

CHOICES

A guide to the curriculum at KS4

Learning Pathways

In year 8 students have the opportunity to choose some of the subjects they will study for the next three years as they complete their GCSEs and decide which Learning Pathway they would like to follow. Three full years of preparation (including a transition/introductory period at the beginning of year 9) allows students to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding they need to achieve their best in the reformed GCSEs, while our curriculum offer and learning pathways ensure students retain a balanced and varied programme of study.



We recognise that making these decisions can sometimes be difficult. Some students have a clear idea about the career they wish to pursue but most are unsure. In our experience, it is important that students at this age keep an open mind and choose a curriculum which is broad and balanced.

We are very proud of the curriculum that we offer at Impington, which sits at the very heart of the College's ethos and ensures that students are fully equipped to be highly successful young people:

Inspirational Our staff pledge to deliver inspiring and engaging lessons, leading to outstanding achievement for all students and a genuine passion for learning. Our curriculum is innovative and unique within the state sector; it combines academic excellence with enrichment and personal development, creating young people who are rounded, caring and highly motivated to succeed.

Inclusive We offer a totally inclusive programme of qualifications, from entry level and vocational subjects to more traditional GCSE subjects. The wide choice of subjects allows for a tailored programme for individual students and one which allows all of our students to prepare successfully for the next stage in their school career.

International Our learning pathways lead directly into the International Baccalaureate Diploma and Careers Programmes, which sit at the heart of our sixth form. As an IB World School, the core aims of the IB, to develop learners who are inquiring, knowledgeable, caring and motivated to succeed, are at the centre of our GCSE programmes and the 'IVC Core'. We are also one of few schools to offer five different languages at GCSE, including Modern European, Asian and Ancient languages, as part of our commitment to being a truly international College.

Note for Parents: This booklet is designed to support your child in making the most appropriate choices for their GCSE Learning Pathway. There will be a number of opportunities for support and guidance throughout the Options process; more information can be found on the Options Timeline.

If you have further questions about the process or the College curriculum, please contact Jo Sale, Vice Principal.



“... keep an open mind and choose a curriculum which is broad and balanced.”

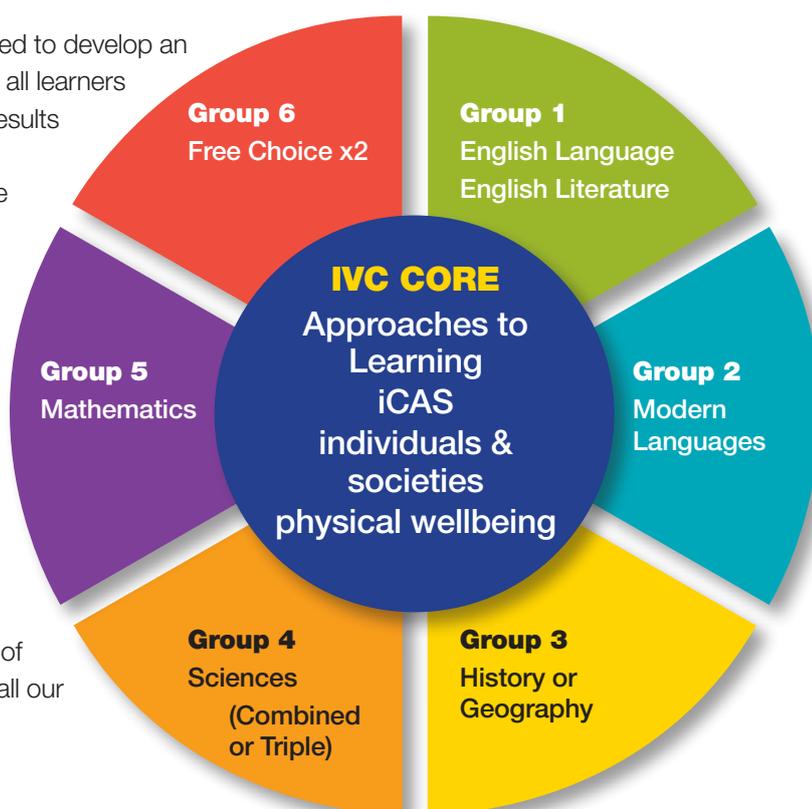
Options Timeline: What support is on offer?

- January:** Year 8 data collection will give insight into students' progress in their current subjects and highlight areas of strength to inform options choices
Options Process begins; booklet available to students and parents by the end of the month.
Small group careers workshops with Careers Advisor begin.
- February:** Small group careers workshops with Careers Advisor continue; virtual options fair.
- March:** Year 8 Parents' Evening to allow for subject-by-subject advice. Options online launches, with explanatory sway sent to students and parents by the end of the month.
- April:** Deadline for options submission 16/04.
- June:** Confirmation of options subjects week beginning 07/06.

A Curriculum for Success

Over the last few years at IVC we have worked to develop an innovative and flexible curriculum that allows all learners to achieve their very best. The outstanding results achieved by our students at GCSE place us consistently in the top 5% of all non-selective schools in the country for student progress. We are confident that the excellent, inspirational teaching our students receive at GCSE and the pathways we have designed allow our students to fulfil their potential both at IVC and beyond. They have already begun the process of preparing for their GCSEs as part of their learning in the ICE Programme, which has been tailored specifically to the demands of the new GCSEs.

Over the next few pages you will find details of the academic and IVC Core curricula which all our students will study.



Academic Curriculum

At IVC all students follow a broad academic curriculum which consists of subjects from the following groups of subjects, to create a broad and balanced programme of study:

subjects

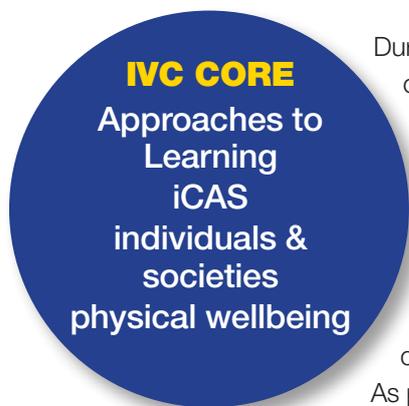
- Group 1: English Language and English Literature
- Group 2: A Modern Foreign Language (a small number of students will not complete a language)
- Group 3: History or Geography
- Group 4: Sciences
- Group 5: Mathematics
- Group 6: Two 'free choice' Options

We believe that this combination of subjects, including **two free choices** that students make to form their Learning Pathway, will allow them to access the full range of Post-16 and higher education establishments, even if they have not yet decided on the career or subject they wish to pursue.

The two 'Free Choices' from Group 6 provide the flexibility for students to choose to study two Humanities subjects or two Languages if they wish, but we encourage students to think carefully about managing the demands of these challenging subjects.



The 'Core' IVC Curriculum



During years 9 – 11, students will be examined in the subjects from their academic curriculum, including the compulsory subjects and their free choice options. Our core curriculum offer, though, is much more than just the qualifications they will receive at the end of year 11. We have designed an innovative and exciting experience for students that we believe strongly will encourage them to become rounded, broad-minded young people in line with our College values, and that sits at the heart of everything we do.

Impington Village College is incredibly proud to be an IB World School through its connection to our outstanding international sixth form, Impington International College. As part of our commitment to preparing our students for the IB Diploma and Careers

Programmes we hope they will pursue in the sixth form, we have taken some of the best elements of the International Baccalaureate in line with our core values, to provide a totally unique curriculum experience for our students, based on the Core of the IB, which we launched in September 2018.

The 'core' experience for students in years 9 – 11 will build on the ICE programme and sit at the very heart of everything students do. It has four key components:

Approaches to Learning

A core element of the International Baccalaureate programmes is developing the attributes that make students successful learners. We believe passionately that students must be taught how to study independently, make connections between their subjects and to develop higher order thinking skills if they are to be successful learners. As part of their transition into GCSEs, year 9 students will have one hour per fortnight of metacognition, taught by members of the Senior Leadership Team, Lead Practitioners and other experienced staff.

iCAS: Impington Creativity, Activity, Service

As part of your child's GCSE pathway, they will undertake iCAS, the Impington Creativity, Activity and Service programme that we have built into our curriculum for all students in years 7 – 13. This is our new, timetabled enrichment programme that will encourage students to pursue their interests and to develop skills outside of the classroom, which will broaden their horizons and offer them a range of additional opportunities. This is very important in promoting a balance between academic excellence and wider achievement, and developing students' love of learning and motivation to succeed.

Students will be making three enrichment choices each year (one each of creativity, activity and service) from over fifty different options, that they will access on a Wednesday afternoon (during the College day). The full selection will be released later in the spring term, but below is an indication of what this could look like:

Creativity	Activity	Service
Pottery	Trampolining	Sports Leadership
Weaving	Aikido	Work Experience
Russian	Orienteering	Volunteering
Anglo Saxon	Fencing	First Aid
Creative Writing	Swimming	Peer Mentoring
Debating	Dance	Restorative Justice
Baking	Yoga	Mindfulness
Greek Philosophy	Basketball	Conservation

This programme will run in addition to the many extra-curricular activities offered at IVC on a weekly basis.

Individuals and Societies

As part of their wider learning, students will have timetabled lessons which cover the statutory PSHE and Citizenship curricula and continue a focus on religious education and topical issues for young people. This will be taught in year 9 as part of their fortnightly timetable cycle and will include a wide range of topics, including personal health and wellbeing. In years 10 and 11 it will be taught in a series of Conference Days. This will also include careers education and guidance throughout the next three years.

Physical Wellbeing

All students will continue to have core Physical Education lessons throughout years 9 – 11. As part of this, they will access a wide range of sporting and physical activities and will be encouraged to keep healthy and stay active. This fits with our whole-College focus on physical and mental wellbeing and encouraging students to find a balance between study and physical activity. Some students may also choose to study Sport as part of their pathway, either as a BTEC Sport or GCSE Physical Education.

Learning Pathways

At IVC there are different Learning Pathways that our students will follow, depending on the style of programme they wish to study. These have been designed to give students the flexibility they need and to provide programmes that are tailored to the needs of individuals.

There are three categories of qualification that are offered at Impington:

GCSE: Level 1/2 – Most subjects are offered at GCSE level. All courses now follow the reformed 9-1 scale. These subjects are often more theory-based, and are largely based on terminal examinations.

