

Key Stage Four Curriculum

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Introduction

Ipswich Academy exists to fulfill a simple expectation. That every child is entitled to a good education, with equal access to knowledge, skills, opportunities, aspirations, life chances and dignity.

A lot of planning has taken place to ensure that your child has the opportunity to follow a broad and balanced curriculum at KS4 that will fulfill this expectation and give your child the best opportunities in the future, be it in

employment or further studies.

The evening offers the opportunity to discuss the different choices with subject teachers. In the Senior Study Zone you will find colleges, sixth forms, other providers and employers to give students a flavour of what their future choices might look like.

I hope that you enjoy the evening and feel fully informed at the end.

Amanda Phillips CBE
Executive Principal

Core and foundation subjects

Core

The core subjects that all students study are English, mathematics, science and physical Education.

Foundation

In addition, all students must choose at least one option from French, geography and history.

English

Baccalaureate

To achieve the EBacc, French and geography or history must be selected as options.

Key Stage Four Curriculum

GCSE

English/literature

mathematics

double science

physical education

Foundation Subjects

GCSE

French

history

geography

Arts and Technical

GCSE

art
drama
business studies
food and nutrition
health and social care
physical education
product design

Technical

information technology

What does the course offer me and will it suit me?

Both English Language and English Literature have a 100% terminal exam at the end of Year 11. All students are required to study these subjects.

What does the course involve?

English Language

Paper One - Explorations in creative reading and writing

Paper Two – Writers' viewpoints and perspectives

English Literature

Paper One – Shakespeare and the nineteenth century novel (Frankenstein)

Paper Two – Modern texts and poetry (An Inspector Calls)

What skills are involved?

English and English Literature develop your ability to read, understand and analyse a variety of literature texts.

You will also improve these skills:

- Creative writing
- Comprehension
- Transactional writing
- Ability to use of a wide and varied vocabulary
- Ability to spell and use grammar correctly

What can the course lead onto after GCSE?

Both are often asked for by Colleges and sixth forms for a wide variety of courses as the exam shows an ability to read, write and comprehend at various levels.

Any job that requires written or spoken communication will usually ask for an English GCSE.

Programme Leader: Cathy Spillane

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What does the course offer me and will it suit me?

GCSE mathematics is a compulsory subject and all students are required to study it.

What does the course involve?

The assessments cover the following:

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

The qualification consists of three equally-weighted written examination papers at either Foundation or Higher tier.

- **Paper 1** is a non-calculator assessment.
- **Paper 2** and Paper 3 allow for a calculator to be used
- Each paper is 1 hour and 30 minutes long.
- Each paper has 80 marks

What skills are involved?

Mathematics enables you 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.

What can the course lead onto after GCSE?

Students can progress to a variety of Level 3 qualifications and careers such as:

- Architect
- Scientist
- Engineer
- Teacher

Programme Leader: Jaqueline Collins

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What does the course offer me and will it suit me?

Science is a good preparation for A-levels or other higher level technical courses.

What does the course involve?

The GCSE course includes practical and hands-on activities to support concepts. In developing a sound knowledge and understanding of science a great platform is established enabling you to comprehend the modern world in new and exciting ways. The course is rigorous and thorough.

What skills are involved?

The new GCSE includes a focus on mathematics for scientists. Students studying science will be stretched and challenged.

You will learn new vocabulary and have opportunities to develop your confidence in writing about scientific concepts.

What can the course lead onto after GCSE?

Science provides access to very many career options. Performing well in science is often regarded as evidence of a broad skill competence. Students with good grades in science subjects may continue to A-level and beyond or take an applied science or a vocational route.

Programme Leader: John Ling

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What does the course offer me and will it suit me?

Languages should be accessible for all students. This French course has been developed to help students of all abilities progress and develop a passion for languages, through culturally engaging content.

What does the course involve?

Content and assessments that provide an engaging real-world focus

The authentic situations will let you see language in context and learn about the culture of France and French speaking countries. The assessments allow for spontaneity and test grammar, as well as providing plenty of opportunities for you to apply your knowledge independently, creatively, and in authentic situations.

Straightforward assessments that are accessible to all students

The papers are designed to be clear and concise and, where appropriate, questions feature scaffolding to help all students progress through the assessments confidently. Reading and listening papers are structured so that questions set in French are in a separate section from those questions requiring responses in English.

What skills are involved?

The skills assessed are:

- Listening
- Speaking
- Reading
- Writing

What can the course lead onto after GCSE?

Being able to speak a second or third language is well regarded by employers and will open many career opportunities. However, some students have gone on to be:

- Teachers
- Language assistants
- Tour representatives

Programme Leader: Laurence Coursimault

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What does the course offer me and will it suit me?

