



KS4 Options Handbook

2026-27

Options for Year 10 at Iveshead School

Welcome to the Options Process

This is the moment where your child begins to take ownership of their education. By selecting subjects that align with their talents, they are building the foundation for their future careers.

The Curriculum Structure

To ensure a well-rounded education, all students continue with the **Core Curriculum**: English Language, English Literature, Maths, Science (triple) , Core PE, and Personal Development.

Beyond these, students select **three optional subjects**:

1. **One EBacc Subject**: (French, German, Geography or History).
2. **Two Flexible Choices**: A mix of GCSEs and Vocational subjects. Both pathways are of equal value, though Vocational courses focus more heavily on coursework.

How to Apply

- **Research**: Use this booklet to explore your options. Email subject specialists (listed on each page) with any specific questions.
- **Submit**: A Google Form will be sent to your child's school email on **30th January**.
- **Deadline**: Please complete the form by **9th February**.
- **Reserves**: Please choose reserve subjects carefully, as they may be used if scheduling clashes occur.

Final placements will be confirmed via letter before the end of the Spring Term.

Questions? Please contact me at cchisholm@ivesheadschoool.org.

Options and Careers

Skills, Interests, and Careers

The most important factor in this process is your child's success and well-being. We encourage students to choose subjects they genuinely enjoy and excel in, as this is where they will see the most growth.

Focus on Strengths

- **Success Matters Most:** Future employers and colleges prioritise high achievement in a chosen subject over the specific title of the qualification.
- **Play to Their Talents:** If your child thrives with practical, hands-on work rather than purely academic study, they should be encouraged to pursue that pathway.
- **Identify Skills:** Encourage your child to use the **Skills Tool on Unifrog** to identify their strengths. We recommend sitting down together to discuss which subjects align with these findings.

Get "Clued Up" at Options Evening

To help make informed decisions, please join us for our **Options Evening on Thursday, 29th January**.

- **Meet the Experts:** Talk directly to teachers to find out exactly what the next two years of study will look like.
- **Come Prepared:** Ask your child which subjects interest them beforehand so you can focus your time. It is helpful to bring a list of prepared questions for specific departments.
- **Can't Attend?** If you are unable to make it, please email your questions to your the named contact on the subject page of this booklet.

Supporting, Not Deciding

It is natural to want to guide your child toward subjects you enjoyed or value, but this decision belongs to them.

- **The Right Fit:** Choosing a subject based on someone else's preference can lead to a lack of motivation or a "skills gap" later on.
- **Be a Sounding Board:** Listen to their ideas and remain open-minded, even if their choices differ from what you would have chosen for yourself.

Useful Resources

- **BBC Bitesize:** [The Ultimate options guide 2026](#).
- **Unifrog:** A comprehensive platform for careers and pathways. Your child has full access and you should also be able to set up a parent account using the 'parent email' associated with your child's contact details by going to www.unifrog.org/sign-in and clicking 'open account'.

Index of Subjects

Core:

- [English \(language and literature\)](#)
- [Maths](#)
- [Science](#)
- [Physical Education \(PE\)](#)
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EBAC Core

- [French](#)
- [Geography](#)
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GCSE Options

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Vocational Options

- [Creative I-media](#)
- [Enterprise & Marketing](#)
- [Health and Social Care](#)
- [Sports Studies](#)

English Language & English Literature GCSE

Exam board:

AQA (specifications 8700 English Language / 8702 English Literature)

Course Overview:

Pupils study English for four periods a week in Years 10 and 11 and are awarded two separate GCSEs at the end of the course. English Language assesses how well pupils can write persuasively or descriptively, as well as also examining how well they can respond to unseen fiction and non-fiction texts. English Literature is the study of a range of set texts: *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Christmas Carol*, *An Inspector Calls* and a poetry anthology. There are many overlaps between the two GCSEs and the skills taught tend to be relevant to both.

Essentially, the pupils are developing their communication skills, which should help them with all of their GCSEs and which are essential for the vast majority of potential careers.

Course Content:

Pupils will read a variety of texts throughout the course and will be asked to respond in various ways. They will also experiment with different writing styles and will present a short speech to their peers on a topic of their choice. There will be extra-curricular opportunities throughout the course including creative writing workshops, writing competitions and homework support sessions.

Assessment:

There are two exams in both English Language and English Literature.

English Language Paper 1: Response to unseen modern text / Writing to describe	50%
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English Language Paper 2: Response to unseen non-fiction texts / Writing to persuade	50%
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English Literature Paper 1: <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> / <i>A Christmas Carol</i>	40%
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English Literature Paper 2: <i>An Inspector Calls</i> / Poetry anthology / Unseen poetry	60%
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What does this course lead to?

Most employers see a pupil's English grade as a vital indication of their basic skills and the qualification is essential for many courses or careers. Pupils who wish to build on the skills developed at GCSE can go on to study English Literature at A' Level.

If you have any questions about this course please contact Mr Bailey sbailey1@ivesheadschoo.org

Mathematics

GCSE

Exam board:

Edexcel

Course Overview:

Mathematics is central to our understanding of the world in which we live, to our control of the environment, and to the organisation of our society. It underpins science, technology, medicine, economics and government. Maths is critical to our understanding of the world because it is the language we speak when asked to explain it.

