



ISF

Iveshead Sixth Form

ASPIRING FOR EXCELLENCE

Options Handbook 2026/27



IVESHEAD SCHOOL

RESPECT | ENRICH | SUCCEED

Welcome

Dear Students, Parents, and Carers,

Thank you for considering Iveshead Sixth Form as the provider of Post-16 education for the next stage of your academic journey.

At ISF, we are proud to offer a supportive, inclusive, and inspiring sixth-form environment where students are not only encouraged to achieve academic success but also to grow into confident, well-rounded young adults. We are committed to guiding you through the transition from GCSE to A-Level study, helping you to become independent, motivated, and ambitious learners who are well-prepared for the challenges ahead.

We are also excited to introduce our brand-new sixth-form facility, The Loft. This dedicated space is designed to support sixth-form learning with modern, flexible study areas and a vibrant social hub that enriches the overall experience.

To ensure that A-Level study is the right pathway for each student, we require a **minimum of five GCSEs at grade 4 or above**, including English and Maths. For subjects previously studied at GCSE, a minimum of grade 4 is expected, with some courses requiring higher grades. Full details are available on the individual subject pages. In some cases, it is possible to begin studying a subject without prior GCSE experience. Further guidance is provided within the course information.

We look forward to continuing the academic journey with many of our current Year 11 students, and we warmly welcome new students who wish to join our vibrant and ambitious sixth-form community.



Mrs Samantha Brentnall
Director of Post-16



Mr Matthew Parrott
Headteacher



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English Literature

Exam Board: AQA

Entry Requirements: GCSE Grade 4 in English Literature or Language

Course Information

This course explores a diverse range of texts, including poetry, prose, and drama, from Shakespeare to contemporary works. Students will engage with literature from different historical and cultural contexts, developing analytical and interpretative skills. Unlike GCSE, there is greater flexibility in text selection, allowing for the study of dynamic and thought-provoking works such as *Trainspotting*, *Fight Club*, and *The Handmaid's Tale*. Independent reading is encouraged, and the coursework component offers the opportunity for students to choose and research their own texts in depth. Over the two years, students will study a Shakespeare play, a modern drama, a poetry anthology, and two novels. They will analyse texts both critically and creatively, considering themes, contexts, and interpretations.

Assessment

Paper 1 (40%)

Paper 2 (40%)

Coursework (20%)

Career Paths

- Journalism
- Research
- Publishing
- Teaching
- Writing
- Communications
- Public Relations and Marketing
- Tourism
- Management

Subject Contact

Mr S Bailey (sbailey1@ivesheadschoool.org)

Media Studies

Exam Board: Eduqas

Entry Requirements: GCSE Grade 4 (if studied at GCSE)
GCSE English Language Grade 4 (desirable)

Course Information

This is a two-year course centred on the four key media concepts: language, audience, representation, and industry. Students will develop a critical understanding of how media texts are constructed and the influence they have on audiences. A wide range of media forms will be studied, from television and film to print and online platforms. Students will explore relevant theoretical perspectives and engage in practical production work. Coursework, worth 30% of the final grade, involves creating media products such as music videos or documentaries, supported by print materials. Topics include advertising, newspapers, magazines, radio, television, music videos, video games, online media, and film marketing. Students will also learn to apply media theory to their analysis. It is not required to have taken Media Studies at GCSE.

Assessment

Paper 1: 35%

Paper 2: 35%

Coursework: 30%

Career Paths

- Journalism
- Editing
- Copywriting
- Production (Writing/Filming/Editing/Production Crew)
- Research
- Public Relations
- Communications
- Advertising
- Marketing
- Social Media

Subject Contact

Mrs C Chatwin (cchatwin@ivesheadschoool.org) or Mrs J Higgs (jhiggs@ivesheadschoool.org)

Theatre Studies

Exam Board: Edexcel

Entry Requirements: GCSE Grade 4 (if studied at GCSE)
GCSE English Language Grade 4 (desirable)

Course Information

This course combines practical performance with theoretical study. Students will explore a variety of dramatic styles and theatre practitioners, while also developing an understanding of design elements such as lighting, sound, costume, and set. Assessment is divided into three components: a devised group performance, a scripted performance (with monologue or duologue), and a written examination on set texts and live theatre analysis. Theatre visits are included, and students are encouraged to attend additional performances independently. The course includes the study of two set texts from different historical periods, exploration of a chosen practitioner, and analysis of a live theatre production.