Technical Qualifications: Level 1/2 – This includes BTECs, OCR/Cambridge National Certificates and V Certs. These subjects tend to be more practical-based and are well suited to students who wish to pursue vocational courses at Post-16 level. They also provide students with a good contrast to the GCSE courses; students are actively encouraged to combine GCSE and Technical qualifications.

Entry Level – We offer entry level courses to our foundation students to offer them with additional qualifications, boost their confidence and provide a springboard to GCSE.

Qualification Levels and Equivalences:

Qualification Level	ICE Flight Path	GCSE	Technical Qualifications	Progression to Impington International College	Progression to other institutions
Level 2 (Higher Tier)	Excelling Mastering Securing	Grades 9-6	L2 Distinction* L2 Distinction L2 Merit	IB Diploma Programme	A Levels
Level 2	Securing Developing	Grades 5-4	L2 Pass	IB Careers Programme	Some A Levels/ BTECs
Level 1	Emerging	Grades 3-1	L1 Pass L1 Merit L1 Distinction	BTECs	BTEC/Level 2 Courses
Entry Level	Entry level courses will provide a stepping stone to Level 1/2 courses, including at SPP, our Specialist Post 16 provision at IVC.				

For further details of likely progression from each Option subject see the 'Where will my Options lead?' section and individual subject pages, which list progression pathways and career options.

Booster Programme

We offer a Booster Programme in place of a language GCSE for students who are not yet on track to secure a Grade 5 at GCSE. If your child is part of the Booster Programme currently, they will continue this during years 9 – 11. If you would like to discuss including your child in the Booster programme, please contact Miss Cooper or Ms Sale directly before indicating your preference on the Options form.

Foundation Learning Pathway

Students who follow the Foundation pathway are likely to already be part of our Foundation Learning Programme. These students will have a slightly reduced core curriculum, accessing additional literacy and numeracy in place of a language. Many of these students will complete entry level courses, which we offer in Maths, English, Science and History, alongside their other GCSE/Technical choices.

Options Choices

Group 2: Languages	Group 3: Humanities	Group 6: Free Choice 1	Group 6: Free Choice 2
French German Spanish Japanese <i>Booster</i> <i>Foundation</i> <i>Learning</i>	History Geography Entry level History	Fine Art Media (BTEC) Computer Science Business (GCSE) History Dance Drama EPS French Latin PE	Fine Art Photography Design Technology Media Studies (GCSE) Computer Science Business: Enterprise and Marketing (Cambridge National) Geography Music Performing Arts (BTEC) EPS Health and Social Care PE



“We have designed an innovative and exciting experience for students ... encouraging them to become rounded, broad-minded young people.”

Example Learning Pathways

GCSE only pathway (GCSE Level 2 High Pass)						
Group 1: English	Group 2: Languages	Group 3: Humanities	Group 4: Sciences	Group 5: Mathematics	Group 6: Free Choice	Group 6: Free Choice
English Language GCSE English Literature GCSE	French GCSE	History GCSE	Science (Trilogy) GCSE	Mathematics GCSE	Geography GCSE	Computer Science GCSE
IVC Core	iCAS (enrichment), individuals and societies, approaches to learning, physical education & wellbeing					
Progression	International Baccalaureate Diploma (or A Levels at another institution)					

Combination Pathway (Level 2 Pass)						
Group 1: English	Group 2: Languages	Group 3: Humanities	Group 4: Sciences	Group 5: Mathematics	Group 6: Free Choice	Group 6: Free Choice
English Language GCSE English Literature GCSE	Spanish GCSE	Geography GCSE	Science (Trilogy) GCSE	Mathematics GCSE	Health and Social Care (L1/2 Certificate)	EPS GCSE
IVC Core	iCAS (enrichment), individuals and societies, approaches to learning, physical education & wellbeing					
Progression	International Baccalaureate Careers Programme (or A Levels/BTECs)					

Technical Qualification Pathway (Level 1/2 Pass)						
Group 1: English	Group 2: Languages	Group 3: Humanities	Group 4: Sciences	Group 5: Mathematics	Group 6: Free Choice	Group 6: Free Choice
English Language GCSE English Literature GCSE	German GCSE (or Booster)	Geography GCSE	Science (Trilogy) GCSE	Mathematics GCSE	Media BTEC	BTEC Performing Arts
IVC Core	iCAS (enrichment), individuals and societies, approaches to learning, physical education & wellbeing					
Progression	International Baccalaureate Careers Programme (or A Levels/BTECs)					

Combination/Entry Level Pathway (approaching Level 1)						
Group 1: English	Group 2: Languages	Group 3: Humanities	Group 4: Sciences	Group 5: Mathematics	Group 6: Free Choice	Group 6: Free Choice
English Language GCSE English Literature GCSE	Foundation Learning	History (Entry Level and GCSE)	Science Trilogy (GCSE) and Entry Level	Mathematics GCSE	Media BTEC	Health and Social Care (L1/2 Certificate)
IVC Core	iCAS (enrichment), individuals and societies, approaches to learning, physical education & wellbeing					
Progression	Specialist Post-16 provision at IVC or other Level 1/2 courses					

Where will my Options lead?

Impington International College

On the subject pages you will find full details of the likely progression routes and career pathways from different subjects. We hope that the majority of our students will continue their education at our outstanding sixth form, Impington International College, where our programmes are built around the International Baccalaureate (IB). We have been delivering the IB for nearly 30 years and genuinely believe that it offers our students a truly unique and unrivalled learning experience.

Impington International College (IIC): Key Facts

- IIC has been rated as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted for over a decade
- Around half our students come from overseas, living in Cambridge with host families, creating a unique environment that is truly international
- The IB allows students to choose from over 50 subjects
- Students are in smaller tutor groups with a dedicated Student Manager and regular 1:1 academic mentoring meetings with their personal tutor
- On average, 1 in 4 IVC students stay on at Impington for Post-16



- We have a brand new sixth form building opening in 2021
- Results at IIC are exceptional in all areas, and in 2020:
 - The pass rate for the IBDP was 100% (international average: 80%)
 - The average point score for the IBDP was 35 (international average: 32)
 - Outcomes for IBCP at Impington are outstanding; 100% pass on L3 BTEC courses and 50% Distinction/Distinction*
 - 95% of students were offered their choice of university, with over 30% securing Russell group places including Oxbridge, Imperial, UCL as well as other global top universities

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP)

The IBDP is the principal academic programme at Impington International College, offering students a breadth and depth of curriculum that is highly regarded by the very best universities. The DP curriculum is made up of six subject groups: their first language, a second language, humanities, science, maths and one other which can be arts or another choice.

The IBDP also has its academic core, comprising theory of knowledge (TOK), creativity, activity, service (CAS) and an extended essay.

The IBDP is one of the world's most highly regarded and academically rigorous educational programmes. With the recent changes to A Levels and in light of comments such as those of Sir Venki Ramakrishnan, President of the Royal Society, stating Britain is at risk of falling behind other nations by holding onto the limited A level programme of study, there has never been a better time to consider the IBDP. The IBDP offers a stable, credible and internationally recognised path to academic success in an increasingly competitive and changeable world.

International Baccalaureate Careers Programme (IBCP)

Impington's sixth form is at the forefront of the development of the IBCP. The innovative programme, introduced at Impington in 2013, is sponsored by some of the leading STEM organisations in the region, including ARM, Marshall and Addenbrooke's NHS Trust.

As part of the IBCP students undertake a minimum of two IB Diploma (DP) courses of their choice, a core consisting of four components and a career-related study. For the Careers Programme (CP) students, DP courses provide the theoretical underpinning and academic rigour of the programme; the career-related study further supports the programme's academic strength and provides practical, real-world approaches to learning.

At Impington this can include a BTEC Level 3 in Sport, Health and Social Care, Business, Performing Arts or Media that sets students up either for university or the workplace.



Other Post-16 Institutions

We have also indicated throughout the subject pages the possible progression to A Levels/other courses that are currently offered at other Cambridgeshire Post-16 providers. Students receive a wide range of guidance and full support throughout the Post-16 process to make informed decisions about their Post-16 choices. This is overseen by Miss Martin, Director of Student Progress and the process typically begins in year 10, with students attending College and Sixth Form Taster Days and starting their Post-16 applications.

Advice for Students: Choosing your Options

Important Considerations

You should find out about:

- What qualifications are obtainable
- What you will study on the course
- How the subject will be assessed
- Implications for career choice – what you can do after the course

Remember – your tutor, Deputy Head of House or Miss Olivera are always available to offer help and advice if you need it.

Choosing Your Subjects

1. Think about what you want to do at 16+:
 - The International Baccalaureate – Diploma or Careers Programme?
 - Another Sixth Form/College to do A Levels or BTEC courses?
 - Apprenticeship?
2. Choose the subjects which will assist your intentions for 16+.
3. Choose a well-balanced timetable (a mixture of subjects) and pick subjects you enjoy.
4. It is best not to pick a subject you are struggling with, so think about where you are making good progress.
5. Do not pick a subject because you enjoy a lesson with a particular teacher. It may be a different teacher teaching that subject in years 10 and 11.
6. Do not pick a subject you have not studied before just because you like the sound of it. If you have not done it before find out as much as you can about it before making your decision.
7. Do not choose subjects just because your friends have chosen them.
8. Do not be afraid to choose unusual subjects, find out about them first.
9. Are you more suited to GCSE or BTEC/Technical subjects and the different methods of learning? Think about this carefully when choosing your 'free choice' options.
10. Seek plenty of advice and ask lots of questions – don't make a rushed decision or leave it until the last minute.

Advice for Parents and Guardians

Some Important Points

- Talk to your son/daughter about what their interests are.
- Find out what they would like to do in the future and encourage them to think about this.
- Let them know that jobs for 16 year olds are now virtually non-existent; the key to their future is in good education, good training and developing skills and abilities that employers want and are prepared to pay for.
- If in doubt about your son/daughter's option choices, please contact your child's tutor or their Head of House/Deputy Head of House.
- Check that your son/daughter is choosing subjects for the right reasons.
- Try to encourage a variety in their choices – this will allow more choice at Post 16.