Course Content:

The content of all specifications is now identical across all examination boards and split into exactly the same topic areas. Foundation papers will have a greater emphasis on number work while the Higher tier paper will place more emphasis on Algebra to provide a clearer pathway to further mathematical study.

The aims of all new Mathematics qualifications are to

- Develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts
- Acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems
- Reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences, and draw conclusions
- Comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context

To assess these aims Mathematics will be assessed across the following content areas.

1. Number
2. Algebra
3. Ratio, proportion and rates of change
4. Geometry and measures
5. Probability
6. Statistics

Assessment:

Students are assessed by examination only

Unit 1: 1hr 30 mins	(non-calculator)	80 marks
Unit 2: 1hr 30 mins	(calculator)	80 marks
Unit 3: 1hr 30 mins	(calculator)	80 marks

What does this course lead to?

The possibilities with Mathematics are endless. Degrees in Mathematics are becoming increasingly desirable with employers looking to attract the best problem solvers to their companies.

Mathematicians are found in almost every single industry and underpin advances in our society and modern industry. From health-care to ecology, computing to space travel the influence of Mathematics is being felt across the globe and at every single level. The rate of technological growth is a direct impact of our increased understanding of Mathematics.

If you have any questions about this course please contact Miss Neep on fneep@ivesheadschoo.org

Science GCSE

Exam board:

AQA

Course Overview:

Most students follow the AQA GCSE Science Triple course. This means they will gain three GCSE grades .

Course Content:

Biology 1. Cell biology 2. Organisation 3. Infection and response 4. Bioenergetics 5. Homeostasis and response 6. Inheritance, variation and evolution 7. Ecology	Chemistry 8. Atomic structure and the periodic table 9. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter 10. Quantitative chemistry 11. Chemical changes 12. Energy changes 13. The rate and extent of chemical change 14. Organic chemistry 15. Chemical analysis 16. Chemistry of the atmosphere 17. Using resources	Physics 18. Energy 19. Electricity 20. Particle model of matter 21. Atomic structure 22. Forces 23. Waves 24. Magnetism and electromagnetism 25. Space Physics (Triple Science only)
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Assessment:

Students are assessed by examination only. Examinations are taken in the summer term of Year 11.

Triple Sciences:

Biology:	Unit 1	1hr 45 mins	Unit 2	1hr 45 mins
Chemistry:	Unit 1	1hr 45 mins	Unit 2	1hr 45 mins
Physics:	Unit 1	1hr 45 mins	Unit 2	1 hr 45 mins

What does this course lead to?

Science qualifications are highly regarded in the world of work and Further Education. Many of our students are successful in gaining apprenticeships or training schemes with local business. We have a large proportion of our students stay on for further study in sciences.

If you have any questions about this course please contact Mr Trenchard on jtrenchard@ivesheadschool.org

Core PE

Exam board:
Not examined

Course Overview:

This KS4 Core Physical Education course provides students with the opportunity to participate in a broad range of individual and team sports, each delivered with an inclusive approach through a structured four-week unit. The curriculum is designed to develop students' physical literacy and competence, tactical understanding, and confidence across a variety of activities, encouraging lifelong participation in physical activity.

A key feature of this course is the integration of life skills within every lesson, including teamwork, confidence, being socially active and how being active can help support their mental health. These skills are taught, practiced, and reflected upon within each activity, enabling students to recognise their relevance and apply them both in sporting contexts and in wider life beyond Physical Education.

Inclusion

Course Content:

1 hour lesson a week

Physical activities could include Netball/Basketball, short tennis, badminton, Flag football, Fitness, problem solving, Ultimate frisbee, Volleyball, Touch Rugby and a striking and fielding activity (cricket/rounders)

Assessment:

3 areas of assessment

- Head focus includes being able to fully explain why a warm up is important, understand the importance of being physically active including long and short term benefits as well as being able to describe how the technical aspects of the activity in order to improve performances,
- Heart focus includes being motivated to succeed, showing resilience and being confident in leading, officiating and performing in a wide of activities in and out of school.
- Hands focus includes demonstrating practically skills, techniques and tactics and being able to act upon feedback to improve.

Students are assessed using the same grading system as our examination course (Cambridge National) which is entry, pass, merit, distinction and distinction *

What does this course lead to?

This course enables the students to continue to improve their physical literacy journey by remaining physically active into their adult life.

If you have any questions about this course please contact Mrs J Jenkins - JJenkins@ivesheadschoo.org

Personal Development

Exam board:
Not examined

Overview:

Throughout KS4 students will take part in a PD session every week. During these sessions students will deepen their knowledge and understanding, extend and rehearse skills, and further explore attitudes, values and attributes acquired during KS3. Lessons will reflect the fact that students are moving towards an independent role in adult life, taking greater responsibility for themselves and others.

All areas of the RSE curriculum are covered at least once during KS4 with key topics being visited multiple times. We use PSHE Associated Resources and guidance throughout. We try to incorporate a range of strategies for our students in KS4 these include Mock Interviews with real employers to help build readiness for beyond Iveshead School and visitors from external sources such as Warning Zone and Just like us.

