

Ivybridge Community College

# Curriculum Guide

"Ivybridge Community College aims to provide an integrated, comprehensive curriculum in an environment where the whole learning experience is one of enjoyment, opportunity, endeavour, achievement and excellence."

# Ivybridge Community College Curriculum

## Aims

**Our aim is to meet the needs of young people in Ivybridge Community College preparing them for adult and working life in the 21st Century.**

The educational vision and curriculum design for Ivybridge Community College recognises that:

- The world of 2026 will be very different to the world of today.
- The pace of change is increasing, hence the importance for flexibility.
- Young people have and will have increasingly, greater access to information and learning material independently of College.
- Curriculum delivery should involve the use of adults other than teachers. These could include support staff, graduates, artists, sports people, people from industry and business to support curriculum delivery.
- Student experience at College should go far beyond the rigour of academic subjects; learning through enrichment opportunities should be at the core.

**Ivybridge Community College's Curriculum Policy is based on the following aims, to:**

- Have students at its heart, putting their interests above those of the institution.
- Have a curriculum that is fit for purpose, offering scaffolding and personalisation through academic and vocational routes.
- Be a centre of excellence in learning and teaching, and committed to continuous improvement.
- Prepare all students for a successful adult and working life in a 21st Century global society.
- Exceed national standards in achievement, attainment and progression.
- Nurture the talents of all and celebrate success.
- Work with Primary Schools to ease transition.
- Involve the community, parents and carers.
- Be a learning environment that is above all else, inspiring.

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 Design

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

- Academic Subjects
- Personal Development
- Enrichment

Alongside rigorous academic studies, we believe that 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.

In all year groups, 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 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.

In addition, all students will study Forensic Reading. The aim of the programme is to support our students to establish a strong foundation of knowledge, vocabulary, understanding, phraseology and experience, which helps form a basis for success in difficult examinations and the challenges of adult life beyond their time in College. Forensic Reading will expose our students to challenging, complex and academic texts which will not only develop their vocabulary but also their ability to appreciate what makes a great writer. In essence, the focus is on putting language under the microscope to arrive at a deeper understanding of it (hence the word 'Forensic').

The Forensic Reading programme core purpose can be summarised as:

- Supporting reading for pleasure.
- Developing a fascination for learning new things.
- Building the ability to contribute from an informed perspective.
- Developing language analysis of high quality/challenging texts.
- The development of oracy (discussion and debate are central to Forensic Reading).

Each child will be given a high-quality anthology in which all of the Forensic Reading texts can be found. They contain other visual stimuli including pictures, photos, advertisements, timelines, as well as blank boxes in which students can undertake writing activities. The content is unapologetically hard-hitting and thought-provoking, intended to spark discussion, interest and opinions in young people.





# Year 7 and 8

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

On a fortnightly timetable, the hours comprise:

## Subject and number of one-hour lessons per fortnight in Years 7 and 8

	Year 7	Year 8
English	7	7
Mathematics	6	6
Biology	2	2
Chemistry	2	2
Physics	2	2
Physical Education	4	4
Design and Technology	2	2
MFL – French or Spanish	5	6
Art	2	2

	Year 7	Year 8
Drama	2	1
Music	1	2
ICT	1	1
RE	3	2
History	4	4
Geography	4	4
Forensic Reading	2	2
CPSHE	1	1

## NOTES

### DESIGN and TECHNOLOGY

This is taught as a carousel across the Design Technology disciplines.

### LITERACY AND NUMERACY

Selected students receive additional Literacy and Numeracy lessons during Year 7 and 8 to support their transition from the Primary phase. These students therefore follow a bespoke MFL curriculum for 1 hour each week focusing on Language and Culture.

## Setting structure Years 7 and 8

Each year group is sub-divided into 4 populations. These populations are reorganised at the end of each year to allow students to meet and work with a wider group of peers. Students are set in some subjects in Year 7 and 8 based upon their ability. This is driven by KS2 data and feedback from Primary Schools. Sets are reviewed carefully at each Assessment Point to ensure that students are in the correct set to maximise their progress.

Subject	Setting structure (where appropriate)	Other subjects in the same sets but not set by ability in this subject
Maths	<b>4 sets in each year population</b> Upper 1                      Middle 1 Upper 2                      Middle 2	<b>Year 7:</b> ICT, Music, Drama, Art. <b>Year 8:</b> Science only
English	<b>4 sets in each year population</b> 2 Upper sets                      1 group which also receives additional 1 Middle set                      Literacy and Numeracy	<b>Year 7:</b> MFL, History, Geography, RE, Science. FR. <b>Year 8:</b> MFL, History, Geography, RE, Drama, Music, ICT, Art, Forensic Reading
PE	Set at Christmas based on ability	
DT	Mixed Groupings	





# Years 9 to 11

## All students must follow the Core Subjects

Throughout Years 9 to 11, students have the opportunity to focus in on their main interests allowing them to excel and study these subjects in greater depth. Ivybridge learners will continue to build on prior knowledge and understanding, maintaining a strong academic core, whilst ensuring that all curriculum routes are ambitious for all students.

### All students must follow the Core Subjects:

#### Mathematics

(a course which covers all aspects of Mathematics at either Higher or Foundation tier)

#### English (Language and Literature courses)

#### Science (Separate Sciences or Combined options are available)

#### CPSHE

#### Forensic Reading

#### Physical Education (Core PE).

Students can then choose from our Guided Subjects to complete their programme of study. Students are provided with thorough advice and guidance when making their Guided Subject choices.