The Wrong Reasons Would Include

- ✗ I like the teacher
- ✗ All the other choices are boring / too difficult
- ✗ It looks like it might be easy
- ✗ All my friends are doing that subject
- ✗ I think it will help me get a job

The Right Reasons Might Include

- ✓ I am good at/enjoy that subject
- ✓ I know that these subjects will help my career choice, because I have found out about it
- ✓ I have achieved good marks and exam grades in a subject
- ✓ The style of learning and assessment is likely to suit me

If in doubt – ask for and get help!

“95% of students were offered their choice of university, with over 30% securing Russell group places including Oxbridge, Imperial, UCL as well as other global top universities”



“... compare how writers of two different non-fiction texts convey their viewpoints on a particular topic.”

Group One

English Language and Literature

(compulsory)



English Language

Basic Information

Course Leader

Elizabeth Moran
emoran@ivc.tmet.org.uk

Exam Board

AQA

What type of qualification is it?

GCSE

What will I study?

This course has 2 exams, each of which are worth 50% of the overall grade. The first exam is called Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing and invites you to explore how language is used in a piece of fiction. You will then be expected to write a piece of creative writing. The second exam is called Writers' viewpoints and perspectives and expects you to compare how writers of two different non-fiction texts convey their viewpoints on a particular topic. You will then have the opportunity to write your own non-fiction text.

To do well you need to:

- Read widely
- Have opinions that you are prepared to share
- Argue your point respectfully and listen to the views of others
- Express your ideas in writing carefully and thoughtfully.

Progression Pathways

IB English Literature

IB English Literature & Language

Almost all post-16 courses will require you to have a pass in English Language. Many essay-based courses in humanities will require a higher grade pass.

Careers

Being good at English can lead to careers in law, advertising, the creative industries, media, film, publishing, sales and journalism.

How will I be assessed?

Module/Paper	Content	Assessment	Date	%
Paper 1	Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing	Examination	June 2024	50
Paper 2	Writers' viewpoints and perspectives	Examination	June 2024	50

English Literature

Basic Information

Course Leader

Elizabeth Moran
emoran@ivc.tmet.org.uk

Exam Board

AQA

What type of qualification is it?

GCSE

What will I study?

You will study a Shakespeare play (Macbeth), a Victorian novel (either Jekyll and Hyde or A Christmas Carol), Lord of The Flies by William Golding and a collection of poems.

To do well you need to:

- Read widely
- Have opinions that you are prepared to share
- Listen and engage with other people's ideas
- Express your ideas in writing carefully and thoughtfully.

Progression Pathways

IB English Literature

IB English Literature & Language

English Literature will help you to access courses in English Literature A Level, as well as most humanities and essay based subjects. It's also useful for media and film BTEC.

Careers

Being good at English can lead to careers in law, advertising, the creative industries, media, film, publishing, sales and journalism.

How will I be assessed?

Module/Paper	Content	Assessment	Date	%
Paper 1	Shakespeare and the 19th century novel	Examination	June 2024	40
Paper 2	Modern texts and poetry	Examination	June 2024	60

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“... build your confidence so that you are able to communicate more fluently and spontaneously.”

Group Two

Modern Foreign Languages

(choose one)

A small number of students will remain in the Booster Programme/Foundation Learning instead of taking a GCSE in Modern Foreign Languages



French

Basic Information

Course Leader

Sylvia Holland
sholland@ivc.tmet.org.uk

Exam Board

Edexcel

What type of qualification is it?

GCSE

What will I study?

Your lessons will continue to focus on acquiring new vocabulary and grammar within the context of key GCSE topics ranging from friends and family, holidays and leisure, to the environment. You will continue to develop the four skills of speaking, writing, reading and listening and will build your confidence so that you are able to communicate more fluently and spontaneously.

To do well you need to:

- Be willing to work hard in and out of lessons
- Learn key vocabulary and grammar points little and often
- Be willing to have a go
- Choose the language you feel the most motivated to learn – this may be the language you find the easiest or the one you enjoy the most.

Progression Pathways

A GCSE in a language is excellent preparation for both IB Language B French and A level French. It will also look impressive on your UCAS application alongside a range of subjects and can open doors for many university courses, outside of languages.

Careers

Knowledge of French can lead to or complement a number of careers such as interpreting, translation, world business, law, travel and education.

How will I be assessed?

Paper	Content	Assessment	Date	%
Paper 1: Listening	Listening comprehension	Final exam	June 2024	25
Paper 2: Speaking	Photo description, role play and general conversation on a range of topics	Final exam (1 to 1 with your teacher)	May 2024	25
Paper 3: Reading	Reading comprehension and translation from French	Final exam	June 2024	25
Paper 4: Writing	Writing on a range of topics and translation into French	Final exam	June 2024	25

Please note that it is possible to study French as a second language in the Free Choice section. In order to do this, students should have already opted for a language in the Languages group and should be on the Excelling pathway.

German

Basic Information

Course Leader

Sylvia Holland
sholland@ivc.tmet.org.uk

Exam Board

Edexcel

What type of qualification is it?

GCSE

What will I study?

Your lessons will continue to focus on acquiring new vocabulary and grammar within the context of key GCSE topics ranging from friends and family, holidays and leisure, to the environment. You will continue to develop the four skills of speaking, writing, reading and listening and will build your confidence so that you are able to communicate more fluently and spontaneously.

To do well you need to:

- Be willing to work hard in and out of lessons
- Learn key vocabulary and grammar points little and often
- Be willing to have a go
- Choose the language you feel the most motivated to learn – this may be the language you find the easiest or the one you enjoy the most.

Progression Pathways

A GCSE in a language is excellent preparation for both IB Language B German and A level German. It will also look impressive on your UCAS application alongside a range of subjects and can open doors for many university courses, outside of languages.

Careers

Knowledge of German can lead to or complement a number of careers such as interpreting, translation, world business, law, travel and education.

How will I be assessed?

Paper	Content	Assessment	Date	%
Paper 1: Listening	Listening comprehension	Final exam	June 2024	25
Paper 2: Speaking	Photo description, role play and general conversation on a range of topics	Final exam (1 to 1 with your teacher)	May 2024	25
Paper 3: Reading	Reading comprehension and translation from German	Final exam	June 2024	25
Paper 4: Writing	Writing on a range of topics and translation into German	Final exam	June 2024	25

Japanese

Basic Information

Course Leader

Helen Turner
hturner@ivc.tmet.org.uk

Exam Board

Pearson/Edexcel

What type of qualification is it?

GCSE

In order to study Japanese GCSE you will ideally have attended the enrichment classes in years 7 and 8. If you have not attended, you will need to begin attending as soon as the options process is complete.

What will I study?

Your lessons will focus on acquiring new vocabulary and grammar within the context of key GCSE topics ranging from friends and family, holidays and leisure, to the environment. The lessons will include cultural elements and you will learn about the Japanese culture alongside learning the language. You will develop the four skills of speaking, writing, reading and listening and will build your confidence so that you are able to communicate fluently and spontaneously.

To do well you need to:

- Be willing to work hard in and out of lessons – at least 1 hour per week at home
- Learn key vocabulary and grammar points little and often
- Be willing to have a go and not be afraid of making mistakes
- Choose Japanese if you feel the most motivated to learn a completely new language and if you have an interest in the culture.

Progression Pathways

A GCSE in a language is excellent preparation for both IB Language B and A level. It will also look impressive on your UCAS application alongside a range of subjects and can open doors for many university courses, outside of languages.

Careers

Knowledge of Japanese can lead to, or complement a number of careers such as interpreting, translation, world business, law, travel and education.

How will I be assessed?

Module/Paper	Content	Assessment	Date	%
Paper 1: Listening	Listening comprehension	Final exam	June 2024	25
Paper 2: Speaking	Photo description, role play and general conversation on a range of topics	Final exam (1 to 1 with your teacher)	May 2024	25
Paper 3: Reading	Reading comprehension and translation from Japanese	Final exam	June 2024	25
Paper 4: Writing	Writing on a range of topics and translation into Japanese	Final exam	June 2024	25

Spanish

Basic Information

Course Leader

Sylvia Holland
sholland@ivc.tmet.org.uk

Exam Board

Edexcel

What type of qualification is it?

GCSE

What will I study?

Your lessons will continue to focus on acquiring new vocabulary and grammar within the context of key GCSE topics ranging from friends and family, holidays and leisure, to the environment. You will continue to develop the four skills of speaking, writing, reading and listening and will build your confidence so that you are able to communicate more fluently and spontaneously.

To do well you need to:

- Be willing to work hard in and out of lessons
- Learn key vocabulary and grammar points little and often
- Be willing to have a go
- Choose the language you feel the most motivated to learn – this may be the language you find the easiest or the one you enjoy the most.

Progression Pathways

A GCSE in a language is excellent preparation for both IB Language B Spanish and A level Spanish. It will also look impressive on your UCAS application alongside a range of subjects and can open doors for many university courses, outside of languages.

Careers

Knowledge of Spanish can lead to or complement a number of careers such as interpreting, translation, world business, law, travel and education.

How will I be assessed?

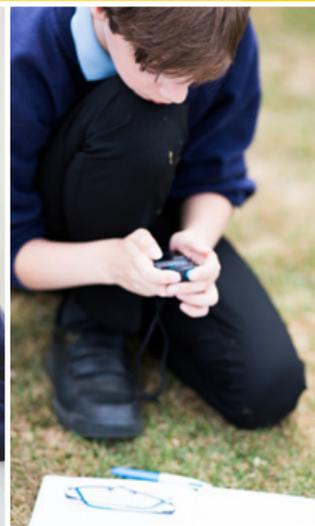
Paper	Content	Assessment	Date	%
Paper 1: Listening	Listening comprehension	Final exam	June 2024	25
Paper 2: Speaking	Photo description, role play and general conversation on a range of topics	Final exam (1 to 1 with your teacher)	May 2024	25
Paper 3: Reading	Reading comprehension and translation from Spanish	Final exam	June 2024	25
Paper 4: Writing	Writing on a range of topics and translation into Spanish	Final exam	June 2024	25

“... explore how human and physical processes interact on a variety of scales ...”