Assessment

- Examination (40%)
- Coursework Component 1 - A devised group performance and supporting portfolio, for which students may be a performer or technical contributor (40%)
- Coursework Component 2 - Performance of Key Text/Monologue or Duologue (20%)

Career Paths

- Acting
- Directing
- Lighting/set/costume/sound Design
- Stage Management
- Arts administrator
- Community arts worker
- Further education teacher /Secondary school teacher
- Television floor manager
- Theatre manager

Subject Contact

Mrs H Watson (hwatson@ivesheadschoool.org)

Mathematics

Exam Board: Edexcel

Entry Requirements: GCSE Grade 6

Course Information

The A-Level Mathematics course covers a broad curriculum, including topics such as Calculus, Trigonometry, Sequences, and Coordinate Geometry. The course is structured as two-thirds pure mathematics and one-third applied mathematics (comprising Statistics and Mechanics).

Mathematics is highly regarded in both higher education and employment due to its analytical and problem-solving skills. It is an essential qualification for degrees in subjects such as Engineering, Physics, and Computer Science. In pure mathematics, students study algebra, functions, calculus, and proof. Statistics includes data presentation, probability, and hypothesis testing, while mechanics focuses on motion, forces, and Newton's laws.

Assessment

Equally weighted exams:

- Pure Mathematics 1
- Pure Mathematics 2
- Statistics and Mechanics

Career Paths

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Actuarial Science | • Geology/Earth Sciences |
| • Aeronautical Engineering | • Mechanical Engineering |
| • Biochemistry | • Optometry (Ophthalmic Optics) |
| • Biomedical Sciences | • Pharmacy |
| • Chemistry | • Physics |
| • Civil Engineering | • Physiotherapy |
| • Economics | • Psychology |
| • Electrical/Electronic Engineering | • Sports Science |
| • Engineering (general) | |
| • Environmental Science/Studies | |

Subject Contact

Miss F Neep (fneep@ivesheadschoool.org)

Further Mathematics

Exam Board: Edexcel

Entry Requirements: GCSE Grade 7

Course Information

This course is designed for students who wish to deepen their understanding of mathematical concepts. Topics include Complex Numbers, Series, Calculus, and advanced applications. Further Mathematics complements A-Level Mathematics and is particularly valuable for students aiming to study highly mathematical degrees. It enhances logical thinking and problem-solving abilities, preparing students for fields such as Engineering, Physics, Computer Science, and Mathematics itself. Students will also study matrices, polar coordinates, and further mechanics or statistics depending on the modules selected.

Assessment

Equally weighted exams:

- Pure Mathematics 1
- Pure Mathematics 2
- Combined Statistics and Mechanics

Career Paths

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Aeronautical Engineering | • Physics |
| • Biochemistry | • Veterinary Science |
| • Biomedical Sciences | • Geology/Earth Sciences |
| • Chemical Engineering | • Mechanical Engineering |
| • Chemistry | • Optometry (Ophthalmic Optics) |
| • Civil Engineering | • Pharmacy |
| • Computer Science | • Physics |
| • Dentistry | • Physiotherapy |
| • Electrical/Electronic Engineering | • Psychology |
| • Engineering (general) | • Sports Science |
| • Optometry (Ophthalmic Optics) | |

Subject Contact

Miss F Neep (fneep@ivesheadschoool.org)

Course Information

A-Level Business introduces students to the internal workings and external influences of business organisations. In Year 1, students examine functions such as marketing, finance, operations, and human resources, as well as studying entrepreneurs and start-ups. In Year 2, the focus shifts to strategic decision-making and global business issues. The course develops transferable skills such as communication, problem-solving, and critical thinking. Quantitative skills account for 10% of the assessment. Topics covered include business objectives and strategy, decision-making to improve performance, and analysing the external environment, such as competition and globalisation. It is not required to have taken GCSE Business.