Course Content:

- Diversity and racism.
- Sexual health, sexuality and gender.
- Life Skills eg managing money.
- Employability Skills eg. mock interviews, employer encounters, planning next steps.
- Relationships, family and friends.
- Well-being and mental health.
- Physical health
- Online safety

Assessment:

Not assessed. You will be able to view students engagement in each topic on Go4schools.

If you have any questions about this course please contact Mrs C. Stevenson or Dr. J Cairns on cstevenson@ivesheadschool.org or jcairns@ivesheadschool.org

Art, Craft and Design GCSE

Exam board:**AQA****Course Overview:**

This practical course focuses on a full range of art techniques and skills including ceramics (clay), sculpture, drawing, painting, printmaking, digital photography, and model making. It gives students the best possible introduction to a wide variety of careers within Art and Design.

Projects involve briefs which are typical of those set for artists and designers so students understand the role of a working professional.

Course Content:

- Drawing Techniques
- Mark making
- 2D & 3D Ceramics
- 3D sculpture techniques
- Mixed media
- Mono printing
- Designing
- Photography
- Computer art and PhotoShop
- Artists ideas & techniques
- Lino printing
- Etching
- Exam preparation

Assessment:

The Art, Craft & Design GCSE is assessed through:

'Portfolio of Work' 60%

Externally Set Assignment 40%

(this is a project set by the exam board—students have a choice of 7 different starting points/theme to study.)

What does this course lead to?

This qualification will help students to progress to employment, vocational training, apprenticeships and higher education. At Post 16 the Art Department currently offers A level Fine Art. This course gives students the opportunity to build on their success at GCSE and progress on to Higher education courses such as foundation art. Art GCSE can support careers in many areas such as: fashion, illustration, interior design, animation, computer games design, architecture, textiles, publishing, web design, photography to name a few.

If you have any questions about this course please contact Mrs Hedben on lhebden@ivesheadschoo.org

Business GCSE

Exam board:

Edexcel

Course Overview:

GCSE Business is a highly relevant and engaging course that explores the key principles of how businesses operate in the modern world. Students learn about the core aspects of business, including entrepreneurship, marketing, finance, operations, and human resources, gaining an understanding of how organisations succeed and adapt in a fast-paced, competitive environment.

The course emphasizes the practical application of knowledge, allowing students to engage with real-world scenarios, make informed decisions, and understand the impact of business choices on customers, employees, and society. Through this process, students develop a wide range of transferable skills such as problem-solving, strategic thinking, analysis, communication, teamwork, and presentation skills.

Course Content:**Theme 1: Investigating Small Business:**

- Enterprise and Entrepreneurship
- Spotting a Business Opportunity
- Putting a Business Idea into Practice
- Making the Business Effective
- Understanding External Influences on Business

Theme 2: Building a Business:

- Growing the Business
- Making Marketing Decisions
- Making Operational Decisions
- Making Financial Decisions
- Making Human Resource Decisions

Assessment:

Students are assessed by examination only:

- | | | |
|---|----------------|-------|
| • Theme 1: Investigating Small Business | 1 hour 45 mins | (50%) |
| • Theme 2: Building a Business | 1 hour 45 mins | (50%) |

What does this course lead to?

Careers in business are varied, dynamic, and can be highly rewarding. This qualification equips students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to progress into employment, vocational training, apprenticeships, or higher education. It opens doors to a wide range of fields, including accountancy, advertising and marketing, economics, fashion, retail management, international business, politics, and sport and leisure management. For students wishing to continue their studies, A Level Business is available in the sixth form, providing the opportunity to build on the foundations laid at GCSE. It also offers an excellent platform for further academic study and a pathway to higher education or specialist career routes within the business sector.

If you have any questions about this course please contact Miss S Patel on spatel@ivesheadschoool.org

Computer Science

GCSE

Exam board:
OCR

Course Overview:

GCSE Computer Science will provide students with a real, in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. Students are familiar with the use of computers and other related technology from their other subjects and elsewhere, however, this course will give them an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes', including computer programming, which many students find absorbing.

The course will develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills through the study of computer programming, giving students a fun and interesting way to develop these skills, which can be transferred to other subjects and even applied in day-to-day life.

Course Content:

The course covers two main areas of study and one programming project:

Unit 1: Computer Systems

- Systems Architecture
- Memory and storage
- Wired and wireless networks
- Network topologies, protocols and layers
- System security
- System software
- Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns

Unit 2: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming

- Algorithms
- Programming techniques using VB.net
- Producing robust programs
- Computational logic
- Translators and facilities of languages
- Data representation

Assessment:

Students are assessed by examination and practical work

Unit 1: Computer System: 50% examination

Unit 2: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming: 50% examination

Programming Project: All students are required to undertake a practical programming project.

What does this course lead to?

Careers in Computer Technology related areas are diverse and often highly paid. This qualification will provide a superb stepping stone to progress to employment, vocational training, apprenticeships and higher education.

If you have any questions about this course please contact Mr Trenchard on jtrenchard@ivesheadschoo.org

3D Design & Technology GCSE

Exam board:

AQA

Course Overview:

The course has been designed to cover all aspects of design and will give students a broad range of multidisciplinary skills suitable for many different career paths.

