

Step 1 - Core Subjects

All students study:

- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE English Language
- GCSE English Literature



Step 2 - Science Pathway

Make one selection:

- GCSE Combined Science (two GCSEs) **or**
- GCSE Separate Sciences (three GCSEs)

(Assessments during Year 9 will inform the selection process for separate science allocation.)



Step 3 - Humanities Pathway

Make one selection:

- GCSE Geography
- GCSE History
- GCSE Geography **and** GCSE History



Step 4 - Languages Pathway

Make one 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"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
GCSE Combined Science	<input type="checkbox"/> <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 _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Choice 4 (reserve) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Choice 5 (reserve) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Step 5 - Guided Subjects

Select up to 5

Creative Arts

- 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

- GCSE Drama **or**
- BTEC Tech Award - Performing Arts (Dance)

You can also choose:

- GCSE Dance
- GCSE Music

Human Sciences

- GCSE Sociology **or**
- GCSE Psychology

You can also choose:

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

Professional Subjects

- GCSE Business **or**
- BTEC Tech Award in Business Enterprise

You can also choose:

- GCSE Economics
- GCSE Statistics
- GCSE Media Studies

Technology

- GCSE Design and Technology
- GCSE Food and Nutrition
- GCSE Computer Science

Physical Education

- GCSE Physical Education **or**
- Cambridge National Certificate in Sport Studies

Key Stage 4 Curriculum

All students study to achieve **nine** Level 2 qualifications. This can be a combination of GCSEs and BTEC subjects. These qualifications are made up of core subjects, humanities and optional subjects which build character and develop the whole child.

All students study a personal development programme to include PE (physical education), PHSE (personal, health, spiritual and economic education), RSE (relationships and sex education), and RE (religious education). These are statutory programmes of study for all students in UK schools.

Core Subjects

Mathematics and English

All students are required to study GCSE Mathematics, GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature.

Science

Science will be studied as either:

- **Combined Science** (equivalent to two GCSE qualifications, covering all three science disciplines).
- **Separate Sciences** (equivalent to three GCSE qualifications. Assessments during Year 9 will inform the selection process for separate science allocation. Students achieving highly in home learning, in-class and summative assessments will be allocated the Separate Sciences pathway. If allocated, separate sciences will occupy one option.

Humanities

All students will select at least one humanities subject - GCSE Geography or GCSE History. You are able to select both.

Languages

All students are strongly encouraged to select a language from Spanish or French.

Students will only be able to select the language they have studied throughout Key Stage 3.

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

Many students at Ivybridge Community College study a combination of subjects to make up The English Baccalaureate (EBacc).

These subjects maintain a strong academic core that focus on the most traditional GCSE qualifications. Studying this collection of qualifications is recognised and held in high regard by some universities such as Oxbridge and the Russell Group Universities.

In order to achieve the EBacc, students will need to gain grade 5-9 passes in **Mathematics, English and Science** as well as a **Modern Foreign Language** (French or Spanish) and a **Humanities** subject (Geography or History).

The recommendation to select subjects to achieve the EBacc should be based on current levels of progress, as well as hard work grades in these subjects.

Guided Subjects

Part of what makes Ivybridge Community College unique is the breadth of options that students are able to select from in the Guided Subjects section. These subjects complement their **Core Subjects** and allow them to focus on the areas which they enjoy and are interested in the most.

Through **Guided Subjects**, students will have the opportunity to acquire a broad and deep knowledge base from a wide range of qualifications that will suite their interests, expertise and needs and support their futures.

Most students study two or three Guided Subjects. The number of guided subjects studied depends on the options made in humanities, science and languages. (See over).

Some subjects are **GCSE** qualifications and others are called '**Vocational**' qualifications. These are equally regarded to GCSEs and are equivalent in value at a Level 2. These subjects have larger coursework components and lesser final examination weighting.

Guidance and Further Support

For further guidance and support, please use the following staff:

Tutor, Subject Teachers, Heads of Department - (see the subject guide), Mrs Hughes (Careers Advisor), Mr Elliott-Smith (College Director - Year 9), Mrs Johnson (Director of Transition), Mr Willow (Director of Sixth Form)

Further one to one meetings will be available in College during the Year 9 Parents' Evening in January should students need them to finalise their choices prior to the application deadline.

Further advice on the Selection process is available in our Applica "**How to apply**" guide in your pack.

If you need further advice on the application process or logging in to the options program, Applica, contact us via email:

year9options@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk



IVYBRIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE Options Guide

Welcome to your Options Guide.

This document is designed to guide you through the process of deciding on your Key Stage 4 curriculum to ensure you have the qualifications, skills, knowledge and experiences that you need for your future.

Read through the information in the subject guide thoroughly. If you need any assistance with either the process or the qualifications you can study, please book an appointment to see one of our expert Information and Guidance Team.

We are very proud to be able offer our broad curriculum, which enables you to have the best possible experience through Key Stage 4 and achieve the highest grade qualifications possible. It can feel daunting to make decisions about your future in Year 9, but there are a few general pointers that you should consider.

When choosing your Key Stage 4 curriculum, consider:

1. Your academic strengths and where you attain well.
2. What you are interested in.
3. What you may need for your future career, employment or further education ambitions.
4. Advice and opinions of your parents/carers, tutor, and your subject teachers. Tell them about your ideas and listen to theirs.
5. Spending time researching the subjects you have not yet studied — we have a brilliant selection and know there will be something for everyone.

Things you **should not base your decisions** on:

1. What your friends are doing.
2. Who your favourite teacher is - you may not be in their class in Year 10 or 11.

We know that through partnership with your parents/carers and your teachers, you will arrive at deciding a really exciting programme of study that will maximise your future potential and help realise your future aspirations.

Best wishes,

Oli Elliott -Smith
College Director - Year 9



Respect • Aspiration • Integrity • Compassion