Assessment

- Paper 1: Marketing and People (35%)
- Paper 2: Managing Business Activities (35%)
- Paper 3: Investigating Business in a Competitive Environment (30%)

Career Paths

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Accountancy | • Insurance |
| • Actuarial Science | • International Business |
| • Advertising and Marketing | • Politics |
| • Banking | • Recruitment and Talent Management |
| • Brand Specialism | • Software Engineering |
| • Economics | • Sports and Leisure Management |
| • Event Planning | • Stockbroking |
| • Fashion Marketing | • Web Development |
| • Retail Management | |
| • Finance | |
| • Graphic Designing | |

Subject Contact

Miss F Neep (fneep@ivesheadschoool.org)

Core Mathematics

Exam Board: AQA

Entry Requirements: GCSE Grade 4

Course Information

Level 3 Mathematical Studies (Core Maths) is designed for students who have achieved at least a grade 4 in GCSE Maths. It covers practical topics including data analysis, personal finance, and statistical methods. The course supports subjects such as Psychology, Business, Science, and Geography, and promotes critical thinking and problem-solving in real-world contexts. Other topics include estimation, interpreting graphs, and risk assessment. Core Maths is particularly useful for students not taking A-Level Maths but needing mathematical skills for other subjects.

Assessment

- Paper 1 (50%)
- Paper 2 (50%)

Career Paths

- Actuarial Sciences
- Finance
- Accountancy
- Business Management
- Advertising
- Marketing
- Web Commerce

Subject Contact

Miss F Neep (fneep@ivesheadschoool.org)

Applied Science (BTEC)

Exam Board: Pearson

Entry Requirements: GCSE Grade 5/5 at Science or 5 in two separate sciences.
Grade 4 in English and Maths (desirable).

Course Information

This vocational course is structured around five units, with a focus on developing scientific knowledge and practical skills relevant to real-world applications.

Students study five mandatory units:

Unit 1: Biology

Unit 2: Chemistry

Unit 3: Physics

Unit 4: Practical Scientific Techniques

Unit 5: Science Investigation Skills

Assessment

Four units are externally assessed via exams and an extended practical task. One unit is internally assessed via practical and theory-based coursework.

This is a two-year course offering a certificate equal in size and UCAS points as a two-year A level course.

Career Paths

- Nursing
- Radiography
- Paramedic
- Forensic Science
- Physiotherapy
- Science Technician
- Health Service

Subject Contact

Mr J Trenchard (jtrenchard@ivesheadschoo.org)

Entry Requirements: GCSE Grade 6 in Biology or Science
GCSE Grade 5 in Mathematics (desirable)

Course Information

A-Level Biology builds on GCSE content and explores the science of life in greater depth. Topics include cells, genetics, ecology, and physiology. Practical work is embedded throughout the course, allowing students to apply theoretical knowledge and develop investigative skills. The subject supports a wide range of university and career pathways in health, science, and environmental fields. Key units include biological molecules, cell structure and division, energy transfers in and between organisms, the nervous system, homeostasis, evolution, and gene expression.

Assessment

- Paper 1 (35%) – 2 hours
 - Topics 1-4 plus practical skills. Short answer, long answer and extended response.
- Paper 2 (35%) – 2 hours.
 - Topics 5-8 plus practical skills. Short answer, long answer and comprehension.
- Paper 3 (30%) – 2 hours.
 - Topics 1-8 plus practical skills. Structured question, critical data analysis and essay.

Career Paths

- Medicine
- Clinical Molecular Genetics
- Nature Conservation
- Pharmacology
- Science Research
- Veterinary Science
- Secondary School Teaching
- Marine Biology
- Dentistry

Subject Contact

Mr J Trenchard (jtrenchard@ivesheadschoo1.org)

Entry Requirements: GCSE Grade 6 in Chemistry or Science
GCSE Grade 5 in Mathematics

Course Information

This course covers Organic, Inorganic, and Physical Chemistry, with an emphasis on practical investigation and problem-solving. Students will develop a strong foundation in chemical principles and laboratory techniques, preparing them for further study in chemistry, medicine, or related disciplines. Practical assessments are ongoing and contribute towards a separate practical endorsement. Topics include atomic structure, bonding, thermodynamics, kinetics, equilibria, redox reactions, organic synthesis, and analysis techniques such as spectroscopy and chromatography.