Course Content:

Years 10:

The projects undertaken in year 10 form the basis of the skills and knowledge that will be used in the Year 11 main project. The first few weeks are spent developing the basic drawing and presentation techniques that will be used throughout the 3D Design course.

Some of the projects the students currently undertake include:

CO2 Car Project:

After completing the initial presentation techniques section of work, the students will then start the CO2 Car Project. Students are required to design and make a CO2 powered car that is raced down our special track. This project will reinforce key drawing skills as well as providing opportunities to use the CAD/CAM technology present in the department

Lighting Project

Students design in CAD an angle poise lamp, then make using a variety of techniques including vacuum forming, soldering, concrete casting, laser cutting, as well as general wood techniques.

Architectural Design Project:

This will involve undertaking two different mini projects. The first will teach the key elements of structures and will involve designing and making a bridge. The second will cover building styles and model making.

Slot Toy Project:

Students design and make a toy that is made by slotting together different pieces of wood/plastic. The focus is on modelling and improving practical accuracy.

Year 11:

In year 11 the students undertake their major project (the NEA). After completing the NEA, the lesson time is then spent preparing for the final exam.

Assessment:

The scheme of assessment is split into two parts:

Exam	50% (at the end of Year 11)
Coursework	50% (NEA Project in Year 11)

What does this course lead to?

This course will prepare students for a pathway into a broad range of different career types, not just the creative industries. More obvious pathways include: Engineering, Design careers, Architecture, Manufacturing, Teaching, as well as many others. We offer an A-Level in Product Design that builds upon the knowledge gained in this GCSE course.

If you have any questions about this course please contact Mr J Mark or Mrs C Stevenson on jmark@ivesheadschool.org / cstevenson@ivesheadschool.org

Drama GCSE

Exam board: OCR

Course Overview:

Drama is a practical, creative and engaging subject which will provide opportunities to understand and create drama as a practical art form. Students learn how ideas and meaning are communicated to an audience through informed artistic choices. Students will study this art form and apply their knowledge and understanding to the process of creating and developing drama and to their own performance work. Students also watch professional theatre and learn to analyse how the different elements such as lighting, set, sound and costume design come together to create meaning. Students will watch a variety of recorded and live theatre to help them develop their analytical and evaluative skills.

Drama provides a fantastic curriculum to ignite and engage learners' creativity, passion and interests. The non-exam assessment allows learners to explore their own interest and develop their skills in either performance or design. It also provides freedom for learners to experiment and take risks with their work while developing their own style.

Course Content:

As part of the course, students will practically study a range of drama texts, both modern and traditional, providing a solid foundation for students who wish to go on and study Drama at A Level and further education. Students will also be taught a range of devising strategies and styles to use in the Devising Drama component and how to critically evaluate their own and other's performances. Students will need to be prepared to take part in visits to the theatre.

Assessment:

There are three assessed components:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Devising Drama | 30% non-exam assessment |
| 2. Presenting and Performing Texts | 30% visiting examiner |
| 3. Drama: Performance and Response | 40% exam 1hr 40 mins |

What does this course lead to?

This course leads to a variety of different pathways. Some students may choose an academic pathway and go on to study Drama and Theatre Studies at A level and later to degree level. Students with a particular interest in performance may go on to study at Drama or Performing Arts at specialist Drama schools. Those with an interest in the technical or design elements of the course may go on to study costume, set, sound or lighting design or some other aspect of theatre, including arts administration and event management roles. Skills developed on the course are highly transferable and students will gain confidence in presenting themselves and their ideas, and an ability to work closely as a team member.

If you have any questions about this course please contact Mrs Watson hwatson@ivesheadschoool.org

Fine Art GCSE

Exam board:

AQA

Course Overview:

This course promotes the central skills in observational drawing, painting, ceramics (clay) and colour work with the opportunity to work creatively in both two and three dimensions and an introduction to computer generated images. This course is ideal for students who wish to build up a strong skill set in art and enjoy working with 2D media such as pens, pencils, crayons, pastels and paint, but who also want the opportunity to do some ceramics work.

Course Content:

- Drawing Techniques
- Mark making
- Painting
- Designing
- 2D & 3D Ceramics
- Mono printing
- Computer art and Photoshop
- Artists ideas & techniques
- Exam preparation

Assessment:

The Fine Art GCSE is assessed through:

'Portfolio of Work'	60%
Externally Set Assignment	40%

(this is a project set by the exam board—students have a choice of 7 different starting points/themes to study.)

What does this course lead to?

This qualification will help students to progress to employment, vocational training, apprenticeships and higher education. At Post 16 the Art Department currently offers A level Fine Art. This course gives students the opportunity to build on their success at GCSE and progress on to Higher education courses such as foundation art. Art GCSE can support careers in many areas such as: fashion, illustration, interior design, animation, computer games design, architecture, textiles, publishing, web design, photography to name a few.

If you have any questions about this course please contact Mrs Hebde on lhebden@ivesheadschoo.lor

Food & Nutrition GCSE

Exam Board:
AQA

Course Overview:

The GCSE specification in food preparation and nutrition will equip students with the knowledge, understanding, skills and encouragement they need to cook. It will give them the ability to apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating.

Students will be able to make informed decisions about a wide range of further learning opportunities and career pathways, and develop vital life skills so that they can feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously.