Group Three

Humanities

(choose one)



Geography

Basic Information

Course Leader

Matt Dickason
mdickason@ivc.tmet.org.uk

Exam Board

AQA

What type of qualification is it?

GCSE

What will I study?

GCSE Geography covers a wide range of human and physical topics. The course enables you to explore how human and physical processes interact at a variety of scales, and some of the issues that arise from these interactions. Topics include tectonic and weather hazards such as hurricanes and earthquakes as well as problems linked to rapid urban growth and uneven economic development. You will learn about a wide range of real life case studies which will allow you to apply your learning and understanding. You will become familiar with and proficient in a range of subject specific numeracy and literacy skills such as data response, issue evaluation and image analysis.

To do well you need to:

- Be organised in your homework and classwork
- Complete work to the best of your ability
- Be prepared to research and explore wider geography through various mediums
- Have an enquiring mind and a desire to challenge yourself.

Progression Pathways

IB Geography
IB Environmental Systems and Societies
A Level Geography, Environmental Studies or Geology

Careers

There are a range of careers where Geography is useful. These include teaching, town and transport planning, career in tourism, international aid, environmental consultant, GIS information systems, meteorologist, the armed forces and cartography to name just a few.

How will I be assessed?

Module/Paper	Content	Assessment	Date	%
Paper 1: Physical geography	This exam focuses on three physical Geography units including natural hazards, ecosystems and UK landscapes (coasts and rivers)	Written exam	June 2024	35
Paper 2: Human geography	This exam focuses on three human units including urban and economic challenges and how we use and manage resources	Written exam	June 2024	35
Paper 2: Geographical skills & investigation	This exam focuses on a range of key skills as well as asking questions about a fieldwork investigation you carried out. You will also be asked to evaluate a geographical issue and make a decision on it.	Written exam	June 2024	30

History

Basic Information

Course Leader

Stephen Drew
sdrew@ivc.tmet.org.uk

Exam Board

OCR History B

What type of qualification is it?

GCSE

What will I study?

The GCSE History course enables you to study a wide range of different periods of history, and discover the history of a number of different societies. You will examine the impact of these periods on our society today. You will be introduced to the skills required for final examinations, including researching and investigating. You will participate in the evaluation of historical sources, creative writing, visual learning and role play. In addition, you will debate the opinions and ideas of others, and form your own arguments and judgments.

To do well you need to:

- Be interested and curious about finding out about the past, how people lived, and how they changed and impacted society today.
- Be able and willing to do significant amounts of reading and writing
- Have good organisational skills, as you will study quite a lot of content
- Be engaged and contribute positively in lessons.

Progression Pathways

IB History

A Level History

Careers

Many historians continue to study History in the sixth form and at university. History teaches analytical skills and helps you to explain your views persuasively in debate and on paper. History is an excellent foundation for a career in law, politics, journalism, business or teaching. History also complements creative subjects by providing a contextual background to studies in art and literature.

How will I be assessed?

Paper	Content	Assessment	Date	%
Thematic Study	The People's Health, c. 1250 to present	Part of exam paper 1, 1 hour 45 min	June 2024	20
British Depth Study	The Norman Conquest, 1065 – 1087	Part of exam paper 1, 1 hour 45 min	June 2024	20
History Around Us	Framlingham Castle	Exam paper 2, 1 hour	June 2024	20
Period Study	The Making of America, 1789 – 1900	Part of exam paper 3, 1 hour 45 min	June 2024	20
World Depth Study	Living under Nazi Rule, 1933 – 1945	Part of exam paper 3, 1 hour 45 min	June 2024	20

Group Four Sciences

(compulsory)

The majority of students will follow the AQA Trilogy Science course, which results in two GCSEs in Science. This course covers all three Science disciplines and is the most common programme for students to follow. Our most gifted and enthusiastic Scientists will be invited in year 9 to apply to study Separate Sciences, details of which are included in the subject sections.

We teach Separate Sciences within the same allocation as the Trilogy course, so we do not reduce or restrict students' Option choices if they wish to undertake Separate Sciences. This means, however, that it is incredibly demanding and students must think carefully before they apply. There are no quotas for the course that limit student choice, but they must demonstrate both an aptitude and love for Science if they are to be able to study it. Nationally, only around 19% of students study Separate Sciences, and at IVC it is typically around 35% (depending on the cohort) because we are an incredibly high performing College. We expect the majority of our Separate Science students will achieve Grades 8-9 at GCSE; last year nearly 50% of all our students achieved Grade 9 in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Our foundation learning students will also be given the opportunity to study Entry Level Science alongside the Combined Science GCSEs.



Combined Science

Basic Information

Course Leader

Sam Crawford
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Exam Board

AQA

What type of qualification is it?

GCSE

What will I study?

The majority of students will follow the Combined Science pathway. This involves the study of all three Science disciplines with two Science GCSEs being awarded at the end of the course.

To do well you need to:

- **Learn key information/equations** and be able to apply your knowledge to new situations in exam questions.
- **Interpret data.** Be able to draw conclusions from data given to you and link it to your Science knowledge.
- **Develop resilience.** In the exams, questions are designed so that the start of every question is achievable. Even if you struggled with the previous question, you must not give up, but continue to work your way through the whole paper.

Progression Pathways

All students studying the IBDP course must study at least one of the Sciences. The Combined Science GCSE courses cover much of the content needed to study IB Sciences at both Standard Level and Higher Level.

Students can also go on to study any of the Science disciplines at A level.

Careers

As well as the obvious careers such as medicine, dentistry and engineering, having a strong Science GCSE qualification enables a whole range of other careers to be accessed as key transferable skills are learnt throughout the course. These careers can be in areas such as accountancy, forensics, environmental conservation, food industry, economics, government and policy.

How will I be assessed?

Module/Paper	Content	Assessment	Date	%
Biology 1	Cell Biology, Organisation, Infection and response, Bioenergetics	1hr 15min exam	June 2024	16.7
Biology 2	Homeostasis and response, Inheritance, Variation and evolution, Ecology	1hr 15min exam	June 2024	16.7
Chemistry 1	Atomic structure & the Periodic Table, Bonding & structure, Quantitative chemistry, Chemical changes, Energy changes	1hr 15min exam	June 2024	16.7
Chemistry 2	Rates of chemical change, Organic chemistry, Chemical analysis, Chemistry of the atmosphere, Using resources	1hr 15min exam	June 2024	16.7
Physics 1	Energy, Electricity, Particle model of matter, Atomic structure	1hr 15min exam	June 2024	16.7
Physics 2	Forces, Waves, Magnetism and Electromagnetism	1hr 15min exam	June 2024	16.7



“Our curriculum is innovative and unique within the state sector; it combines academic excellence with enrichment and personal development...”

Separate Sciences

Basic Information

Course Leader

Sam Crawford
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Exam Board

AQA

What type of qualification is it?

GCSE

What will I study?

Students will study all three Science disciplines and be awarded a GCSE in each discipline at the end of the course. The Separate Science pathway is only suitable for the most able and enthusiastic students. The pace of the Separate Science course is much faster compared to the Combined Science course as there is additional content to be covered in each module, but no additional lesson time given.

To do well you need to:

- **Be willing to work hard and persevere** especially when abstract concepts seem challenging.
- **Have strong maths skills;** being confident using and rearranging equations is crucial, as well as being able to handle and interpret data.
- **Think outside the box...** Can you apply the knowledge and understanding that you have learnt in lessons to new situations?

Progression Pathways

All students studying the IBDP course must study at least one of the Sciences. The Separate Science GCSE courses cover much of the content needed to study IB Sciences at both Standard Level and Higher Level. Students can also go on to study any of the Science disciplines at A level.

Careers

As well as the obvious careers such as medicine, dentistry and engineering, having a strong Science GCSE qualification enables a whole range of other careers to be accessed as key transferable skills are learnt throughout the course. These careers can be in areas such as accountancy, forensics, environmental conservation, food industry, economics, government and policy.

How will I be assessed?

Module/Paper	Content	Assessment	Date	%
Biology 1	Cell Biology, Organisation, Infection and response, Bioenergetics	1hr 45min exam	June 2024	50% of Biology qualification
Biology 2	Homeostasis and response, Inheritance, Variation and evolution, Ecology	1hr 45min exam	June 2024	50% of Biology qualification
Chemistry 1	Atomic structure and the Periodic Table, Bonding and structure, Quantitative chemistry, Chemical changes, Energy changes	1hr 45min exam	June 2024	50% of Chemistry qualification
Chemistry 2	Rates of chemical change, Organic chemistry, Chemical analysis, Chemistry of the atmosphere, Using resources	1hr 45min exam	June 2024	50% of Chemistry qualification
Physics 1	Energy, Electricity, Particle model of matter, Atomic structure	1hr 45min exam	June 2024	50% of Physics qualification
Physics 2	Forces, Waves, Magnetism and Electromagnetism, Space Physics	1hr 45min exam	June 2024	50% of Physics qualification

Group Five

Mathematics

(compulsory)

All students study GCSE Mathematics, with a small number of students also completing entry level Maths alongside the GCSE. The most able mathematicians are also given the opportunity to complete Additional Maths (FSMQ), in Period 0, as they approach their GCSE. This is to support them in developing the skills for IB Higher Level Maths and to help secure a Grade 9 in the GCSE.



Mathematics

Basic Information

Course Leader

Paul Thompson
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Exam Board

Edexcel

What type of qualification is it?

GCSE

What will I study?

In GCSE Maths you will develop your understanding of numbers, algebra, data and shape with a focus on problem-solving. Much of the learning will build upon what you have already covered at IVC.

To do well you need to:

- Be willing to persevere, even when topics seem challenging at first
- Put effort into understanding topics rather than just following rules
- Be adaptable to look at problems from different points of view and apply different techniques.

Progression Pathways

All students need to study maths in some form as part of their IB Diploma, and GCSE Maths prepares you fully for all of the options that are available. GCSE Maths prepares you fully for this, be it at Higher or Standard Level.

Many Science subjects at IB and A Level rely on a good understanding of Maths, including Economics. Maths is also a gateway subject for accessing Sixth Form studies; many centres will require a particular grade in Maths to do any course.