Assessment

- Paper 1 (35%) – 2 hours.
 - Physical chemistry, inorganic chemistry and practical skills. Short and long answers.
- Paper 2 (35%) – 2 hours. Short and long answers.
 - Physical chemistry, organic chemistry and practical skills.
- Paper 3 (30%) – 2 hours.
 - Drawn from entire theory and practical skills. Short answer and multiple choice

Career Paths

- Medicine
- Biomedical Science
- Pharmacy
- Chemical Engineering
- Dentistry

Subject Contact

Mr J Trenchard (jtrenchard@ivesheadschoool.org)

Entry Requirements: GCSE Grade 6 in Physics or Science
GCSE Grade 5 in Mathematics
Also studying Maths A-Level (desirable)

Course Information

A-Level Physics explores fundamental concepts from classical mechanics to quantum phenomena. Students will study topics such as electricity, waves, thermal physics, and astrophysics. The course develops mathematical fluency and experimental skills, and is ideal for students considering degrees in Physics, Engineering, or related fields. Specific units include mechanics and materials, electricity, particle physics, fields and forces, nuclear physics, and optional topics like astrophysics or medical physics.

Assessment

- Paper 1 (34%) – 2 hours.
 - Sections 1-5 and 6.1. Short answer, long answer and multiple choice.
- Paper 2 (34%) – 2 hours.
 - Sections 6.2, 7 and 8. Short answer, long answer and multiple choice.
- Paper 3 (32%) – 2 hours.
 - Section A: Practical skills and data analysis. Short and long answer.
 - Section B: Choice of one of sections 9 to 13. Short and long answer.

Career Paths

- Mechanical/Civil/Electrical/Chemical Engineering
- Physics Research
- Medical Physics (e.g. Radiography, Ophthalmology)
- Mathematically-based Professions (e.g. Accountancy, Brokers).
- Space science
- Logistics

Subject Contact

Mr J Trenchard (jtrenchard@ivesheadschoool.org)

Computer Science

Exam Board: OCR

Entry Requirements: GCSE Grade 4 (if studied at GCSE)
GCSE English Grade 4 and Maths Grade 5 (desirable)

Course Information

This subject combines theoretical and practical learning. Students will study key principles such as algorithms, data structures, and computational logic. They will also develop programming skills and analyse real-world problems using computational thinking. The course promotes creativity, critical thinking, and innovation. A-Level Mathematics is strongly recommended for those considering Computer Science at university. Other key topics include computer systems architecture, software development, databases, and networking. Students complete a programming project as part of their assessment.

Assessment

- Paper 1: Computer Systems (40%)
- Paper 2: Algorithms and Programming (40%)
- Coursework: Programming Project (20%)

Career Paths

- Hardware Engineering
- Programming
- IT Support
- Computer and Information Systems Management
- Systems Analysis
- Database Administration
- Information Security Analysis
- Web Development
- Network Architecture
- Network and Computer Systems Administrators
- Software Engineering and Mobile App Development
- Computer and Information Research

Subject Contact

Mr J Trenchard (jtrenchard@ivesheadschoool.org)

Product Design (3D)

Exam Board: AQA

Entry Requirements: GCSE Grade 4 in a design-related subject

Course Information

This course blends creativity with technical knowledge, allowing students to design and manufacture innovative products. Working with materials such as wood, metal, plastic, and card, students complete projects using both traditional tools and CAD/CAM technologies. In Year 12, students undertake a range of skills-based projects. In Year 13, students complete a major independent design and make project. Projects reflect real-world contexts and challenge students to solve design problems effectively. Topics include design theory, materials and their properties, manufacturing processes, and sustainability. We are one of the only institutions in the local area to offer this A-Level.

Assessment

- Paper 1: 30% (2.5 hour exam in Year 13)
- Paper 2: 20% (1.5 hour exam in Year 13)
- NEA Project: 50% (Main project undertaken in Year 13)

Career Paths

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| • Industrial Designer | • Furniture Designer |
| • Product Designer | • Graphic Designer |
| • Design Engineer | • Engineering – civil, mechanical, electrical, etc. |
| • Architect | • Model Maker |
| • Interior Designer | • Set Designer |
| • Landscape Designer | • Ergonomics Engineer |
| • CAD Engineer | • Teacher |
| • Automotive Engineer | • Town Planner |
| • Game Design | • Fashion Designer |

Subject Contact

Mr J Mark (jmark@ivesheadschoool.org)

Course Information

Over two years, students explore a wide range of techniques including drawing, ceramics, printmaking, mixed media, and photography. In Year 12, students build skills through themed workshops before beginning their Personal Investigation, which continues into Year 13. This involves exploring a chosen theme in depth, supported by contextual research and practical development. Students also complete an externally set task, developing a final piece in timed conditions. The course encourages independent thinking, experimentation, and critical reflection.