Course Content:

This GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials.

Food preparation skills are integrated into five core topics:

- Food, nutrition and health
- Food science
- Food safety
- Food choice
- Food provenance.

Assessment:

The scheme of assessment is split into two parts:

Controlled Assessment: 50% of GCSE

Task 1: Food investigation – This will show students' understanding of the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients.

Task 2: Food preparation assessment - Students will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within a single period of no more than three hours, planning in advance how this will be achieved.

Exam Assessment: 50% of GCSE

What does this course lead to?

GCSE Food and Nutrition leads to a variety of different pathways. Some students may choose an academic pathway or a vocational pathway. Examples of careers where GCSE Food and Nutrition will be of great value include; Chef, Sous Chef, Caterer, Food Service Manager, Food and Snack Product Developer, Packaging developer, Quality Assurance Managers, Dietician, Health Educator, Nutritionist, Personal Trainer and many more.

If you have any questions about this course please contact Mrs Gandabhai on jgandabhai@ivesheadschoool.org

French GCSE

Exam board:

AQA

Course Overview:

GCSE French is an exciting course which builds upon students' prior learning in Years 7 and 8. In an ever more globalised world, the ability to speak a foreign language is becoming more and more important for our young people, and gives them the skills to be able to communicate and learn other languages later on in life. French is the official language of the EU and only other language alongside English which is spoken as a first language on every continent in the world in 29 countries.

Students will practise a wide range of skills including improving their spoken and written communication in French, understanding how to use grammar to increase their independence in the language and becoming more confident in a range of situations, all of which are highly attractive to universities and employers alike.

Course Content:

Theme 1 – People and lifestyle

Theme 2 – Popular culture

Theme 3 – Communication and the world around us

Assessment:

Students are assessed by examination only

Unit 1:	Listening	25%
Unit 2:	Speaking	25%
Unit 3:	Reading	25%
Unit 4:	Writing	25%

What does this course lead to?

Students who can speak a second language are able to demonstrate improved communication skills and a better understanding of the wider world. As well as offering travel opportunities, they can lead to a wide range of careers in areas as diverse as translation, interpreting, law, accountancy, engineering, medicine and research, teaching, business, journalism, public relations, politics, the armed forces, the foreign office, ICT, design and science.

If you have any questions about this course please contact Mrs Whiteman on swhiteman@ivesheadschoool.org

Geography GCSE

Exam board:

EDUQAS Geography B

Course Overview:

This course provides students with a range of skills covering a variety of topics in both physical and human Geography. It also gives students a chance to take part in four out of school field trips.

Course Content:

Theme One- Changing Places and Changing Economies

Theme Two- Changing Environments

Theme Three- Environmental Challenges

Assessment:

Students are assessed by examination only

Unit 1- Geographical Issues 1hr 45 mins	40%
Unit 2- Problem Solving Geography 1hr 30 mins	30%
Unit 3- Applied Fieldwork Enquiry 1hr 30 mins	30%

What does this course lead to?

Geography is an excellent subject to study as it promotes an understanding of the wider world and how it works. It fits well with most other subjects and provides students with a wide range of useful skills. It is an excellent subject for the enquiring mind and leads to a lot of career options.

Students study a number of different topics throughout the course including developmental issues around the world, natural disasters and issues in urban areas. This will equip students to understand and appreciate the complexities of the world they are living in today.

If you have any questions about this course please contact Mr Wood on awood@ivesheadschoool.org

German GCSE

Exam board:
AQA

Course Overview:

GCSE German is an exciting course which builds upon students' prior learning in Years 7 and 8. In an ever more globalised world, the ability to speak a foreign language is becoming more and more important for our young people, and gives them the skills to be able to communicate and learn other languages later on in life. German is widely spoken in Europe and is a major scientific language.

Students will practise a wide range of skills including improving their spoken and written communication in German, understanding how to use grammar to increase their independence in the language and becoming more confident in a range of situations, all of which are highly attractive to universities and employers alike.

Course Content:

Theme 1 – People and lifestyle

Theme 2 – Popular culture

Theme 3 – Communication and the world around us

Assessment:

Students are assessed by examination only

Unit 1:	Listening	25%
Unit 2:	Speaking	25%
Unit 3:	Reading	25%
Unit 4:	Writing	25%

What does this course lead to?

Students who can speak a second language are able to demonstrate improved communication skills and a better understanding of the wider world. As well as offering travel opportunities, they can lead to a wide range of careers in areas as diverse as translation, interpreting, law, accountancy, engineering, medicine and research, teaching, business, journalism, public relations, politics, the armed forces, the foreign office, ICT, design and science

If you have any questions about this course please contact Mrs Whiteman on swhiteman@ivesheadschoo.org

History

GCSE

Exam board:

AQA

Course Overview:

History helps students to develop the skills to look beyond the headlines, to ask questions effectively and to express their own opinions. Historians have the ability to think critically and support arguments with a range of evidence.

Studying the past helps students to make sense of the world they live in today. Students will also learn how to evaluate sources and different interpretations of events. Our course involves a study of British and international history across a wide range of time periods.

