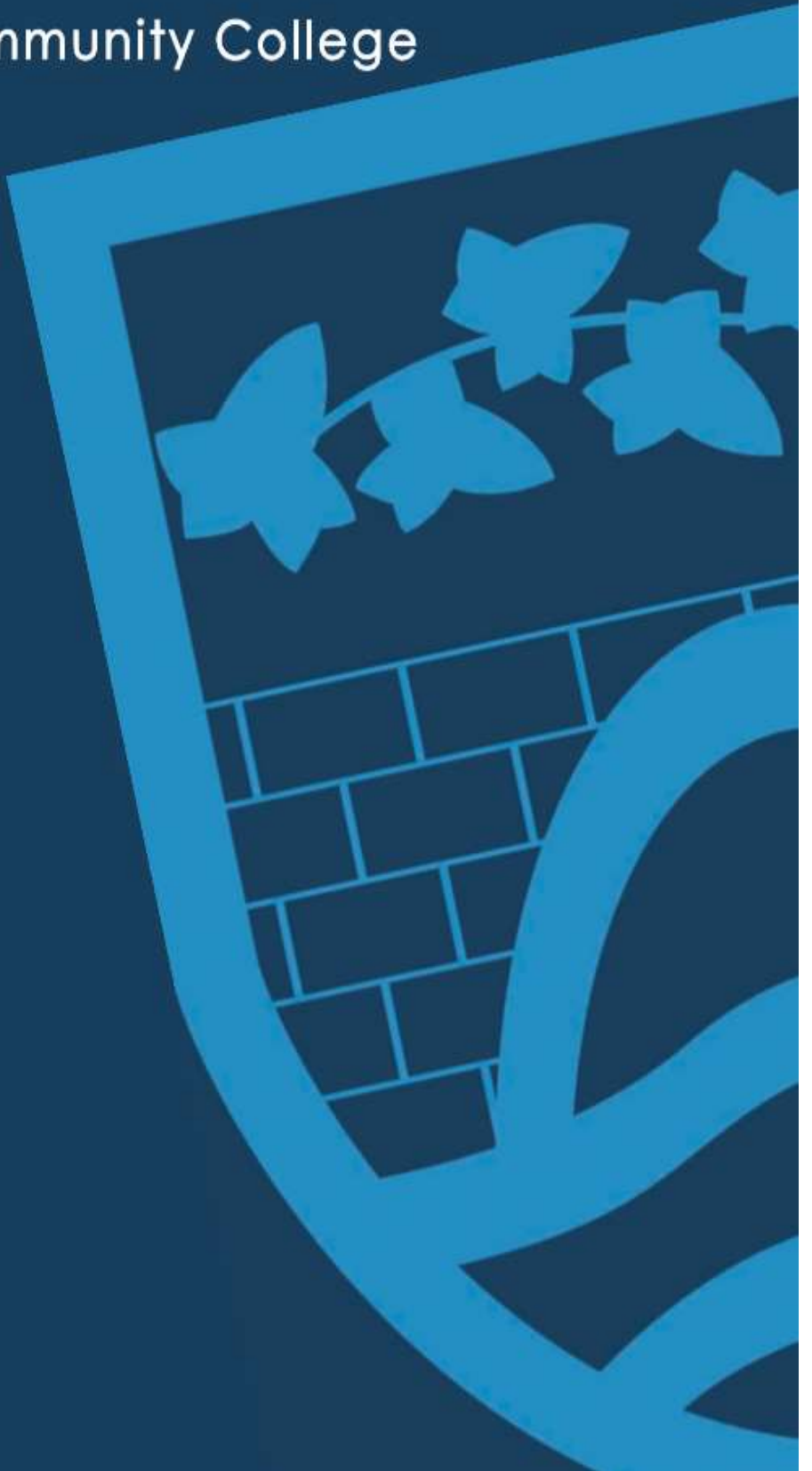


Our Curriculum Vision

Ivybridge Community College

The Ivybridge Way



'The job of a good curriculum is to inspire teachers, not instruct them.'

Russell Hobby

Curriculum Definition

"The curriculum is a framework for setting out the aims of a programme of education, including the **knowledge and skills** to be gained at each stage (intent); for translating that framework over time into a **structure** and **narrative**, within an institutional context (implementation) and for evaluating what **knowledge and skills pupils have gained** against expectations (impact/achievement)." Ofsted

Curriculum Purpose

At Ivybridge Community College it is our **intent** that **all** learners have access to a **high quality, 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 learner's **knowledge** and **skills**, helping them to all 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, living out The Ivybridge Way.

Curriculum Coherence

Our curriculum from Year 7 through to Year 11 provides a **broad** and **ambitious** programme of study for all students. The National Curriculum provides the framework from which we base our **intent** and **core knowledge** in each subject. Teachers then develop exciting and stimulating lessons to promote the development of student knowledge, understanding and skills. Our **curriculum delivery** is underpinned by **well-founded educational research** and **pedagogy** to ensure all students are given the best possible opportunities.