Assessment

- Component 1 - Personal Investigation (60%)
 - Students select their own area of study for this practical project, which runs from the summer term of Year 12 until January of Year 13.
- Component 2 - Externally Set Assignment (40%)
 - In February of Year 13, students receive an exam paper with art project starting points. They choose one and develop their work, culminating in a 15-hour practical exam to produce their final outcome.

Career Paths

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| • Fashion Design | • Animation |
| • Textile Design | • Computer Games Design |
| • Graphic Design | • Set Design |
| • Architect | • Web Design |
| • Interior Design | • Teaching |
| • Illustration | • Ceramics |
| • Gallery Management | • Jewellery Design |
| • Art Curation | |

Subject Contact

Mrs L Hebden (lhebden@ivesheadschoo.org)

Sport and Physical Activity

Exam Board: OCR

Entry Requirements: Level 2 Pass (if studied Cambridge National Sport Level 2)

Course Information

This vocational course provides insight into the sport and leisure industry. It combines theoretical and practical learning, and is ideal for students interested in sport-related careers. Students study a variety of units including the body systems and the effects of physical activity, sports coaching and activity leadership, sports organisation and development, nutrition for diet and exercise, physical activity for specific groups, and sports injuries and rehabilitation. The course is assessed through a combination of exams and coursework.

Assessment

- Component 1: Body systems and the effects of physical activity (25%)
 - Assessed by a 1 hour 30 minute written examination (70 marks).
- Component 2: Sports coaching and activity leadership
 - Internally marked and externally moderated.
- Component 3: Sports organisation and development (17%)
 - Assessed by a 1 hour written examination (60 marks).
- Component 4: Sports injuries and rehabilitation
 - Internally marked and externally moderated.
- Component 5: Sport and exercise psychology
 - Internally marked and externally moderated

Career Paths

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| • Sports Development | • Personal Training |
| • Sports Science | • Physiotherapy |
| • Teaching | • Sports organisation |
| • Sports Coaching | • Sports Journalism |
| • Fitness instruction | • Sport Media |

Subject Contact

Mrs T Doleman (tdoleman@ivesheadschoool.org)

Course Information

Delve into the vibrant and ever-evolving landscape of French and Francophone society. This course offers a compelling exploration of contemporary France, examining the intricate tapestry of family life, education, and the world of work. You will also engage with the rich artistic and political culture of the French-speaking world, from its influential music and media to its cherished festivals and traditions.

Furthermore, the course critically analyses the complexities of immigration and multiculturalism, weighing the profound contributions of immigrant communities against the challenges of integration and the rise of the extreme right. Finally, we will journey back to a pivotal moment in French history: the Occupation and Resistance during World War II, investigating the dark period of collaboration and the courageous spirit of the Résistance. This comprehensive study will equip you with a deep and nuanced understanding of the forces that have shaped, and continue to shape, modern France.

Assessment for the full A-Level Qualification:

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing (40%)

Paper 2: Writing (30%)

Paper 3: Speaking (30%)

Career Paths:

These are numerous and varied, as this is a skills-based course that can lead to various career paths and opportunities.

- Translation and interpreting
- Teaching
- Scientific research and engineering
- Tourism and media
- Foreign office, armed forces, politics, and law
- Business, finance, public relations, and marketing

Subject Contact

Mrs S Whiteman (swhiteman@ivesheads.school.org)

Course Information

Embark on a fascinating journey into the heart of modern German-speaking Europe. This A-Level course provides a deep and current understanding of Germany's social, political, and cultural landscape. You will explore critical contemporary issues, from Germany's world-leading approach to the environment to the structures of its education and professional worlds. The course also delves into the vibrant artistic culture of the region, examining its influential music, dynamic media, and cherished local traditions.

A central focus is the evolution of Germany as a multicultural society, where you will analyse the profound impact of immigration, the challenges of integration, and the spectrum of societal responses. Furthermore, you will investigate the pivotal historical moment of Reunification, exploring life in the former GDR and tracing Germany's remarkable journey since 1990.

To deepen your cultural immersion, you will also undertake an in-depth critical study of a celebrated German film and a major work of German literature, developing sophisticated analytical skills and a richer appreciation of the nation's creative voice.

