

November 2024

Re: Year 9 Curriculum GCSE Options for 2025/2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Your child is about to begin a new and important phase in their education. In Year 9, our students make selections about the subjects they wish to study for their Year 10 to 11 Learning Journey. Making well informed decisions on which subjects to take through to Year 11 is imperative in ensuring smooth and rapid progress towards gaining high quality and appropriate qualifications. These choices must be carefully thought out, taking on-board all advice and guidance given, as they will have a significant bearing on your child's future.

We have an established process at Ivybridge Community College to ensure your child makes the choices that best meet their capabilities, needs and aspirations. Therefore, in order to provide the fullest information to help students make the best choices, we warmly invite you to our **Year 9 Options Evening on Thursday, 12 December 2024**.

The evening runs from 5.00 – 7.00pm. Throughout this time, you and your child will be able to visit each subject area to ask questions and discuss potential subject choices directly with the staff in departments at the College. You are also invited to attend a presentation detailing the options process as well as guidance on how your child will make their choices via our online system. Please see below for your scheduled presentation, which will be located in the Dining Hall:

Session timings	Tutor group
5.00 - 5.30pm	WNE, DNT, SHW, SND, FSN
5.30 - 6.00pm	SEA, AKY/STN, RLY/HLD, RUS, RND
6.00 - 6.30pm	PMD, MTN/MRD, WRT, RDR

On Thursday, 12 December, your child will receive an Options Pack containing guidance on the process and a Subject Course Guide, detailing course breakdowns and assessment requirements.

The Year 9 Parents' Evening is then scheduled to take place virtually on Thursday, 23 January 2025 from 3.30 to 6.30pm. We hope that you will be able to attend this to discuss your child's work and academic progress with their subject teachers in order to help finalise final subject choices. If you have any questions about your child's choices there will be an opportunity to book a one-to-one meeting with a member of the Year 9, SEND or Leadership Team, this meeting will also take place on Thursday, 23 January. Appointments will be made in the same way as Tutor/Parents' Evening appointments with a link sent to you online. Further details of this evening and how to book appointments will be released shortly.

On **Thursday, 23 January 2025**, all Year 9 students will be emailed a link from Applicaa via their **College email address** to make their Option choices. This link will allow them access to Applicaa, the Options Online system. Once logged on each student **must** remember their own password which they will be asked to create so that they can log in and out until they are ready to submit their final choices. To reassure you, all choices submitted from **Thursday, 23 January to Thursday, 30 January 2025** will be treated in exactly the same way; this is not run on a first come, first served basis. Once the initial Options have been submitted all parents/carers will be emailed to confirm the choices made.

If the choices need to be amended your child will have to resubmit a different set of choices. Parents/carers will then receive a new email from Applicaa listing the new choices, which you can then approve.

A step-by-step guide on how to submit choices via Applicaa Options Online will be found in the Options Pack provided on the Options Evening.

If you have any questions regarding Year 9 Options, please email the dedicated Options email address: year9options@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk

Yours faithfully

Caroline Johnson
Director of Transition

Oliver Elliot-Smith
Year 9 College Director