



IPSWICH SCHOOL

CURRICULUM POLICY

At Ipswich School our aim in the timetabled curriculum is to provide:

- breadth, so that all pupils are exposed to varied areas of learning
- balance between the different subjects
- relevance, so that pupils will see a reason for studying
- flexibility within the options that are available at GCSE, AS and A level
- the opportunity for all pupils to learn and make progress
- preparation for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

All pupils of compulsory school age receive a full-time supervised education. This education is intended to give pupils experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative areas.

The table attached shows the present distribution of periods and the options system currently in use in Years 7-11. The core curriculum of subjects provides the opportunity for pupils to acquire skills in speaking and listening, literacy and numeracy. In Years 7 and 8, all pupils receive a broad introductory curriculum which gives them experience in all of the areas outlined above. Thereafter an element of choice is introduced to enable pupils to explore those subjects more fully for which they have a natural enthusiasm and/or aptitude. Specific details of the subjects studied follow. These arrangements are reviewed annually and may be subject to change.

In **Year 7** pupils choose either Spanish or French as their modern foreign language. Maths is taught in sets that are arranged part way through the year. All other subjects are taught in non-setted classes.

In **Year 9** Maths is taught in sets. There is a choice between Latin, Classical Civilisation, German and Russian and this choice determines the setting for other subjects, with some limited scope for broad ability banding. One set of able pupils studies an additional language (i.e. Latin and German or Latin and Russian). The timetable allows for this option by reducing (by one) the number of lessons per fortnight in English, History, Geography and PRE.

In **Years 10 and 11** Maths, English and Science are taught in groups setted by ability. All other subjects are taught in groups determined by subject choice but with an element of setting by ability in French/Spanish. The Life Skills carousel is taught in House groups.

In the **Sixth Form (Years 12 and 13)** pupils are taught in groups determined by option choices. The following subjects are available:

Art	French	Philosophy of Religion & Ethics
Biology	Geography	Physical Education
Business Studies	German	Physics
Chemistry	History	Psychology
Design and Technology	Latin	Russian
Drama & Theatre Studies	Mathematics	Spanish
Economics	Further Mathematics	
English	Music	

In addition, pupils in the Sixth Form benefit from an Enrichment Programme to provide further breadth and variety as well as an opportunity to gain an additional qualification in subjects such as Thinking Skills, ICT, Sports Leadership and Politics.

Life Skills

The Life Skills programme is aimed at helping pupils get the most out of their school life as well as helping them develop as individuals. Students will experience a full range of activities that often fall outside their subject lessons, in the hope that they become better prepared for the world in which we live.

All Life Skill lessons up to Year 11 take place with Form or Tutor groups. In Years 7 to 9, Life Skills is taught by the Form or House Tutor, strengthening the pastoral links between Tutor and Tutee, while the lessons in Years 10 and 11 are taught by specialists. In the Sixth Form, Life Skills topics are covered within the Enrichment Programme, and during a South Wales trip where the entire Year 12 spend a working week together.

One theme that will run through all years is advice on how pupils approach exams and the development of revision techniques. In conjunction with external presentations, pupils will be carefully led through proven techniques so that, when finally confronted with external exams, heads are calm and plans are in place to maximise success.

- Years 7 and 8 – settling in, study skills, your values, bullying, disability, alcohol, smoking, friendships, diet, sustainable development, personal finance and the internet.
- Year 9 – Revision skills, drugs, immigration, crime and punishment, Britain as a multicultural society, citizenship, personal health and well-being.
- Years 10 and 11 – Revision skills, exam techniques, citizenship, ICT, study skills, careers, physical and mental health issues, religious issues, personal finance, well-being, cooking, ironing, bike maintenance, personal fitness and nutrition.

During these courses pupils are encouraged to go beyond acquiring particular knowledge or skills, so that they develop the moral, ethical and spiritual values that underlie their lives.