History teaches you how and why the world came to be as it is today. History deals with big issues like racism, power, war, politics and discrimination. You will develop transferable skills that employers seek.

What does the course involve?

History is examined through three examinations at the end of the course.

Paper 1: Thematic study and historic environment:

Medicine in Britain, c1250–present and The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: injuries, treatment and the trenches.

Paper 2: Period study and British depth study:

The American West, c1835–c1895 and an in depth study from a period in British history to be confirmed.

Paper 3: Modern depth study:

Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39

What skills are involved?

Research skills:

- How to analyse and use data
- How to organise information
- Excellent communication and writing skills
- How to construct an argument
- Problem solving
- How to select evidence
- How to question how reliable information is

What can the course lead onto after GCSE?

Careers you might choose after studying history are:

- Journalist/reporter
- Teacher
- Lawyer/barrister
- Archaeologist
- Historian
- Politician
- TV/Media
- Archivist

Programme Leader: David Cook

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What does the course offer me and will it suit me?

The study of GCSE Geography can help you to develop a knowledge and understanding of current events from the local area to the global scale. You will investigate the earth and its peoples and study the features of the earth - such as volcanoes, rivers and seas - and how they were formed.

What does the course involve?

Geography is examined through three examinations at the end of the course.

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment: Natural hazards, plate tectonics, weather hazards, climate change, tropical rainforests, hot deserts.

Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment: Urban issues and challenges, the changing economic world and global development, resource and waste management.

Paper 3: Geographical applications: This exam includes critical thinking and problem-solving.

What skills are involved?

Research skills:

How to analyse and analyse data

How to organise information

Excellent communication and writing skills

Annotation of illustrative material, base maps, sketch maps, OS maps, diagrams, graphs, sketches, photographs etc.

Identification of aims, geographical questions and issues, and effective approaches to enquiry

What can the course lead onto after GCSE?

Geography could lead you to exciting career prospects. Careers include:

Conservation worker

Architect

Earth scientist

Accountant

Programme Leader: David Cook

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What does the course offer me and will it suit me?

GCSE Art and Design is the right subject for you if you enjoy:

- Developing your visual skills and engaging with the creative process of art, craft and design
- Developing and refining ideas
- Experimenting and taking risks with your work, and learning from your experiences.

What does the course involve?

Personal Portfolio

You create a personal portfolio of work in response to themes set. Your work must comprise supporting studies and personal responses.

Externally Set Exam

You present a personal response to an externally set task

All work is internally marked and externally moderated.

What skills are involved?

Drawing

Drawing is at the heart of art and design and forms a core element of the practice of artists, craftspeople and designers.

Written annotation

You will be expected to demonstrate the ability to record ideas, observations, insights and independent judgements visually and through informative written annotation, using suitable specialist vocabulary.

The purpose of written annotation is to encourage you to analyse critically, evaluate and reflect on your own work and that of other artists.

What can the course lead onto after GCSE?

Through this course you will develop transferable skills, such as problem solving, communication and critical thinking skills, which will prepare you for further study or the world of work.

Programme Leader: Peter Jackson

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What does the course offer me and will it suit me?

- Engaging practical lessons.
- The chance to develop your confidence.
- Exploring different characters.
- Exploring topics such as 'Homelessness' 'War' 'Outsiders'
- Constant support with written work.

What does the course involve?

In drama your practical and written skills will be assessed. The written components for the Drama GCSE course are very similar to the English Literature GCSE.

What skills are involved?

- Ability to perform in front of large groups of people.
- Ability to work collaboratively in a group.
- An understanding that there WILL be rehearsals outside of school hours.
- A good imagination.
- A high attendance rate (You do not just let yourself down if you are absent, but also the whole group you are working with)
- Commitment and persistence.

What can the course lead onto after GCSE?

BTEC Performing Arts at sixth form
Drama/Performing Arts course at college
Drama/Performing Arts degree at university
Careers after this:

- Drama teacher
- Drama therapist
- Actor/Actress
- Set designer
- Stage manager
- Director of own theatre company

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What does the course offer me and will it suit me?

Business Studies will teach you about the world of work and the different functions in the workplace. It will give you practical skills that will be invaluable when searching for a job and working in a business. It will also prepare you to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career choices.

What does the course involve?

Business studies will enable you to:

- Develop as effective and independent student and as critical and reflective thinker with an enquiring mind
- Build arguments and make informed judgements
- Develop and apply your knowledge
- Appreciate the range of perspectives of different stakeholders
- Consider the extent to which business can be ethical and sustainable.

What skills are involved?