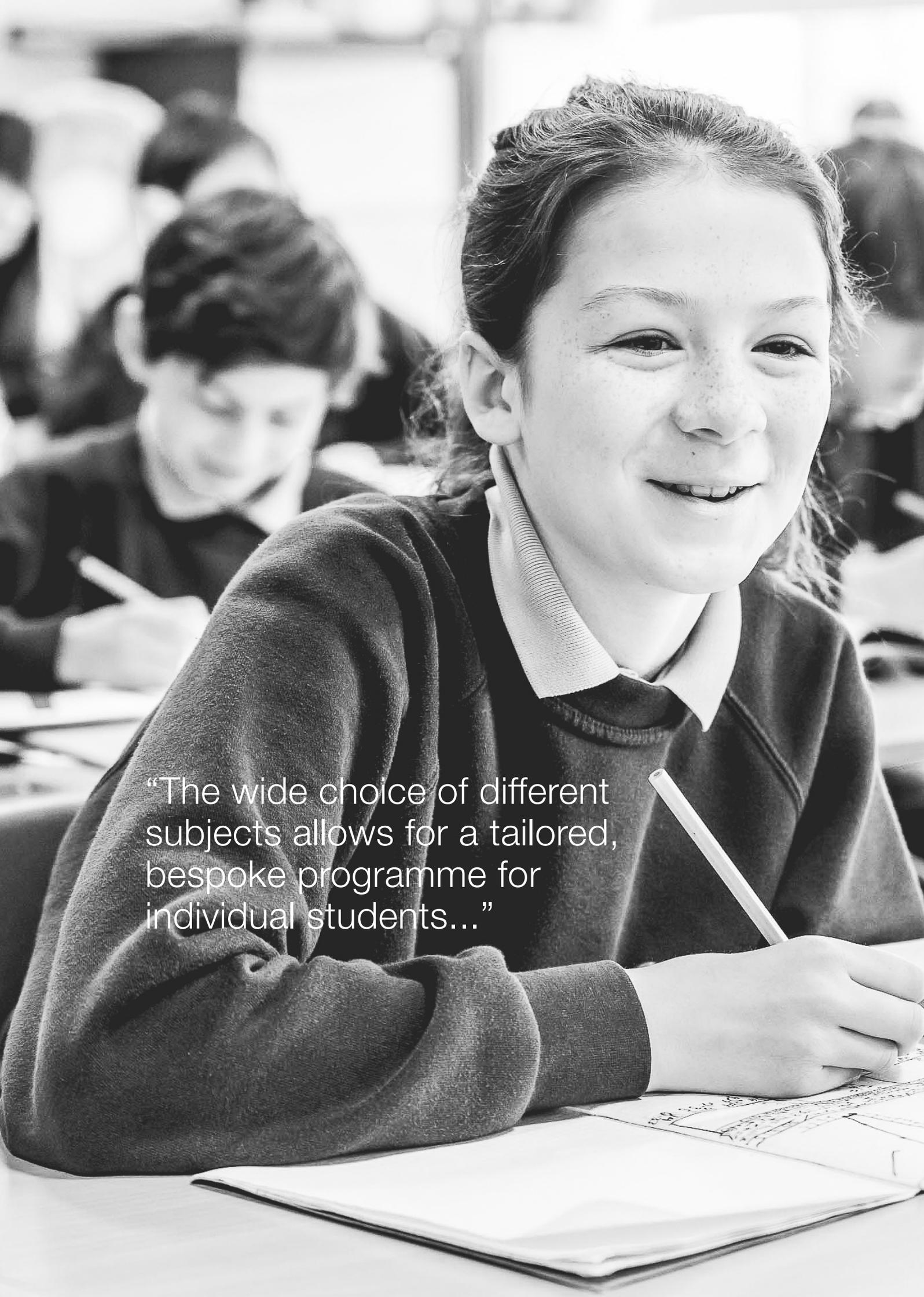
If you do not achieve a Grade 4 in GCSE Maths, you will be required to resit at your post-16 centre.

Careers

Any career in science, engineering (including IT-related subjects) or finance would be a suitable pathway after continuing studying Maths. By no means is this list exhaustive – Maths is used in almost all careers to some extent!

How will I be assessed?

Paper	Content	Assessment	Date	%
Paper 1 (non-calculator)	Full curriculum	Exam: 1hr 30min	June 2024	33
Paper 2 (calculator)	Full curriculum	Exam: 1hr 30min	June 2024	33
Paper 3 (calculator)	Full curriculum	Exam: 1hr 30min	June 2024	33



“The wide choice of different subjects allows for a tailored, bespoke programme for individual students...”

Group Six

Free Choice Options

Students should select TWO 'free choice' Options from the following pages. These should be ONE option from Section 1 and ONE option from Section 2. It is recommended that where students choose a non-GCSE Option, they select one vocational subject and one GCSE.

Section 1

Fine Art
Media (BTEC)
Computer Science
Business (GCSE)
History
Dance
Drama
EPS
French
Latin
PE

Section 2

Fine Art
Photography
Design Technology
Media Studies (GCSE)
Computer Science
Business: Enterprise and
Marketing (Cambridge National)
Geography
Music
Performing Arts (BTEC)
EPS
Health & Social Care
PE

Please note that each subject information page has been printed once where subjects feature in more than one group. Languages, History and Geography information can be found in the sections for Groups 2 and 3 respectively.



Drama

Basic Information

Course Leader

Jane Milne
jmilne@ivc.tmet.org.uk

Exam Board

OCR

What type of qualification is it?

GCSE (cannot be taken in conjunction with BTEC Performing Arts)

What will I study?

The GCSE qualification in Drama provides opportunities for students to understand and create drama as a practical art form. They develop a range of theatrical skills and work collaboratively to generate and communicate ideas and meanings through informed artistic choices.

To do well you need to:

- Enjoy creating and performing drama
- Watch and review live theatre
- Read and analyse plays
- Push yourself outside your comfort zone
- Enjoy collaborating with others.

Progression Pathways

IB Theatre Arts
A Level Drama and Theatre Arts
BTEC Performing Arts

Careers

The communication and confidence skills you acquire in GCSE Drama are useful life skills and are also valuable in any chosen career. Some of the more popular career pathways are jobs in the performing arts industry (actor, agent, director, casting director, playwright) or careers that involve creativity and working with people (events organisation, advertising, marketing, journalism, TV studio work).

How will I be assessed?

Module/Paper	Content	Assessment	Date	%
Unit 1	Devising Drama	Practical and coursework	May 2023	30
Unit 2	Presenting and Performing Texts	Practical	May 2024	30
Unit 3	Performance and Response	Written Examination	May 2024	40

Dance

Basic Information

Course Leader

Orris Gordon
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Exam Board

AQA

What type of qualification is it?

GCSE (cannot be taken in conjunction with BTEC Performing Arts)

What will I study?

GCSE Dance is a high energy subject that allows you to develop your physical, creative and analytical skills. You will study six set dance works that range in style from Contemporary to Hip Hop, you will learn about their stylistic features such as lighting as well as practical movement phrases taken from the choreography. For the practical assessment you will perform two set dance phrases and choreograph two pieces of choreography. There is a written exam worth 40% of the grade which is based on dance appreciation and the six set dance works.

To do well you need to:

- Enjoy learning and performing dance
- Enjoy being creative through choreographing and developing dance
- Enjoy analysing dance
- Enjoy working practically
- Be good at working collaboratively with others

Progression Pathways

IB Dance
A Level Dance
BTEC Performing Arts
BTEC Dance

Careers

The communication, confidence and creative skills you acquire in GCSE Dance are useful life skills and are also valuable in any chosen career. Some of the more popular career pathways are jobs in the performing arts industry (Performer, choreographer, director) or careers that involve creativity and working with people (events organisation, arts critic, arts management, arts administration, advertising, marketing, journalism, TV studio work).

How will I be assessed?

Module/Paper	Content	Assessment	Date	%
Component 1	Performance and Choreography	Internal Practical assessment (30% Performance 30% Choreography)	May 2024	60
Component 1	Dance Appreciation	Written Paper	May 2024	40

SECTION 1: Students to choose ONE subject

Latin

Basic Information

Course Leader

Lawrence McNally

lmcnally@ivc.tmet.org.uk

Exam Board

OCR

What type of qualification is it?

GCSE

In order to study Latin GCSE you will ideally have attended the enrichment classes in years 7 and 8. If you have not attended, you will need to begin attending as soon as the options process is complete.

What will I study?

You will continue to acquire new vocabulary and grammar, enabling you to read more complex texts and (in the final year of the course) to study original Latin literature by authors such as Pliny the Younger, Caesar, Tacitus and Cicero. You will extend your knowledge of Roman culture and civilisation by exploring a range of ancient sources, including art and architecture, and Roman poetry, fiction, histories and inscriptions in translation.

To do well you need to:

- Commit to learning small sections of the specified vocabulary and grammar regularly
- Be interested in analysing and responding to different types of evidence for life in Roman times
- Be ready to reflect on differences between ancient and modern cultural practices and values
- Be ready to read real Latin texts (with your teacher's support) and to explore their historical background and the style in which they are written.

Progression Pathways

Latin and Classical Civilisation can be studied at A Level or within the IB, in combination with other languages, humanities or science subjects. GCSE Latin is highly valued by sixth forms and universities and makes an impressive addition to your UCAS application.

Careers

Study of ancient languages and civilisations can lead directly to careers in archaeology, museum and gallery work, teaching, academia and the media. A knowledge of Latin can also be valuable for those planning careers in areas that use Roman concepts and terminology, such as law, medicine and the sciences. Because learning Latin enhances your vocabulary and understanding of the structure of languages in general, it can complement careers with a language focus, such as translation and interpreting.

How will I be assessed?

Module/Paper	Content	Assessment	Date	%
Paper 1: Language	Reading comprehension and translation from Latin	Exam	June 2024	50
Paper 2: Prose literature	Writing on the content, style and context of set texts that you have studied in the original Latin	Exam	June 2024	25
Paper 3: Literature and Culture	Writing on ancient source material (art, archaeology and texts in English translation) covering two themes in Roman civilisation and culture	Exam	June 2024	25

Fine Art

Basic Information

Course Leader

Alison Elmslie
aelmslie@ivc.tmet.org.uk

Exam Board

Eduqas

What type of qualification is it?