Careers

The Careers Department offers advice about options within school, about choice of universities and about careers. It contributes to the Life Skills programme from Year 10 onwards and works closely with the Head of Sixth Form, supporting students' applications to university. A member of staff has specific responsibility for supporting students in their application to elite universities. The School enjoys close links with a range of employers, including local businesses and through parental and Old Ipswichian contacts, who deliver a programme of talks on a range of careers, as part of our very popular series of Lunchtime talks throughout the academic year. The OIs also provide mentoring opportunities to the Sixth Form at present and this will be opened up to the Middle School at some time in the near future. Pupils receive practical advice, help with interviews and opportunities for work experience.

Most Year 11 pupils participate in a post-GCSE work experience programme with an increasingly wide range of business partners and stakeholders, mainly local with some in London.

We are also fortunate to enjoy close links with a range of universities, and Governors representing these institutions are particularly valuable in offering up-to-date advice. The School is also supported by the Cambridge Occupation Analysis careers profile (Centigrade) in Year 12. We are currently evaluating the possibility that Year 10 will also undertake profiling in the near future, working in conjunction with our current provider, Cascaid.

Sixth Form Enrichment Programme

The Sixth Form Enrichment Programme consists of a range of courses and conferences. It broadens the range of students' interests, provides useful skills and knowledge for life after school and gives opportunities for earning some extra qualifications. It includes a two-week module in Careers and after the summer internal exams there is a week for all students in South Wales, where students participate in a range of outdoor Life Skills activities. The following courses are offered subject to sufficient numbers: Extended Project Qualification (A2), Thinking Skills (AS), ICT, Photography (AS), Politics (AS), Film Studies (AS), Finance and Investment, Maths (AS), Spanish (FCSE), French (FCSE), Mandarin (FCSE), Law, Drama (GCSE), Sports coaching. Students receive 7 lessons of Enrichment per fortnight in Year 12 and 3 lessons per fortnight in Year 13.

Entire year groups also attend periodic conferences covering a wide range of subjects. Recent conferences have focussed on living with HIV, the work of the Samaritans, the Holocaust, and the consequences of drug smuggling as well as on yoga, Gap years, the work of the Refugee Council and the prison system. Conferences are also organised to match the university application cycle. This includes an annual Higher Education evening for parents and pupils, with a talk from a university Admissions Tutor and the opportunity to meet careers professionals.

Games

Sport has a high profile in the curriculum. Alongside an ethos that encourages 'sport for all', the school is committed to helping individuals develop their skills and experience, both personally and within the context of teams, at school, county, regional and national level. In Years 7 and 8 there are two games afternoons each week. From Year 9 there is a games afternoon once a week and sporting activities are popular choices on Thursday afternoon as part of the Activities programme, including the Sports Leader Award where pupils learn important skills associated with training, coaching and refereeing/umpiring. There is also a varied selection of after-school and lunchtime training opportunities.

Thursday afternoon Activities Programme

This activities programme is designed to aid the pupils' personal development and introduce them to a range of worthwhile interests. The emphasis in Years 10 and 11 is on Community Service, the Community Sports Leader Award or participation in the School Combined Cadet Force, while in Years 9, 12 and 13 a wide range of options is offered including for the Sixth Form International Leadership Programme.

Learning Support

The Learning Support Department offers support and expertise to help resolve difficulties and find solutions for pupils experiencing barriers to their learning. Pupils with English as their second language are offered support to improve their command, both written and orally, of the English language. If a pupil has a disability the department will ensure that the school makes reasonable adjustments in order to meet their needs.

Learning support sessions are scheduled outside lesson time or on a rota so that the disruption to lessons is minimised. Every effort is made to ensure that provision is tailored to the individual's needs, including examination access arrangements and ICT support.

Ipswich School's curriculum fulfils the DFE requirements for the Quality of Education provided, i.e.

- full-time, supervised education for pupils of compulsory school age, which gives pupils experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical, and aesthetic and creative education;
- subject matter appropriate for the ages and aptitudes of pupils, including those pupils with additional needs;
- help with the acquisition of skills in speaking and listening, literacy and numeracy;
- personal, social and health education which reflects the school's aims and ethos;
- appropriate careers guidance;
- where the school has pupils above or below compulsory school age, a programme of activities which is appropriate to their needs;
- opportunity to learn and make progress;
- adequate preparation for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

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