Course Content:

The course has four units of study:

1. America, 1840-1895: Expansion and Consolidation – Period Study
2. Conflict and Tension between East and West 1945-1972 - Wider World Depth Study
3. Britain: Health and the People, 1000 to the Present Day – Thematic Study
4. Restoration England, 1660-1685 – British Depth Study

Assessment:

Students are assessed by examination only.

Paper 1: Understanding the Modern World (2 hours)

50% of GCSE

- Section A: America, 1840-1895 – 6 compulsory questions
- Section B: Conflict and Tension between East and West 1945-1972 - 4 compulsory questions

Paper 2: Shaping the Nation (2 hours)

50% of GCSE

- Section A: Health and the People – 4 compulsory questions
- Section B: Restoration England, 1660-1685 - 4 compulsory questions

What does this course lead to?

History is a particularly useful subject for students looking to follow career paths in Law, Journalism, Politics, Civil Service, Museum Curating, Teaching, Business and Marketing and Archaeology.

If you have any questions about this course please contact Mr Wood on [awood @ivesheadschoo.org](mailto:awood@ivesheadschoo.org)

Media Studies GCSE

Exam board:

Eduqas

Course Overview:

Being able to interpret and evaluate media texts in this modern age has never been more important. Throughout the course, students will explore a variety of different contemporary sectors within the media, whilst also having opportunities to create their own media texts using a range of ICT software. This course is a fantastic opportunity for creative students who wish to develop an understanding of the ever-changing world that surrounds them.

Course Content:

As well as finding opportunities for students to actively create media, students will also be highly involved in the analysis of a range of media texts set-texts. When exploring certain media forms, students will be asked to comment on the four key concepts:

- Media Forms
- Media Audiences
- Media Representation
- Media Industries

Students will also get the chance to study media texts through the following forms:

- Audio-Visual - Crime Drama (Trigger Point and The Sweeney); Music Videos (Duran Duran, Taylor Swift, Stormzy); and Film (James Bond - No Time to Die and The Man with the Golden Gun)
- Audio - Radio (Desert Island Discs)
- Online - Computer Games (Fortnite)
- Print - Newspapers (The Guardian and The Sun), Magazines (Vogue and GQ), Advertising (NHS 111 and Quality Street)

Assessment:

Unit 1	35%
Unit 2	35%
Coursework	30%

Coursework is completed in school responding to a set topic and will involve research, production and evaluative skills.

What does this course lead to?

A range of opportunities working in one of the fastest growing industries. We've had several successful students go on to work in journalism for well-known newspapers, as well as respectable music magazines. Qualifications can lead to careers in PR or marketing, as well as working in exciting industries such as film and TV. An understanding in the media is also crucial for any aspiring politicians.

If you have any questions about this course please contact Mrs Higgs jhiggs@ivesheadschoool.org

Music

GCSE

Exam board:Eduqas

Course Overview:

The Eduqas GCSE in Music offers a broad and coherent course of study which encourages learners to:

- Engage actively in the process of music study
- Develop performing skills individually and in groups to communicate musically with fluency and control of the resources used
- Develop composing skills to organise musical ideas and make use of appropriate resources
- Recognise links between the integrated activities of performing, composing and appraising and how this informs the development of music
- Broaden musical experience and interests, develop imagination and foster creativity
- Develop knowledge, understanding and skills needed to communicate effectively as musicians
- Develop awareness of a variety of instruments, styles and approaches to performing and composing
- develop awareness of music technologies and their use in the creation and presentation of music
- Recognise contrasting genres, styles and traditions of music, and develop some awareness of musical chronology
- Develop as effective and independent learners with enquiring minds
- Reflect upon and evaluate their own and others' music
- Engage with and appreciate the diverse heritage of music, in order to promote personal, social, intellectual and cultural development.

Course Content:

Performing - Students perform 2 pieces - one solo and one in a group. The minimum combined performance time is 4 minutes.

Composing - Students compose 2 pieces of music. One is free choice and the other is set by Edexcel. Combined composition time is no less than 3 minutes.

Listening - There are 2 set works pieces from popular music and music for ensemble areas of study. There is 1 listening exam that is 1 hour 15 mins long which requires you to listen to different extracts of music and answer questions

Assessment:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. Performing | 30% Internally marked externally moderated |
| 2. Composing | 30% Internally marked externally moderated |
| 3. Listening & Appraising | 40% Exam externally marked |

What does this course lead to?

If you enjoy the GCSE Music course, then you can consider: an A-level in Music or Music Technology. Your listening skills will enhance the aural perception needed in language examinations. Your performing skills will give you confidence in playing to an audience — useful if you intend to pursue drama, law, or teaching, for example.

If you have any questions about this course please contact Miss L Wright on lwright@ivesheadschoo.org

Psychology

GCSE

Exam board:

OCR

Course Overview:

Psychology is the study of mind and behaviour. It involves looking at lots of different theories about why people do and think certain things. These theories are tested by doing investigations, so understanding the process of research is a key part of studying psychology too.

Course content:

Psychology is taught through a series of topics which all include two contrasting theories and a core study, as well as looking at how that topic is relevant to real life.

Topics include:

- Criminal Behaviour
- Psychological Problems
- Sleep and Dreaming
- Memory
- Social Influence
- Development

In addition, students will study Research Methods which involves carrying out investigations both in class and for homework. Sometimes students will act as the participant and at other times they will be the researcher.