You will develop the following skills during the course:

- Practical skills – time management, personal organisation and action planning
- Presentational skills – addressing audiences using a variety of media and forms
- Personal skills – showing evidence of progression
- Interpersonal skills – communication and group work
- Cognitive skills – reflection and review of own and others' performances.

What can the course lead onto after GCSE?

Following GCSE Business Studies will be beneficial whatever you go on to in the future. It will demonstrate valuable skills to employers and it will give you knowledge that will help you if you go on to set up your own business.

Programme Leader: Mike Pearson

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What does the course offer me and will it suit me?

This new GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition will be supported with resources produced by one of the world's most renowned chefs, Heston Blumenthal®. His natural curiosity and scientific approach to cooking is an ideal collaboration that will enthuse you as you discover the essentials of food science, build strong practical cookery skills and a good understanding of nutrition.

Exciting and contemporary – It is designed to motivate you to develop the high level of knowledge, understanding and skills to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating.

Keeps the subject meaningful – You learn about improving lives through better knowledge of food, where it comes from and how it affects our bodies.

Inspiration from around the world – Explore a range of ingredients and processes from

Food preparation and nutrition
Food investigation task.
Food preparation task

What does the course involve?

What skills are involved?

The skills involved are:

- Critical thinking
- Analysing different approaches
- Problem solving
- Preparing food and cooking

What can the course lead onto after GCSE?

Food and Nutrition can lead to an apprenticeship, higher education or a career within hospitality, leisure and catering.

Previous students have progressed into careers, such as opening their own cafes or working as chefs.

Programme Leader: Sarah Warnes
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What does the course offer me and will it suit me?

The course has a lot of practical elements you will experience:

- Visits
- Speakers
- Discussion and research

Health and social care will also give you 'life skills' that you will always be able to use in the future. If you would like to work with people of any age this course will suit you.

What does the course involve?

The course looks at the needs of individuals from 'cradle to grave' and how care is arranged to meet those needs. We identify different skills needed to work in care.

What skills are involved?

You will develop:

- Critical and analytical skills
- Problem-solving skills
- Communication skills

What can the course lead onto after GCSE?

The opportunities are endless as this is a broad and informative course. You could go on and do an apprenticeship or you may want to go to College or sixth form to do a level 3 course such as a BTEC or A level.

Previous students have progressed into careers such as youth work, nursing and midwifery.

Programme Leader: Sarah Warnes
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What does the course offer me and will it suit me?

This course is an ideal choice for those who have a real passion for sport, are interested in fitness and health, enjoy physical activities and enjoy the challenge of hard work in practical and theory lessons.

What does the course involve?

PE GCSE will be heavily based around theory rather than practical.

You will learn theory covering fitness and body systems and health and performance. In addition, you will demonstrate your performance in three sports which may include football, netball, basketball, badminton, athletics and fitness.

What skills are involved?

The subject is both theoretical and practical. You will need to display the ability to perform sports at a good to excellent standard as well as be able to apply knowledge and understanding within theory sessions.

What can the course lead onto after GCSE?

Employment opportunities include:

- Teaching
- Fitness training, nutrition
- Sports coaching
- Physiotherapy

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What does the course offer me and will it suit me?

You will experience practical training in using various tools and materials alongside learning to design and model. You will also study the theory of marketing, production and processes to give you an all-round basis in designing, making and understanding industrial techniques.

What does the course involve?

The course includes a controlled assessment. You will complete a working prototype of a product you have designed, providing evidence of research, design and how the product will be manufactured and marketed.

What skills are involved?

All required skills are taught on the course; however, it will help if you have good making, drawing and visualising skills. Good skills in English and mathematics are also necessary.

What can the course lead onto after GCSE?

Although not essential, it is a good starting point for any design course - not just product design but interior design, graphic design, fashion design and architecture. It can also provide useful skills towards further building and maintenance courses such as construction. It also sits comfortably alongside business qualifications allowing an insight into more practical aspects of design and marketing.

Programme Leader: Mark Mathewson
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What does the course offer me and will it suit me?

Information and Creative Technology is an engaging IT qualification, with a range of topics. This includes computing, such as the programming of mobile applications, software development, development of computer networks and databases. There are also more traditional IT specialist units, including digital animation, graphics, spreadsheets, robotics and software development.

What does the course involve?

The course is made up of two units of work:
Unit 1 – Living in a Digital World

Unit 2 - Using Digital Tools

What skills are involved?

You will:

- Broaden and enhance your ICT skills
- Work with a range of digital tools
- Learn to reflect critically
- Adopt safe, secure and responsible practice.

What can the course lead onto after GCSE?

Careers that ICT can help you enter are:

- Engineering
- Graphic design
- Business
- Network administrator
- Games development
- Network architecture

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