GCSE (cannot be taken in conjunction with Photography)

What will I study?

During GCSE Fine Art you will study four **coursework projects** over the course: two in Year 9, two through Year 10 to Year 11, as well as an **externally set assignment** in Year 11. Using the work you have created during the course, you will need to present a portfolio of your best work for **formal assessment**. The remainder of your marks at GCSE (40 per cent) come from your **externally set assignment**. This is a project set by the examination board. You will have time to create a body of preparatory work in a **sketchbook**, before spending 10 hours on a final piece, over two days at the end of Year 11.

To do well you need to:

- Explore drawing, painting, photography and discover different media – engage in art
- Write about your own and the art of other artists – show a personal response to it
- Be expressive, inventive, curious, and imaginative, take creative risks – enjoy art!
- Work beyond lessons completing tasks and undertaking independent study.

Progression Pathways

IB Visual Art, IB Film, A Level Art, A level History of Art, Fine Art, Graphic Communication, Textile Design, Applied Art & Design, Three-Dimensional Design, Photography, Ceramics, Media, BTEC Art and Design, BTEC Media

Careers

Advertising art director, Animator, Architect, Architectural technician, Art editor, Art gallery curator, Art therapist, Art valuer, Arts administrator, Blacksmith, Bookbinder, CAD technician, Ceramics designer-maker, Community arts worker, Conservator, Costume designer, Design and development engineer, Dressmaker, Exhibition designer, Fashion designer, Fine artist, Florist, Footwear designer, Furniture designer, Furniture maker, Furniture restorer, Glass engraver, Graphic designer, Hat designer, Illustrator, Interior designer, Jewellery designer-maker, Knitter, Landscape architect, Leather craft-worker, Make-up artist, Medical illustrator, Model maker, Museum curator, Photographer, Photographic stylist, Photographic technician, Picture framer, Product designer, Prop maker, Set designer, Sewing machinist, Sign-writer, Stonemason, Tailor, Tattooist, Textile designer, Upholsterer, Visual merchandiser

How will I be assessed?

Module/Paper	Content	Assessment	Date	%
Component 1 Coursework	Students explore critically how artists, photographers, craftspeople and designers from diverse cultures, times, and societies have communicated meaning using the formal elements	Internally marked, externally moderated	June 2024	60
Component 2 Externally Set Assignment	An exam question paper is published in January 2021, and students prepare ideas, observations and work towards an outcome which is produced in a 10 hour exam	Internally marked, externally moderated	June 2024	40

BTEC MEDIA L2

Basic Information

Course Leader

Steven Creamer
screamer@ivc.tmet.org.uk

Exam Board

Pearson BTEC L2

What type of qualification is it?

BTEC National L2

What will I study?

- Nine core areas of Media: Film, TV, Radio, Magazine, Newspapers, Social Media, Marketing, Music Videos, and Video Games.
- How to plan and produce your own short film.
- How to develop skills with technology, including filming, commercial photography and photo and video editing.
- How to use and manage the new TV Studio Space.
- How the media influences society and culture.

To do well you need to:

- Watch and analyse a number of films, TV shows, adverts, and develop media specific language along the way.
- Create your own film piece.
- Investigate the ways media influences society and represents those within it.

Progression Pathways

BTEC Media will prepare you for further study in BTEC Media, IB Film and A Level Media. BTEC Media will provide a platform upon which to apply to the Film and Media Scholarship at Impington International College. Media will teach you a number of skills that are desirable to future employers, such as IT skills and editing and the use of Adobe programs such as Photoshop, Lightroom, Premier Pro and Illustrator.

Careers

Producer, Director, Editor, Cinematographer, Photographer, Graphic designer, App Developer, Journalist, Marketing and Advertising.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Exploring Media Products (Coursework)

Component 2: Developing Digital Media Production Skills (Coursework)

Component 3: Creating Media Products (External Assessment)

GCSE MEDIA

Basic Information

Course Leader

Steven Creamer
screamer@ivc.tmet.org.uk

Exam Board

Pearson/Edexcel

What type of qualification is it?

GCSE

What will I study?

- Nine core areas of Media: Film, TV, Radio, Magazine, Newspapers, Social Media, Marketing, Music Videos, and Video Games.
- How to plan and produce your own short film.
- How to develop skills with technology, including filming, commercial photography and photo and video editing.
- How to use and manage the new TV Studio Space.
- How the media influences society and culture.

To do well you need to:

- Watch and analyse a number of films, TV shows, adverts, and develop media specific language along the way.
- Create your own Magazine Design, using original photography, graphic design and illustrations.
- Investigate the ways media influences society and represents those within it.

Progression Pathways

GCSE Media will prepare you for further study in BTEC Media, IB Film and A Level Media. GCSE Media will provide a platform upon which to apply to the Film and Media Scholarship at Impington International College. Media will teach you a number of skills that are desirable to future employers, such as IT skills and editing and the use of Adobe programs such as Photoshop, Lightroom, Premier Pro and Illustrator.

Careers

Producer, Director, Editor, Cinematographer, Photographer, Graphic designer, App Developer, Journalist, Marketing and Advertising.

How will I be assessed?

Module/Paper	Content	Assessment	Date	%
Paper 1	Television and Promoting Media	Examination	June 2024	35
Paper 2	Music and News Media	Examination	June 2024	35
Coursework	Creating Digital Media	Non-exam assessment	June 2024	30

Physical Education

Basic Information

Course Leader

Pippa Mugan
pmugan@ivc.tmet.org.uk

Exam Board

OCR

What type of qualification is it?

GCSE

What will I study?

Students will study a range of practical sports across the course of three years such as handball, netball, football and trampolining. There will also be a practical coursework element where students review performance within a chosen sport. With the theory aspect of the course students will study five topics including anatomy and physiology, physical training, socio-cultural factors, sports psychology, and health and wellbeing.

To do well you need to:

- Participate within PE lessons and join extra-curricular clubs
- Compete in sports clubs outside of school hours
- Focus in lessons and complete all tasks

Progression Pathways

IB Sport Science
Level 3 BTEC Sport
A Level Physical Education
Biology
Psychology

Careers

PE Teacher, Personal Trainer, Physiotherapist, Sports Centre Manager, Sports Coach

How will I be assessed?

Module/Paper	Content	Assessment	Date	%
Paper 1	Physiological Factors influencing sport	1 hour examination	June 2024	30
Paper 2	Socio-cultural Factors influencing sport	1 hour examination	June 2024	30
Practical Assessment	3 practical sports (at least one team and one individual sport) Analysis of performance coursework	Observation by external moderator, video moderation Written document	May – June 2024	40

Students who select GCSE PE will be given the option of completing a BTEC Sport instead of the GCSE qualification. This decision will be made in conjunction with parents and students at the end of Year 9.

EPS (Religious Studies)

Basic Information

Course Leader

Mo Middleton

mmiddleton@ivc.tmet.org.uk

Exam Board

AQA

What type of qualification is it?

GCSE

What will I study?

The GCSE is in two parts. One part explores ethical issues such as poverty, human rights, equality, family, divorce, contraception, war, peace, crime and punishment. A typical question might be, "Equality is impossible" Discuss. The second part is an academic study of the faiths, Islam and Christianity. A typical question here might be, "Is it not reasonable to believe in God?" Discuss. All the modules require you to use information to construct arguments and to evaluate ideas. You will learn critical thinking skills to help you to do this.

To do well you need to:

- Learn how to construct arguments to persuade people of your point of view.
- Be interested in current affairs especially those about religion in the world
- Engage in lessons and be an active participant in learning

Progression Pathways

IB Philosophy

A level RE or Sociology

It is useful as a supporting subject for History or English at KS5 too.

Careers

Learning to argue and evaluate arguments can be useful for many careers – especially Law but in general, this subject is useful for any job which is primarily about people.

How will I be assessed?

Module/Paper	Content	Assessment	Date	%
8062/1A	Study of Religion You will have four questions. Two questions on Christianity and two on Islam. The questions cover beliefs and practices.	Exam 1 hour 45 mins	June 2024	50
8062/ 2A	Thematic studies [Ethics] This paper has several ethical issues questions and you answer four – probably on family and relationships, human rights, crime and punishment and war and peace.	Exam 1 hour 45 mins	June 2024	50



“...students retain a
balanced and varied
programme of study.”

Health and Social Care

Basic Information

Course Leader

Gina Chivers
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Exam Board

OCR

What type of qualification is it?

Cambridge National Level 1/2 Certificate

What will I study?

Students will study a range of objectives relating to all aspects of Health and Social Care. The course gives a practical and hands-on approach to looking at aspects of care for individuals. You will develop your knowledge of values of care and the current legislation requirements in care, the stages of development with aspects of psychology and the development of children's play, understanding the nutritional requirements of a child or person in need of care and an understanding of the importance of softer skills such as communication skills to ensure individuals right to independence and dignity. The course will develop your creativity skills, independent thinking skills, organisation skills as well as your use of a computer and IT to complete the portfolio of coursework.

To do well you need to:

- Participate and engage well within Health and Social Care lessons
- Enjoy being involved with young children and caring for people
- Focus in lessons and complete all tasks

Progression Pathways

Level 3 in Health/Social Care, Child Development or Child Care
Psychology/Sociology IB/ A level
Food Prep and Nutrition Post-16 Courses
Apprenticeship in Children and Young People's Workforce
Early Years Education

Careers

Primary School Teacher, Nursery Assistant, Nursing, Midwifery, Social Care, Children Services, Playschool Nurse, Healthcare Assistant, Nutrition/Dietetics

How will I be assessed?

Module/Paper	Content	Assessment	Date	%
Exam paper – R021	Essential values of care for use with individuals in care settings	1 hour 60 marks (60 UMS)	Jan of Y10 (option to re-sit in June Yr10)	25
Coursework – R022	Communicating and working with individuals in health, social care and early years settings	10 hours 60 marks (60 UMS)	Summer Term Y9	25
Coursework – R025	Understanding life stages	10 hours 60 marks (60 UMS)	Spring/ Summer Y10	25
Coursework – R029	Understanding the nutrients needed for good health	10 hours 60 marks (60 UMS)	Autumn/ Winter Y11	25

Business Studies

Basic Information

Course Leader

Stephen Drew
sdrew@ivc.tmet.org.uk

Exam Board

OCR Business (9-1) J204

What type of qualification is it?