Assessment:

Students are assessed by examination only

Paper 1: Studies and Applications in Psychology - 50%

Paper 2: Studies and Applications in Psychology - 50%

What does this course lead to?

It is possible to study Psychology at A-Level. Degrees in Psychology are very popular. Psychology is a good basis for careers that require people skills including: Health, Education, Police Service, Social Care, Marketing, Advertising, Sport Coaching, and Criminology.

If you have any questions about this course please contact Ms Drew on jdrew@ivesheadschoool.org

Creative iMedia

Cambridge National Level 2 Certificate

Exam board: OCR

Course Overview:

You may be interested in this if you want an engaging qualification where you will use your learning in practical, real-life situations, such as:

- developing visual identities for clients
- planning and creating original digital graphics
- planning, creating and reviewing original digital media products.

This will help you to develop independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the media industry.

The qualification will also help you to develop learning and skills that can be used in other life and work situations, such as:

- thinking about situations and deciding what is required to be successful
- exploring different options and choosing the best way forward to solve a problem
- exploring and generating original ideas to find imaginative solutions to problems
- selecting the best tools and techniques to use to solve a problem
- appropriate use of media to convey meaning
- use of planning techniques to complete tasks in an organised way which meet deadlines.

Course Units:

You will study 2 mandatory units and choose 1 optional unit.

The two mandatory units are:

- Unit R093: Creative iMedia in the media industry

This is assessed by taking an exam.

In this unit you will learn about the media industry, digital media products, how they are planned, and the media codes which are used to convey meaning, create impact and engage audiences.

Topics include: The media industry, Factors influencing product design, Pre-production planning, Distribution considerations.

- Unit R094: Visual identity and digital graphics

This is assessed by completing a set assignment.

In this unit you will learn how to develop visual identities for clients and use the concepts of graphic design to create original digital graphics to engage target audiences. Topics include: Develop visual identity, plan digital graphics for products, create visual identity and digital graphics.

One optional unit will be selected from: Unit R095: Characters and comics, Unit R096: Animation and audio, Unit R097: Interactive digital media, Unit R098: Visual imaging, Unit R099: Digital games.

Assessment:

- Unit R093 (mandatory): Creative iMedia in the media industry - exam
- Unit R094 (mandatory: Visual identity and digital graphics) - Coursework/Practical
- Unit R095 (optional): Characters and comics/Unit R096: Animation and audio/Unit R097: Interactive digital media/Unit R098: Visual imaging/Unit R099: Digital games - Coursework/Practical

What does this course lead to?

The knowledge and skills you develop will help you to progress onto further study in the media industry. This may be other vocational qualifications including the Level 2 or Level 3 OCR Cambridge Technicals in Digital Media and/or Information Technology; the T Level Qualification in Digital Production Design and Development or Media, Broadcast and Production; or the Media and Broadcast Assistant Pathway Apprenticeship. The qualification also helps to develop other transferable skills including creative thinking, digital presentation, planning and problem solving that will be valuable in other life and work situations.

If you have any questions about this course please contact Mr Trenchard on jtrenchard@ivesheadschoool.org

Enterprise and Marketing

Cambridge National

Exam board:

OCR

Course Overview:

Cambridge National Enterprise and Marketing is a vocational qualification that provides students with a strong understanding of how businesses operate in real-world contexts. The course develops knowledge of enterprise, marketing principles, and the factors that contribute to successful business activity.

Students will explore how to identify customer needs, carry out market research, develop business ideas, and create effective marketing strategies. The qualification places a strong emphasis on applied learning, allowing students to design, plan, and present a business proposal based on realistic scenarios.

A key element of the course involves planning and delivering presentations, where students pitch their business proposals to an audience. This allows learners to develop confidence in public speaking, professionalism, and the ability to communicate ideas clearly and persuasively.

Course Content:

- **R067: Enterprise and marketing concepts**

Students learn about the characteristics of successful entrepreneurs, how businesses identify and target customers, the role of market research, and the factors that influence business decisions.

- **R068: Design a business proposal**

Students develop a business idea in response to a given brief. They carry out market research, identify a target market, consider costs and pricing, and assess the feasibility of their proposal.

- **R069: Market and pitch a business proposal**

Students create branding and promotional materials, plan marketing activities, and deliver a presentation to pitch their business proposal. They also evaluate the effectiveness of their marketing and presentation skills.

Assessment:

Students are assessed by a combination of examination and coursework :

● R067: Enterprise and marketing concepts	Exam: 1 hour 15 mins	(40%)
● R068: Design a business proposal	Coursework	(30%)
● R069: Market and pitch a business proposal	Coursework	(30%)

What does this course lead to?

Cambridge National Enterprise and Marketing is well suited to students considering further study in business-related subjects or future careers in enterprise, marketing, or management. It offers a valuable introduction to the commercial world and helps prepare learners for progression to Level 3 qualifications, apprenticeships, and employment. Students are well prepared for future roles such as marketing executive, sales assistant, business administrator, retail or hospitality manager, social media or digital marketing assistant, and small business owner or entrepreneur. The qualification also supports progression into areas including finance, customer service, project management, advertising, and self-employment.

