.

Devon County Council Buses

If your child lives within the catchment area, Devon County Council will provide free school transport for those students:

- whose nearest secondary school to their home address is Ivybridge Community College (i.e. are 'in-catchment');
- who live more than three miles away by the shortest walking-route; and
- who are of statutory school age (but not Post-16 where students have to pay).

You can find out more about this free school transport offer from the Devon County Council website at:

https://new.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-and-college-transport

College Operated Routes

If you do not live in-catchment, the College operates a number of bus routes on which you can book a place for an annual fee. The current fees for this are on our website. Prices and routes will be reviewed in late spring, following discussion with our existing coach providers. The College will continue to do everything it can to ensure a value for money service.

Details of the current routes, terms and conditions and code of conduct can all be found on the College website. **Please note that these routes are subject to change dependent upon demand.**

https://www.ivybridge.devon.sch.uk/busroutes

You can enquire online through our website and if you have any queries please email:
buses@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk
with your child's name, Year Group and postcode.

Please note that the College operates a NO PASS NO TRAVEL policy, so it is important that your child carries the bus pass on every journey.