GCSE

What will I study?

Business 01: Business activity, marketing and people

Students are introduced to business concepts and issues concerning the activities of a business. They explore the purpose and role of a business from spotting an opportunity through to the growth of an established business. They also look at the role of marketing and human resources.

Business 02: Operations, finance and influences on business

Students take a closer look at the role of operations and finance in business activity. Operations include production processes, quality of goods and services, customer service, and working with suppliers. Finance covers its role, its sources, costs, profit and loss, cash and cash flow.

They also explore how business responds to external influences, such as ethical and environmental considerations, the economic climate and globalisation, and the interdependent nature of business.

To do well you need to:

- Be interested and curious about why companies make decisions on what to sell, how to market their products, what prices to charge and how to communicate with their customers
- Be able to apply detailed knowledge of ideas of how to run a business to specific real world situations
- Be willing to ensure that you can hold on to a lot of basic information through constant review and revision throughout the course
- Work in an efficient manner to complete regular short assessment tasks at the end of each mini unit over the three years of the business course.

Progression Pathways

IB Economics
A Level Business
A Level Economics
BTEC Business
IB Business

Careers

Whilst studying business at GCSE can help you in later life if you choose to set up your own business, or indeed become heavily involved in running someone else's, it is not the only future that the course opens up for you. The skills of data analysis, information retrieval and application, as well as being able to apply theories of business to real world situation are all useful in a range of future courses and careers. Business GCSE students are well placed to use their knowledge and skills in almost any future employment situation.

How will I be assessed?

Paper	Content	Assessment	Date	%
Business 01	Business activity, marketing and people	Exam paper 90 minutes	June 2024	50
Business 02	Operations, finance and influences on business	Exam paper 90 minutes	June 2024	50

Cambridge National Level 1/2 Certificate in Business: Enterprise and Marketing

This is a varied and practical course where learners will study three different units covering business enterprise and marketing concepts, and they must design and market a realistic business idea.

For the first unit, learners will understand the main activities that will need to happen to support a start-up business and understand how to target a customer market. They will also develop an understanding of how to attract and retain customers. This unit is assessed by a written external examination which comprises of multiple choice, short answer questions and three extended response questions.

The second unit will provide learners with the skills and knowledge to design a product proposal. Learners will be able to identify a customer profile for their own product design, develop market research tools and use these to complete market research for their product. Learners will complete financial calculations to select a pricing strategy. This unit is assessed internally with candidates producing a detailed portfolio of work during their Business Studies lessons.

In the final unit, learners will develop the skills needed to create a brand identity and promotional plan for the product proposal they produced in the previous unit. They will develop presentation skills to introduce their proposal to an external audience. This unit is assessed through a formal presentation that is completed towards the end of the course.

Further information about this course can be obtained by contacting Mr. Warrington or navigating to the Cambridge Nationals section of the OCR website.

Performing Arts

Basic Information

Course Leader

Jane Milne
jmilne@ivc.tmet.org.uk

Exam Board

Pearson

What type of qualification is it?

BTEC Tech Award Level 2 (cannot be taken in conjunction with GCSE Dance or Drama)

What will I study?

The BTEC Tech Award is for learners who wish to acquire technical skills through vocational contexts by studying acting, dance or musical theatre as part of their Key Stage 4 learning. The Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment.

To do well you need to:

- Enjoy exploring the performing arts in a practical way
- Have a passion for at least one of the performing arts disciplines (dance, acting, singing)
- Enjoy performing to an audience
- Push yourself outside your comfort zone
- Enjoy collaborating with others.

Progression Pathways

Theatre Arts
BTEC Level 3 Performing Arts
IB Theatre Arts

Careers

The communication and confidence skills you acquire in BTEC Performing Arts are useful life skills and are also valuable in any chosen career. Some of the more popular career pathways are jobs in the performing arts industry (actor, agent, director, dancer, casting director, playwright) or careers that involve creativity and working with people (events organisation, advertising, marketing, journalism, TV studio work).

How will I be assessed?

Module/Paper	Content	Assessment	Date	%
Unit 1	Exploring the Performing Arts	Internal	May 2023	30
Unit 2	Developing Skills and Techniques in Live Performance	Internal	May 2024	30
Unit 3	Performing to a Brief	External	May 2024	40

Music

Basic Information

Course Leader

Rhiannon Lewis
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Exam Board

OCR

What type of qualification is it?

GCSE

What will I study?

The GCSE qualification in Music encourages students to actively engage in the study of music, developing individual and group performance skills and the ability to communicate musically. Students learn to appreciate music from a broad range of styles and genres, acquiring the skills to analyse and evaluate it, and using their imagination and creativity by composing (creating) music in various popular, classical and world styles. GCSE Music can also offer the opportunity to explore Music Technology skills (Logic, Sibelius, Basic Recording) if pupils wish to develop their expertise in this area.

To do well you need to:

- Play an instrument, sing, or use Music Technology to create music (*This does not have to be to the highest standard; you will make progress over the course, but some experience is required to access the 60% coursework. Self-taught musicians can do well but may be required to complete additional theory work to consolidate foundation skills. Please enquire if you are unsure*)
- Enjoy listening to a broad range of styles and genres of Music
- Perform within large and small groups, and (occasionally) as a soloist
- Be creative, enquiring, and reflective.

Progression Pathways

IB Music
A Level Music Technology
L3 BTEC Nationals in Music & Music Technology.

Careers

The breadth and highly transferable nature of the academic and creative skills required by this course are widely recognised. Employers and universities looking for dynamic, resourceful, and reflective recruits value musicians for this reason. GCSE Music can lead to creative careers within the music industry (*Performer, Arranger, Song Writer, Producer, DJ, Teacher*) or associated careers (*Radio DJ/Producer, Sound Engineer, Journalist, Events Manager*), or be part of a portfolio of skills for a very wide range of non-musical careers.

How will I be assessed?

Module/Paper	Content	Assessment	Date	%
Performance	Solo and Ensemble Performance on Voice, Instrument, or Music Technology	Coursework	May 2024	30
Composition	Creating 2 original pieces of music, 1 to a brief set by the exam board	Coursework	May 2024	30
Listening and Appraising	Analysing and evaluating excerpts of music from a range of styles	Written Examination	May 2024	40

Design Technology

Basic Information

Course Leader

Arpana Shafi
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Exam Board

AQA

What type of qualification is it?

GCSE

What will I study?

The GCSE course in Design Technology offers an opportunity for students to develop knowledge and a variety of skill sets, from investigating design problems to working creatively, and applying technical and practical learning to designing and making products within a given context.

Year 9 will begin with learning basic skills required for this course such as perspective and technical drawings, as well as the theory of and experimentation with a variety of materials such as paper, woods, metals and new materials. Year 10 will begin with learning the theory and practical of using CAD/CAM, using drawing softwares such as 2D Design and 3D printing, and making various links to industrial manufacturing. This will be followed by various theoretical lessons to prepare students for the exam part of the course. In the final year of this course students will be required to complete a 25 A3 sheet coursework portfolio of a product that they will design and make.

To do well you need to:

- Be able to work practically with various materials and machinery
- Be dedicated and committed
- Be able to complete work using your own initiative.

Progression Pathways

This GCSE can lead to A Levels in various areas such as Product Design, Graphic Products and Graphics. It can also be very useful towards various apprenticeships in carpentry, construction, fashion and textiles, interior design and manufacture, food manufacture and engineering.

Careers

The types of jobs in the design and technology field could lead to are: Fashion Designer, Product Designer, Industrial designer, Architect, Carpenter, Civil Engineer, Tailor, Model Maker, Software Designer. The knowledge, understanding and skills learnt here are also ideal for setting up and running a business, as well other industries such as marketing, media, sales and advertising.

How will I be assessed?

Module/Paper	Content	Assessment	Date	%
Paper 1	Section A-Core Technical Principles Section B-Specialist Technical Principles Section C-Designing and Making Principles	Written Exam	June 2024	50
Non Exam Unit	AO1-Identify, investigate and outline design principles AO2-Design and make prototypes AO3-Analyse and evaluate	Coursework and 3D Practical	May 2024	50

Photography

Basic Information

Course Leader

Alison Elmslie
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Exam Board

Eduqas

What type of qualification is it?

GCSE (cannot be taken in conjunction with GCSE Art)

What will I study?

During GCSE Photography you will study four **coursework projects** over the course: two in Year 9, two through Year 10 to Year 11, as well as an **externally set assignment** in Year 11. Using the work you have created during the course, you will need to present a portfolio of your best work for **formal assessment**. This represents 60 per cent of your final grade. The remainder of your marks at GCSE (40 per cent) come from your **externally set assignment**. This is a project set by the examination board. You will have time to create a body of preparatory work in a **sketchbook**, before spending 10 hours on a final piece, over two days at the end of Year 11.

To do well you need to:

- Explore photography – digital, dark room and photographic surface transformation
- Write about your own work and that of other photographers and artists - show a personal response to it
- Be expressive, inventive, curious, and imaginative, take creative risks - enjoy photography!
- Work beyond lessons completing tasks and undertaking independent study.

Progression Pathways

IB Visual Art, IB Film

A Level Photography, Art Craft and Design, Fine Art, Graphic Communication, Three-Dimensional Design, BTEC Art and Design, Media

Careers

Portrait photographer, Commercial photographer, Scientific photographer, Photojournalist/News photographer, Freelance photographer, Film/video editor, stylist, Advertising art director, Fine artist, Animator, Graphic designer, Arts administrator, Teacher or University lecturer, Art historian, Media planner, Marketing, Public relations, Motion graphics, Visual effects, 3D animation, Computer animation, Multimedia design, Web content manager.

How will I be assessed?

