



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 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. All pupils also choose 2 from Art, Computer Science, DT and Music. An additional Drama based qualification is offered as an out of hours option.

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. An additional Thinking Skills qualification is offered to selected applicants as an out of hours option.

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

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

The School offers a BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Sport and Exercise Science, which is equivalent to 3 A Levels. In addition, pupils in the Sixth Form benefit from a Life Skills programme called *The Edge*, to equip them for life beyond school, as well as providing an opportunity to gain a qualification as a Mental Health First Aider.

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 within Form or Tutor groups. In Years 7 to 9, Life Skills are 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 Edge*, and during a trip to Devon where the entire Year 12 spend a working week together. External specialists will deliver some aspects of Life Skills to all year groups, for example, elements of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE).

One theme that will run through all years is advice on how pupils approach exams and the development of revision techniques. 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.

Throughout Years 7, 8 and 9, pupils follow a very specific PSHE programme. The content themes are: Being Me, Celebrating Difference, Healthy Me, Relationships, Changing Me and Dreams and Goals. Coupled with bespoke whole year group and smaller tutor group talks, pupils will experience a full and varied delivery of PSHE and RSE.

Year 10 and 11 pupils follow a unique delivery of Life Skills, PSHE and RSE elements: Exam and Revision Techniques, Mind & Body, Personal Finance, Lifestyle, First Aid, Personal Development, Humanity and Health are the themes for this two year programme.

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. Pupils will also be taught to understand and respect the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths, beliefs, sexualities and genders.

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. 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, '*The Edge*', commenced in the academic year 2019-20. The intention was to best equip Ipswich School pupils for life beyond school. The two year programme starts with lectures and seminars on both study skills and mental health, before the main carousel programme begins. Here, students rotate around 5 separate taught modules: Cooking, Digital Lifestyle, Health, Travel, Life Skills. In addition, pupils will study for a Mental Health First Aider qualification, with a focus on presentation skills. Students receive 4 lessons of *The Edge* per fortnight in both Years 12 and 13. After the summer internal exams there is a week for all students in North Devon, where students participate in a range of outdoor Life Skills activities.

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, the opportunity to meet careers professionals and be informed about higher education finances.

Sport

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 five Sport afternoons over the fortnight. From Year 9 there is a Sports 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.

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, and to pass the IELTS exam, where required. 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. There is no charge for Learning 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.

Updated July 2023