Student experience at College goes far beyond the rigour of academic subjects; students learn through **enrichment opportunities** offered at the College: clubs and societies, enrichment week, curriculum subject trips, outside speakers, careers events. All learners have the opportunity to develop their talents, interests and future self.

In Year 7 and 8, the curriculum is well-balanced **with over 60%** of the time each fortnight devoted to subjects beyond **Maths, English** and **Science**. For example, 8 hours a fortnight is devoted to Technology and the Arts, each taught equally as separate disciplines, 6 hours a fortnight on Languages and 8 hours of Humanities lessons taught separately as History and Geography. This allows **core attainment targets** of the **National Curriculum** to be covered across these subjects ahead of student choices from Year 9 upwards. We aim to ensure all subjects are taught by **highly qualified subject specialists** to ensure the **depth of knowledge** provides **strong foundations** for future learning.

Throughout Years 9 to 11, students have the opportunity to **strengthen** their curriculum across a **wider choice** of **diverse disciplines**. Ivybridge has gained national recognition with **World Class School status** for the **breadth** and **delivery** of subjects that many schools would be

unable to facilitate. Students have the opportunity to focus in on their main interests allowing them to excel and study these to a greater depth. Thus Ivybridge learners will continue to build on prior knowledge and understanding, maintaining a strong academic core, whilst ensuring that all curriculum routes are ambitious and relevant for all students.

We currently offer a choice of **25 possible Guided Subjects**, allowing students to have an **individualised curriculum**. Subject specialists across all areas facilitate our ability to offer this range, providing students with the **opportunity** and **flexibility** to be prepared for life beyond the confines of school.

The curriculum time given to Guided Subjects from Year 9 upwards provides the time for teachers to explore the subject to the **greater level of knowledge** needed for and beyond the new 9-1 GCSE specifications and **exploiting links between subjects** and **disciplines**. We believe that this will further foster students' **love of learning** and prepare them with not only the knowledge, but skills and **resilience** needed for further **study** and **careers**.

Strong advice and guidance throughout the 'choices' stage ensures that learners and parents/carers are well equipped to make **informed** and **ambitious choices**. A blend of strategies, including taster sessions, options evening, individual subject parents' evening and a **one to one guidance meeting**, enables students and their parents/carers to look beyond the immediate and make a **fully informed choice** about the collection of subjects they are choosing: those that provide them with the **broad, balanced** and **appropriate** curriculum needed for their future goals.

Our **knowledge rich curriculum**, supported by the **KITE programme**, is beginning to raise the cultural capital of all students.

Our CPSHE programme **supports** and **enhances** our curriculum. Universal, progressive and age appropriate, it meets the needs of all. CPSHE develops students' knowledge, skills and **personal characteristics** to keep them healthy and safe alongside preparing them for life in modern Britain and the world of work. Alongside this, **Character Education** supports academic studies and plays a key role in The Ivybridge Way. This **holistic approach** helps students to develop skills such as **teamwork, communication** and **resilience**; crucial to navigating the **challenges** and **opportunities** of the modern world, and are increasingly valued by employers.

At Post-16, an equally broad and ambitious subject offer meets the needs of our Sixth Form students, with **vocational** and the most **academic** and **traditional** routes possible. A carefully mapped out and bespoke Tutor programme alongside CPSHE ensures that all Sixth Form learners develop the wider skills, knowledge and experiences needed for their future careers.

Curriculum Design

All Curriculum leaders have carefully considered the **intent** and **coherence** of their Curriculum. Each subject delivers a 'learning journey' designed around a beginning, a middle and an end.

Mapping documents for each subject demonstrate how **knowledge builds over time**, how topics are **revisited** and **extended** throughout the students learning journey and how topics are **interleaved** and allow them to readily make **connections** and **deepen** their knowledge. These documents provide the bigger picture with Schemes of Learning providing the detail.

All Schemes of Learning at the College are **'live'** documents that are reviewed regularly, developed reactively and are designed to procure knowledge and skills over a period of 5 to 7 years.

Developing our Curriculum expertise

All Curriculum Leaders and classroom teachers are constantly reflecting and being challenged on Curriculum Intent and Implementation.

The following questions are posed;

- What is the curriculum intent/vision of your subject area?
- How do you ensure our current curriculum model remains fit for purpose?
- Why do you start with that unit at the beginning of Year 7?
- How do you ensure the transition from KS2 to 3 is strong with no dip in learning?
- How do you build knowledge and challenge from one year to the next?
- How do you know that students have acquired the intended knowledge?
- How does your subject support the knowledge and skills across other subjects and what do you do to support the transfer of knowledge between disciplines?
- Can you describe how the learning of topic X develops throughout the curriculum?

Could the students in your room answer the following?

- I saw you learning about X in the lesson, tell me a little about it?
- Thinking back to last term, I see you learned Y. Tell me what you remember about it?
- How does your teacher help you to remember important content?
- How does this work link to what you did last week/last years?