Assessment

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing (40%)

Paper 2: Writing (30%)

Paper 3: Speaking (30%)

Career Paths

- These are numerous and varied, as this is a skills-based course that can lead to various career paths and opportunities.
- Translation and interpreting
- Teaching
- Scientific research and engineering
- Tourism and media
- Foreign office, armed forces, politics, and law
- Business, finance, public relations, and marketing

Subject Contact

Mrs S Whiteman (swhiteman@ivesheadschoo.org)

Entry Requirements: GCSE Grade 4 (if studied at GCSE)

Course Information

A-Level Geography covers a wide range of physical and human topics, including changing landscapes (with a focus on coasts), changing places, water and carbon cycles, global systems and governance, tectonic hazards, climate and weather, and development in an African context. Students also complete an Independent Investigation, involving fieldwork during a residential trip to North Wales. Geography supports students in developing analytical, evaluative, and research skills that are applicable in both academic and career settings. GCSE Geography is not essential but is desirable.

Assessment

- Component 1: Changing Landscapes and Changing Places
 - Written Examination 1hr45 (20.5%)
- Component 2: Global Systems and Global Governance
 - Written Examination 2hr (27.5%)
- Component 3: Contemporary Themes in Geography
 - Written Examination 2hr15 (32%)
- Component 4: Independent Assignment
 - Non-Examination Coursework 3-4000 words (20%)

Career Paths

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| • Surveying and Town Planning | • International Development |
| • Water Management | • Government |
| • Tourism | • Nature Conservation |
| • Teaching | • Logistics and Distribution |
| • Police | |

Subject Contact

Mrs S Whiteman (swhiteman@ivesheadschoool.org)

Entry Requirements: GCSE Grade 4 (if studied at GCSE)

Course Information

Students explore a broad and balanced curriculum, studying three components: one British history unit, one non-British unit, and a coursework investigation. Topics vary but typically include political, social, and economic developments over time. Assessment includes source analysis, extended writing, and independent research. Students might study topics such as Tudor England, Weimar and Nazi Germany, or the Cold War. The coursework element allows for a deeper investigation into a chosen historical question.

Assessment

- Component 1 Breadth Study: The Tudors; England, 1485-1603 (40%)
- Component 2 Depth Study: France In Revolution, 1774-1815 (40%)
- Component 3 Historical Investigation: 4500 word essay on Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855-1964 (20%)

Career Paths

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Historical Research | • Conservation and Heritage Work |
| • Law | • Genealogy |
| • Politics | • Archiving |
| • Journalism | • Auctioneering |
| • Curating | • Costume Design |
| • Archaeology | • Tourism |
| • Teaching | |

Subject Contact

Mr A Wood (awood@ivesheadschoo.org)

Entry Requirements: GCSE Grade 4 (if studied at GCSE)

Course Information

Course Information:

Psychology is the scientific study of the brain, mind, and behaviour. Students develop valuable skills, including critical analysis, independent thinking, and research. In the first year, they learn the fundamentals of the subject and complete distinct units on Social Influence, Memory, Attachment, and Psychopathology. Paper two focuses on the variety of approaches used by different psychologists, biopsychology, and research methods. Paper Three allows students to explore their interests by choosing one topic from the following 3 sections:

A: Relationships, issues and debates, gender.

B: Schizophrenia, eating behaviours, stress

C: Aggression, Forensic psychology, Addiction

Assessment for the full A-Level Qualification:

Paper 1 - Introductory Topics in Psychology (33.3%)

Paper 2 - Psychology in Context (33.3%)

Paper 3 - Issues and Options in Psychology (33.3%)

Career Paths:

- Psychological Practice, e.g., Educational Psychology, Occupational Psychology
- Counselling
- Medical Professions
- Social Work
- Teaching
- Uniformed Services, e.g., Police
- Human Resources
- Sales and Marketing
- Research
- Management

Subject Contact

Miss J Drew (jdrew@ivesheadschoool.org)

Extended Project Qualification

Exam Board: AQA

Entry Requirements: No requirements

Course Information

The EPQ is a Level 3 qualification worth up to 28 UCAS points. It allows students to conduct independent research on a topic of their choice, producing either a written report or a creative artefact. Students develop project management, research, and academic writing skills, supported by one hour per week of supervised sessions. The course concludes with a presentation to peers and staff. Topics are student-led and can be linked to future academic or career interests.