If you have any questions about this course please contact Miss S Patel on spatel@ivesheadschoo.org

Health and Social Care

Cambridge National Level 2 Certificate

Exam board:

OCR

Course Overview:

Health and Social Care is a sector that brings great opportunities to develop relationships with many people from all walks of life. It is an exciting course that will guide you through in developing knowledge, understanding and skills that are the foundation for working in this area. This will include many of the skills that are used by healthcare professional on a day-to-day basis, through the use of vocational scenarios. It includes the knowledge and understanding of Health and Social care, with an aim to those looking to enter Health and Social Care. We discover what a service user is and how, as the care provider, you would ensure that the needs of the service user are met and best practice in which to do this. It also gives learners an insight into their preferred learning styles and assists in developing their ability to study.

Course Content:

Compulsory units

RO32 - Principles of care in health and social care settings -(exam unit)

This unit covers the essential values of care, current legislation (e.g., Health and Safety at Work Act), and health, safety, and security measures necessary to maintain a safe working environment. It also introduces students to person-centred care and the importance of professional conduct and communication

RO33 - Supporting individuals through life . (course work unit)

Students will learn about human development across different life stages and the impact of significant life events (e.g., birth, injury, illness) on individuals' physical, intellectual, emotional, and social health. They will learn how to plan support for individuals during these times.

Optional units- tbc

- RO34 - Creative and therapeutic activities
- Students understand how engaging in creative activities can benefit individuals in different care settings and learn how to plan and carry out these activities
- RO35 - Health promotion campaigns
- Students learn about current public health strategies, the role of different health organisations, and how to propose their own health promotion campaigns.

Assessment:

- | | | |
|--|------------|-----|
| ● R032 Principles of care in health and social care settings | exam | 40% |
| ● R033 Supporting individuals through life events | coursework | 30% |
| ● R034 Creative and therapeutic activities | coursework | 30% |

Or

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|-----|
| ● R035 Health promotion campaigns | coursework | 30% |
|-----------------------------------|------------|-----|

What does this course lead to?

This course provides a solid foundation for further education, including apprenticeships, college, or university, in areas such as: Nursing, social work, childcare, paramedic science, occupational therapy and public health. It helps students develop empathy, tolerance, and the ability to work confidently and caringly with vulnerable people in society.

If you have any questions about this course please contact Mrs J Jenkins on JJenkins@ivesheadschoool.org

Sports Studies

Cambridge National Level 2 Certificate

Exam board: OCR

Course Overview:

Our Cambridge National in Sport Studies will encourage students to:

- Understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Sport Studies
- Develop learning and practical skills that can be applied to real-life contexts and work situations
- Understand topical and contemporary issues in sport, including; why people do and do not participate in sport, the promotion of ethics and values, the roles of National Governing Bodies and high profile events have in sport, as well as how technology is used within sport
- Develop skills as a performer in two different sporting activities and learn how to lead sporting activity sessions
- Create a plan, write and evaluate an activity session, to further develop leadership skills
- Analyse their own performance to help improve themselves and their skills in sport
- Explore the relationship that media has with sport and understand how linked they are. The relationship to real world examples and the different ways in which sport and the media represent each other will be applied
- Develop the skills of team working, research and planning and understand that sports performance goes far beyond just the simple physical activity of sport

Course Units:

Contemporary issues in sport: By completing this unit you will understand a range of topical and contemporary issues in sport, including learning about participation levels and barriers to completing sporting activities. You will also learn how participation is impacted by the promotion of values and ethical behaviour, about the role of high-profile sporting events, the role of national governing bodies and how technology is used within sport.

Performance and leadership in sports activities This is assessed by a set assignment In this unit you will have an opportunity to develop your skills both as a performer in two different sporting activities, and as a leader, developing a range of transferable skills. You will work both independently and as part of a team, including communicating with team mates as well as being in front of an audience when you perform. You will perform under pressure, both as a participant and as a leader, and will use your initiative to solve problems and make decisions. Finally, you will deal with rapidly changing conditions and situations.

Sports and the media This is assessed by a set assignment In this unit you will understand the different sides of a range of media sources and apply real life examples to show the nature of the relationship between media and sport. You will also learn how rapid development in technology is enabling sport to be viewed, replayed and discussed whenever and wherever the spectator wants. You will then develop your ability to evaluate and interpret the different ways in which sport is represented by the media.

Assessment:

- Contemporary issues in sport (mandatory) - exam Y11
- Performance and Leadership (mandatory) - Coursework/Practical Y10
- Sport and the media - Coursework

What does this course lead to?

This course leads on to many opportunities in the sport and active leisure sector. National Governing Body coaching awards are always a popular choice for students and will help them to gain employment in the leadership area. Students can progress onto Sport and Exercise Sciences such as the OCR Level 3 Cambridge Technical in Sports which can also be a useful pathway to university courses and higher education when combined with other A Levels. This course is also a pathway onto other vocational courses including: Gym instructor level 1, Personal Training, Physiotherapy, Sports Massage, Sports Journalist, Sports Law, Medicine and Outdoor Pursuit Instructor.

If you have any questions about this course please contact Mrs J Jenkins on [jjenkins @ivesheadschoo.org](mailto:jjenkins@ivesheadschoo.org)