



IPSWICH SCHOOL

CURRICULUM POLICY

Review and Approval

Reviewed by	Mr T Allen - Deputy Head
Date Last Reviewed	September 2025
Date of Next Review	September 2026

Introduction

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 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 Drama and this choice determines the setting for other subjects, with some limited scope for broad ability banding. All pupils also choose 2 from Art, Computer Science, DT and Music.

In **Years 10 and 11** Maths, English and Science are taught in groups, set 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 Literature	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	Spanish
Economics	Further Mathematics	

The School offers a BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Sport and Exercise Science, which is equivalent to 3 A Levels. BTEC pupils study 1 A Level in addition to their BTEC programme. In addition, pupils in the Sixth Form benefit from a Life Skills programme called *The Edge*, to equip them for life beyond school, with modules on Health, Digital Literacy, and Cooking, amongst others.

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 week off timetable in the summer. 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 and study skills. 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 and information about options within school and the various career paths after school, including both the traditional university route and degree apprenticeships. It contributes to the Life Skills programme from Year 10 onwards and works closely with the Sixth Form Team, supporting students' applications to university, apprenticeships and school-leaver programmes. A member of staff has a specific responsibility for supporting students in their applications to Oxbridge universities, with another staff member responsible for supporting applications to Medicine, Dentistry, and Veterinary courses, and a further staff member supporting apprenticeship applications. All students have access to the Unifrog online platform to help with their research, and parents are also able to use this platform to support their child.

The School enjoys close links with both local and national employers, and the Careers Department liaises with the Development Team to work with our Old Ipswichians and parental contacts. Where possible, we always try to have talks and seminars delivered by former pupils who can directly relate to our current students and share their experiences. Our annual Careers Convention includes exhibitions from both universities and employers as well as a carousel of seminars and presentations to highlight specific industries and career paths. The Ols also provide mentoring opportunities to the Sixth Form. Pupils receive practical advice, help with interviews and opportunities for work experience.

All Year 11 pupils are encouraged to 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.

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 off timetable for all students, 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 four Sport afternoons over the fortnight. From Year 9 through to Year 13, there is a Sports afternoon once a week and sporting activities are popular choices on Thursday afternoon as part of the Activities programme. Years 7 to 9 have one double Physical Education lesson per fortnight. There is also a varied selection of after-school and lunchtime training opportunities. Sports vary by term, with typically around 15 sports are played during Games afternoons.

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, or participation in the School Combined Cadet Force, while in Years 9, 12 and 13 a wide range of co-curricular options are offered. Some co-curricular options change each term, with typically around 25 different activities available.

Learning Support and English as an Additional Language

The Learning Support and EAL Departments offer 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.