Assessment

Students submit a Production Log (a record of the whole process from start to finish), a written report, an artefact (if choosing this path) and evidence of a presentation of their work to an audience. These components will be assessed against the following Assessment Objectives:

- AO1 – Manage (20%)
 - Plan, design, and carry out a project using a range of skills and strategies to meet objectives.
- AO2 – Use Resources (20%)
 - Research and critically select, organise, and apply information from various sources. Analyse data and explore topic complexities.
- AO3 – Develop and Realise (40%)
 - Use a range of skills, including problem-solving and technologies, to make decisions and achieve outcomes.
- AO4 – Review (20%)
 - Evaluate the project and your own performance. Communicate the process, outcomes, and conclusions effectively.

Career Paths

The EPQ builds valuable skills for all career paths. It supports university study through research, critical thinking, and academic writing, while also developing communication, time management, and problem-solving skills valued by employers and entrepreneurs alike.

Potential New Subjects

2025/2026

We are constantly striving to enhance and evolve our 6th Form curriculum to meet the diverse aspirations of our students. While we are immensely proud that our current selection of A-Levels provides a robust and comprehensive foundation that opens all doors to any university course or career path, we also recognise that there is significant interest in subjects we do not currently offer. In response to this demand, we are beginning to explore the introduction of new A-Level courses. However, to ensure these potential subjects are financially viable and that we can be absolutely confident in the quality of their delivery, we must first gauge student numbers. Should demand prove to be sufficiently high, we would aim to launch these new courses for the start of the 2026/27 academic year. Your feedback will be crucial in shaping this exciting potential expansion.

A-Level Law (AQA)

Embark on a fascinating journey into the English legal system with A-Level Law. This rigorous and engaging course provides a comprehensive understanding of the principles that govern society. You will delve into the core areas of law-making, the legal system, and the nature of law itself. The course is structured around key components, including the intricacies of Criminal Law, where you will analyse offences against persons and property, and the Law of Tort, focusing on negligence and civil liabilities. You will also explore Contract Law, understanding the formation and enforcement of agreements. Assessment is entirely through written examinations at the end of the two-year course, which will challenge you to think critically, construct persuasive arguments, and apply legal principles to complex scenarios. Please note that you do not need this qualification to study Law at university should you want to pursue this area further.



Criminology (WJEC Level 3 Applied Diploma)

Why do people commit crimes, and how does society respond? This Criminology course offers a captivating insight into the world of crime, justice, and social control. Blending elements of sociology, psychology, and law, you will explore the entire criminal justice process. The course is divided into four distinct units: 'Changing Awareness of Crime' examines media representation and unreported crime; 'Criminological Theories' investigates the various explanations for criminal behaviour; 'Crime Scene to Courtroom' navigates the journey from investigation to verdict; and finally, 'Crime and Punishment' evaluates the effectiveness of social control and the penal system. Your learning will be assessed through a combination of controlled assessments based on practical scenarios and external examinations, providing a dynamic and applied understanding of crime in the modern world. You do not need a Criminology qualification to study this area at university.



Potential New Subjects

2025/2026

Health and Social Care (BTEC/Cambridge Technicals Level 3)

Designed for students passionate about supporting and caring for others, this course provides the essential knowledge and practical skills for a successful career in the health and social care sector. The curriculum is broad and practical, covering fundamental topics such as Human Lifespan Development, Anatomy and Physiology, and the importance of Safeguarding. You will also explore the principles of providing person-centred care and promoting public health. A key component of the course is a mandatory work experience placement, allowing you to apply your learning in real-world settings and develop your professional competencies. Assessment is varied, combining externally marked exams with internally assessed assignments, case studies, and practical demonstrations, preparing you for progression to university courses in nursing, social work, and other allied health professions, or for direct entry into employment.



A-Level English Language and Literature (AQA)

This stimulating course combines the analytical skills of both English Language and Literature, allowing students to explore how writers use language across a range of genres and time periods. Students study a mix of literary and non-literary texts—including novels, poetry, drama, and spoken or written non-fiction—examining how meaning is shaped through language, structure, and context. Set texts may include *The Great Gatsby*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, a poetry selection, and a non-literary text such as *Into the Wild* or speech transcripts. A key feature of the course is a creative writing component, where students produce original work with a reflective commentary. Ideal for those who enjoy both literary analysis and the study of real-world language, this course develops valuable skills for university and careers in journalism, law, teaching, publishing, and the creative industries.

