



IVESHEAD SIXTH FORM CHOICES

Thank you for considering Iveshead Sixth Form for the next step of your academic journey.

To make your application, you will need to complete a form that is linked on our website. Before you complete it, you will need to decide what subjects you would like to study.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To obtain a place at Iveshead Sixth Form, you will need to achieve at least 5 grade 4 and above passes in your GCSEs. You must get a 4 in at least one of GCSE Maths or English Language, as we are unable to offer a resit opportunity in both.

If you have already studied a particular subject at GCSE, then we would need to see a pass of at least a grade 4, in order that we can see that you have the potential to be successful in this subject at a higher level.

It is possible to take some subjects without having studied them at GCSE, e.g. Geography, History, Business Studies, Psychology, Media Studies, Theatre Studies, Fine Art, Photography, Design, Sport, Criminology, Health and Social Care, Law. Any prior study will, however, always be useful.

In addition to this, some subjects require a higher grade:

Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Maths require at least a grade 6 at GCSE to study at A level.

Further Maths requires at least a grade 7 to have been achieved in GCSE Maths

WHAT SHOULD I CHOOSE?

When choosing which 3 (or occasionally 4) subjects to take for A-level studies, it is important to consider whether a particular combination of subjects may be useful, or even essential, when looking to pursue a particular professional pathway in the future.

Our blocking pattern has been designed with that in mind, and the following pages make some suggestions as to particular combinations that might be considered if you are looking at specific career choices.

It is worth noting that the 'normal' choice at A level is for 3 subjects to be taken, with the potential addition of an EPQ or Core Maths.

We would only suggest undertaking 4 A levels if you are likely to achieve GCSE grades of 7's, 8's and 9's.

If you are unsure as to what your post-18 path may look like, then the advice would be to take subjects that you enjoy and may be good at. Try to keep a breadth of subjects that give you a range of skills. This will help to keep your options open.

After an application has been submitted, we will schedule a meeting with a member of SLT to ensure that choices fit with the student's ideas for their future plans. If you are a student currently not at Iveshead School, Mrs Brentnall will make arrangements to meet with you towards the end of the Autumn term

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D	Block E
Criminology (BTEC)	English Literature	Chemistry	Biology	Core Maths (AS equivalent)
French	Photography	Computer Science	Business Studies	EPQ (AS equivalent)
Maths	Physics	Fine Art	Design	Further Maths
Media Studies	Psychology	Geography	History	
Sport (CNAT)		Health & Social Care (BTEC)	Theatre Studies	
		Law		

NOTES: Further Mathematics is only ever chosen as a fourth A level choice. It would never be instead of Mathematics or as a third option alongside Mathematics and one other; the reduction in the breadth of skills the student would then have would be limiting future options.

Qualifications are GCE A levels unless otherwise stated. Each BTEC and CNAT is equivalent to one A level and carries UCAS points in line with A levels.

PATHWAY SUGGESTIONS

Please bear in mind that this is by no means an exhaustive list of combinations for the suggested pathways, but designed to offer guidance for the choices being made. If you already have an idea of a career pathway or university course that may feature in your future plans, we would always advise doing some personal research now, in order to make informed choices at this point.

STEM routes - Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths

STEM route 1:

Maths	Physics	Chemistry	Biology	
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STEM route 2:

Maths	Physics	Computer Science		
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STEM route 3:

Maths	Physics		Design	
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STEM route 4:

Maths		Computer Science	Design	
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STEM route 5 (Suitable for Medicine / Veterinary Medicine / Dentistry):

Maths		Chemistry	Biology	
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STEM route 6 (Suitable for Medicine / Veterinary Medicine / Dentistry):

	Physics	Chemistry	Biology	
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NOTE:

- i) Any of the first 3 routes above would work for pathways linked to engineering
- ii) Chemical engineering would require Chemistry
- iii) Further Maths could be added to any of the 3 A level suggestions
- iv) Whilst we do not insist that Maths is taken alongside Physics, it would always be our recommendation that this should be the case.
- v) Chemistry is the key subject in the Medical sciences routes 5 and 6

Forensic Science route 1:

Criminology (BTEC)	Psychology	Chemistry		
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Forensic Science route 2:

Criminology (BTEC)	Psychology		Biology	
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Forensic Science route 3:

Maths	Psychology	Chemistry		
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NOTE: The key for this pathway is to have a science A level in either Chemistry or Biology. The other suggested subjects would complement and add a range of skills suitable for this pathway.

Paramedic route:

Maths	Psychology		Biology	
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NOTE: Biology is the key A level for this pathway, but could be complemented by a variety of other subjects. Maths and Psychology would create an excellent package of skills for this pathway.

Sports Science / Physiotherapy route 1:

Sport (CNAT)	Psychology		Biology	
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Sports Science / Physiotherapy route 2:

Maths		Chemistry	Biology	
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Sports Science / Physiotherapy route 3:

Maths	Psychology		Biology	
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NOTE: Biology remains the key subject in each of these combinations, but partners well with a variety of other subjects.

Journalism route:

Media Studies	English Literature		History	
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NOTE: Key skills here are the ability to write with clarity and to analyse source material, so one from English Literature or History would show these skills well. There would be many other combinations that would complement one of these subjects to offer a sensible range of useful skills.

Art / Design route 1:

Media Studies	English Literature	Fine Art		
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Art / Design route 2:

Media Studies	Photography		Business Studies	
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Art / Design route 3:

Maths		Computer Science	Design	
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NOTE: Anyone taking one of the creative subjects needs to be aware of the time demand in producing the NEA element of the course. It would be a huge time commitment to select more than one from Fine Art, Photography and Design. That doesn't mean that you can't, but would need to be mindful of the time required in doing so.

Care professions route 1:

	English Literature	Health & Social Care (BTEC)	Biology	
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Care professions route 2:

Maths	Psychology	Health & Social Care (BTEC)		
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NOTE: These are just 2 suggestions for anyone considering working in some kind of caring capacity. There will be many other routes that would be suitable, and they would NOT have to include Health and Social Care.

Law route 1:

Maths	English Literature		History	
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Law route 2:

Criminology (BTEC)	English Literature		Business Studies	
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Law route 3:

Maths		Law	History	
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NOTE: Universities in the UK do not require a Law qualification at level 3 in order to go on and do a Law degree. They prefer to see English Literature or History as both these subjects demonstrate a range of analytical skills deemed crucial for this profession. We offer BTEC Applied Law, which is in no way essential to following a Law career path. Maths demonstrates further problem-solving skills and a numerical approach to analysis.

Environmental Science route 1:

Maths		Geography	Biology	
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Environmental Science route 2:

Maths	Physics	Geography		
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Environmental Science route 3:

Maths		Chemistry	Biology	
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NOTE: There would be a variety of sensible subjects for this route. A good scientific grounding is essential.

Business Management route 1:

Maths		Computer Science	Business Studies	
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Business Management route 2:

Media Studies	Psychology		Business Studies	
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NOTE: Business Studies partners well with a number of other subjects, these are just 2 suggestions. For anyone looking at the Economics side of Business, then Maths would be a sensible companion.

As previously mentioned, these are just some suggested combinations that may work well for particular career directions. You are welcome to put your own combinations together, but they must be taken from the 5 blocks as set out in this document.

For any further information, please get in touch:

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