Module/Paper	Content	Assessment	Date	%
Component 1 Coursework	Students explore critically how photographers and artists, from diverse cultures, times, and societies have communicated meaning using the formal elements	Internally marked, externally moderated	June 2024	60
Component 2 Externally Set Assignment	Students prepare ideas, observations and work towards an outcome produced in a 10 hour exam	Internally marked, externally moderated	June 2024	40

Computer Science

Basic Information

Course Leader

Luke Fuggle
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Exam Board

OCR

What type of qualification is it?

GCSE

What will I study?

- A range of programming techniques to solve programming challenges
- How to plan and design programs
- The components of a computer system
- The difference between memory and storage
- Different types of networks and how data moves around local and wide area networks such as the internet
- Ethical, cultural, environmental and legal issues in Computer use
- How data is represented in a computer system
- The need for secure systems.

To do well you need to:

- A high level of determination to solve programming challenges
- Enjoy learning and trying new techniques to solve problems in different ways
- A willingness to listen and to contribute positively in lessons
- Already have a good level of mathematical ability.

Progression Pathways

You could go on to study Computer science at sixth form. You can also continue to study the subject at University.

Careers

Computing is a necessary part of working life and most jobs will require some use of computers and understanding of how to use programmes. A Computer Science qualification could lead to a job as a software developer, website creator, programmer, games designer or in technical support

How will I be assessed?

Paper	Content	Assessment	Date	%
Computer systems	Systems architecture Memory, storage networks, protocols, security, impacts of digital technology.	Exam: 1hr 30min	June 2024	50
Computational thinking, algorithms and programming	Algorithms, Programming fundamentals, Producing robust programs, Boolean logic.	Exam: 1hr 30min	June 2024	50

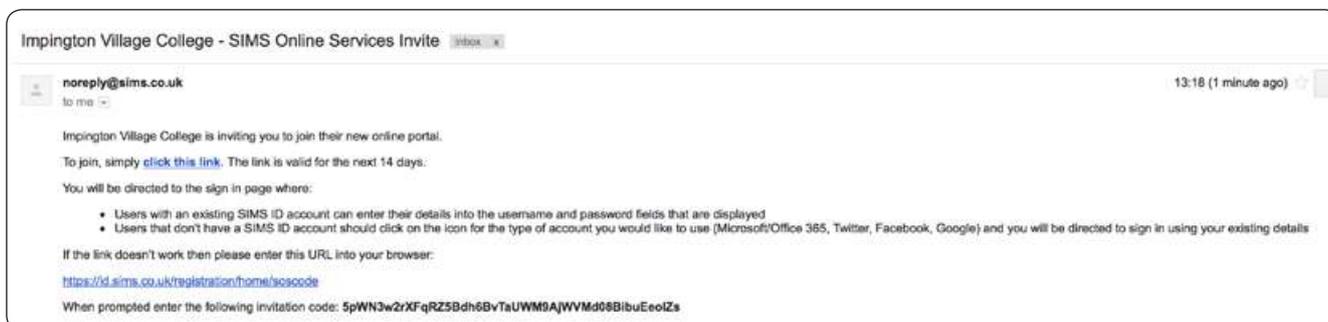
Guide To Choosing Options Online

At IVC we use the Options Online system for students to select their GCSE choices so that we can manage the Options process for students and parents/carers in a streamlined fashion.



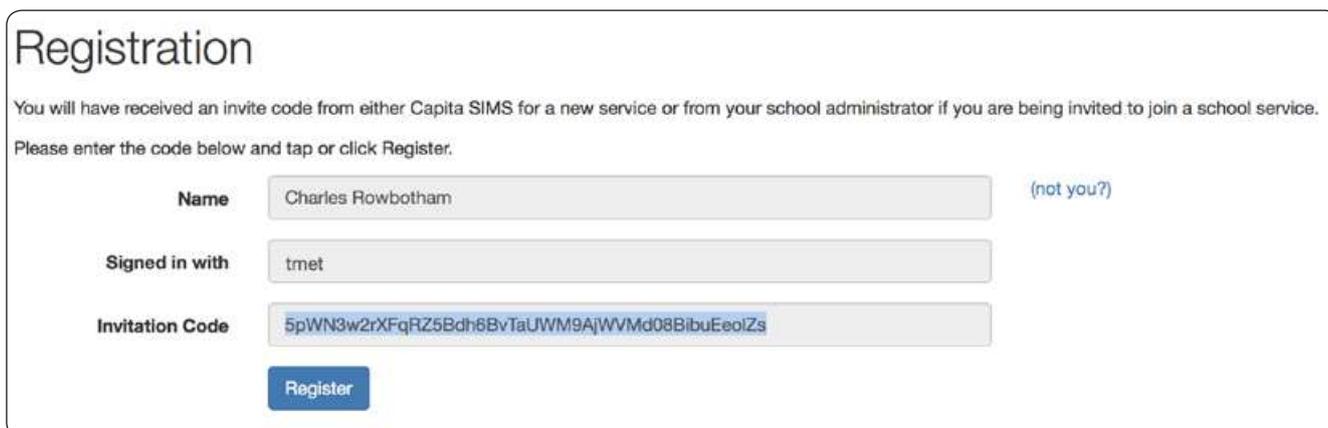
email

Students will receive an email when they are added to the Options system very much like the mail below.

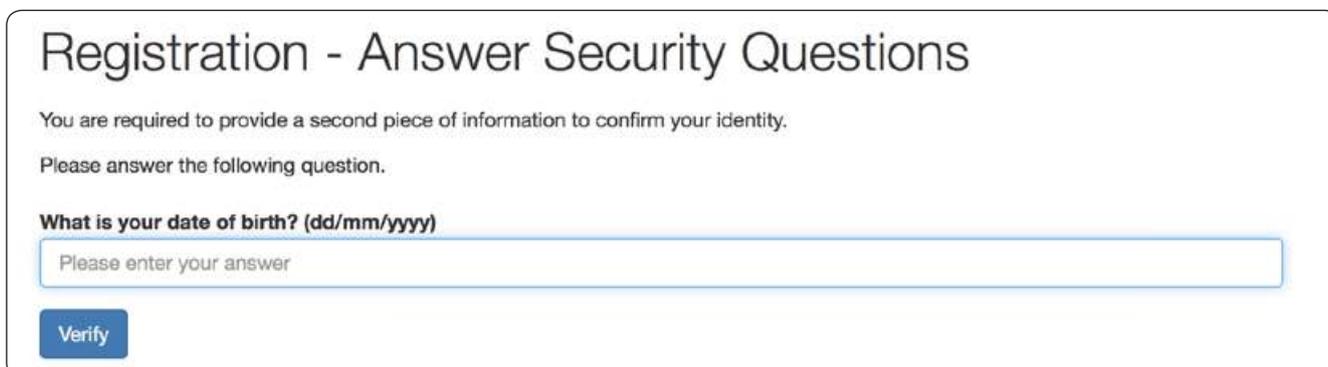


Once students click on the link that says “click this link” they will be taken to a new screen such as the screenshot here.

Registration & Security



Once students click on the link that says “click this link” they will be taken to a new screen such as the screenshot here.



Once students are verified the system will ask them to confirm their tmet account login. Students should login once again with their tmet details and follow the on screen prompts.

Making Choices

Once students have accessed the system they will see a series of boxes. These represent the choice blocks they are able to choose their subjects from.

NB These screenshots do not represent the final option choice on offer to the students; these shots are for illustration purposes only.

Group 6 Free Choice 1

You have chosen 0 of 1 courses and 0 of 1 reserves from this list

Art GCSE Full Course	Reserve	GCSE Dance GCSE Full Course	Reserve
Drama GCSE Full Course	Reserve	EPS GCSE Full Course	Reserve
French GCSE Full Course	Reserve	LATIN GCSE Full Course	Reserve
Media Studies GCSE Full Course	Reserve	Gcse Pe GCSE Full Course	Reserve

Group 6 Free Choice 2

You have chosen 0 of 1 courses and 0 of 1 reserves from this list

Art & Photography GCSE Full Course	Reserve	Computer Science GCSE Full Course	Reserve
EPS GCSE Full Course	Reserve	History GCSE Full Course	Reserve
JAPANESE GCSE Full Course	Reserve	Music GCSE Full Course	Reserve
Gcse Pe GCSE Full Course	Reserve	Product Design GCSE Full Course	Reserve

In the two blocks above students can choose a first choice option by clicking on the subject that they want to choose. There is no need for students to choose a reserve option at the moment. If students are unable to get their first choice then we would sit down with the student and review the other options and the reasons why they cannot have their first choice. They would then have time to reconsider and make their next subject choice.

Once students have clicked on their preferred subjects the screen will look very similar to below.

Group 6 Free Choice 2

You have chosen 1 of 1 courses and 1 of 1 reserves from this list

Art & Photography GCSE Full Course	Reserve	Computer Science GCSE Full Course	Reserve
EPS GCSE Full Course	Reserve	History GCSE Full Course	Reserve
JAPANESE GCSE Full Course	Reserve	Music GCSE Full Course	Reserve
Gcse Pe GCSE Full Course	Reserve	Product Design GCSE Full Course	Reserve

The software very helpfully points out to students where subjects appear in multiple blocks and prevents them from choosing it again. In the previous screenshot, the student has already chosen History in Group 3 so is unable to choose it again here. We will also prevent students from taking any of the prohibited subject combinations (listed in the booklet).

Once all the choices are made the students' right hand screen will show this summary:

My Choices in Order of Preference (Total Choices: 4)

To change your order of preference select a choice and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

- 1 French**
GCSE Full Course Group 2
- 2 LATIN**
GCSE Full Course Group 6 Free Choice 1
- 3 Art & Photography**
GCSE Full Course Group 6 Free Choice 2
- 4 Geography**
GCSE Full Course Group 3

The option to rank the subjects in order of preference is not necessary as these are single choice items in each block.

Students then have the choice to leave a message regarding the reasons for their choices in the screen below.

▼ Student Comments

Add any comments here

Once the student saves their choices their options process is complete for the time being.

Tutors will then be asked to review the student's choices with them during tutor time and these choices will be shared with parents so that they are aware what their son or daughter has chosen.

If you have further questions about the Options online process, please contact Chris Gee at cgee@ivc.tmet.org.uk



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CHOICES

A guide to the curriculum at KS4



GCSE Learning Pathways