The Curriculum structure is then developed and reviewed each year to meet student needs and requests.



“Students are inspired to be the best versions of themselves and succeed in every aspect of their lives.”

Izzy, Year 9



## Core Subjects

- GCSE **English Language**
- GCSE **English Literature**
- GCSE **Mathematics**
- GCSE **Science**

**Combined Science** (equivalent to 2 GCSE examinations) or

**Separate Sciences** (equivalent to 3 GCSE examinations, will take up one option choice)

## Possible Curriculum Routes (these are suggestions only)

Students seeking a future in A Levels Post 16 and who may have aspirations to study at a Russell Group University, may choose to study the highly academic and ambitious Ebacc subjects:

- Separate Sciences
- French or Spanish
- Geography or History
- One other subject GCSE

Students seeking a future in the Sixth Form to study A Levels and National Diploma subjects and who may have aspirations for higher education, training or employment may choose:

- Separate Science
- Geography or History
- Two other subjects at GCSE/Vocational Level

Students seeking a challenging and flexible route in preparation for a vocational/apprenticeship route and later, further education or employment may choose:

- Three or four guided subject choices as recommended;  
at least one choice is likely to be at Vocational Level

## Guided Subjects

Students select a further four subjects (unless recommended otherwise), including at least one of the subjects written in italics. from the list below:

- Art and Design
- Business Studies/Economics
- *Computer Science*
- Dance
- Design and Technology
- Drama
- Enterprise
- Fashion and Textiles
- Food and Nutrition
- *Geography*
- Health and Social Care
- History
- Information Technology (ICT)
- Media Studies
- *Modern Foreign Languages*  
*French / Spanish*
- Music
- Photography
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies
- *Separate Sciences*
- Sociology

## Subject hours table for Year 9 upwards

Subject	One-hour lessons per fortnight: Year 9	One-hour lessons per fortnight: Year 10	One-hour lessons per fortnight: Year 11
English	7	7	8
Mathematics	8	8	8
Science	9*	9*	9*
Physical Education	3	3	4
Forensic Reading	2	1	0
Guided Subject 1	5	5	5
Guided Subject 2	5	5	5
Guided Subject 3	5	5	5
Guided Subject 4	5	5	5

“Ivybridge is an exceptional school with teachers who make fun lessons and really engage people in the class.”

Matthew, Year 8

\*Students to take Separate Sciences also have an additional 5 lessons via one of their Guided Subjects





## Setting structure Year 9 Guided Subjects are mixed ability

Maths, English and Science are taught in 4 populations, each subject has independent setting.

### Subject Setting structure

<b>Maths</b>	4 populations 4 sets in each, taught in ability groups Sets 1, 2 Higher (grades 4-9) Sets 3, 4 Higher (grades 1-5)
<b>English</b>	4 populations 2 Upper and 2 Middle sets in each
<b>Science</b>	4 populations Mixed ability groups Separates and combined taught separately

Core subjects are given the flexibility to set their classes in a way that best suits the needs of their subject. Therefore, Maths, English and Science have unique setting structures. All Guided Subjects are taught in mixed ability sets.

## Years 10 and 11

Maths, English and Science are taught in 2 populations, each subject has independent setting.

### Subject Setting structure (where appropriate)

<b>Maths</b>	2 populations 9 sets in each, taught in ability groups Sets 1-5 Higher (grades 4-9) Sets 6-9 Foundation (grades 1-5)
<b>English</b>	2 populations Upper and Middle sets
<b>Science</b>	2 populations groupings Mixed ability groups Separates and Combined taught separately



"The teachers were so supportive when choosing options. The information booklet was very helpful, it guided me in the right direction and helped me to make the right decisions."

Kourtney, Year 9

*Note: Guided Subjects are taught in mixed ability classes.*



# Sixth Form

## A Levels

Art, Craft & Design

Biology

Business

Chemistry

Computer Science

Dance

Design Technology

Drama and Theatre

Economics

English Language & Literature

English Literature

Film Studies

French (AS and A Level)

Geography

History

Mathematics

Further Mathematics

Core Mathematics (AS)

Media Studies

Music

Photography

Physical Education

Physics

Politics

Psychology

Religious Studies

Sociology

Spanish (AS and A Level)

Textiles Design

## Extended Diplomas

Sport Development, Coaching and Fitness

## Subsidiary Diplomas and Extended Certificates

Extended Certificate in Applied Business

Extended Certificate in Applied Single Science

WJEC Diploma in Criminology

Extended Certificate Health & Social Care

Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma in IT

Extended Certificate in Performing Arts

Extended Certificate in Applied Psychology

RSL Subsidiary Diploma for Music Practitioners

Uniformed Protective Services

The majority of A Level courses have 9 hours of lessons per fortnight, with the vocational courses having either 27 or 9 hours depending on their A Level equivalences.

In addition to this, students will have a Tutor block for 15 minutes each day and a fortnightly 1 hour CPSHE lesson which follows a bespoke programme of activities and themes which harness spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development, as well as careers advice and guidance.

Subjects are timetabled into four Option columns once Sixth Form applications have been made. This allows greater flexibility in timetable design and the ability to respond to the students' choices, rather than predefining Option blocks in which students must choose from.





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[www.ivybridge.devon.sch.uk](http://www.ivybridge.devon.sch.uk)

**Rachel Hutchinson** Principal

**Heather Lilley** Deputy Principal: Curriculum

Ivybridge Community College, Harford Rd, Ivybridge, PL21 0JA [† 01752 691000](tel:01752691000)

[e icc@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk](mailto:icc@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk)