

2024



ELY COLLEGE

Guided Choices

Key Stage 4



Meridian
Trust

This booklet will help you make decisions about the subjects you can choose to study during Year 9, 10 and 11 at Ely College.

Introduction

The subjects from which you will make your guided choices are outlined in this booklet. These qualifications have been selected to provide you with the best opportunity to achieve your potential.

These choices are, therefore, very important. The subjects you choose now will form the focus of your study for the next three years, and so you must consider which you will enjoy, and which will best suit your aspirations. Whether you intend to move on to Post-16 study and maybe university, enter into an apprenticeship, or go straight into employment with training, your choices now will have an impact on your choices later.

You will have your own choices to make, and there is no 'golden rule' that will fit everybody. Above all, it is important that you choose carefully. This booklet, together with the support provided by the college staff, is intended to help set you off down the route most appropriate for you.

From the Principal

The Spring term of Year 8 is the first time in a student's college career that they can make informed choices about their future studies. These are important decisions to make and our students will be very well supported with a range of information and guidance.

To help you, we provide a range of guidance and support about potential choices. This booklet is a starting point. The key questions to discuss at home and with your tutor when choosing options will be:

- In which subjects am I most likely to succeed?
- Which subjects do I enjoy?
- Which will enable me to progress to my preferred further education course(s)?
- How can I achieve the best qualifications to support me in my future life?

We strongly encourage every student to carefully consider a range of courses that will enable them to succeed and progress appropriately. For most it is important to maintain a well-balanced curriculum with a good range of subjects that will keep open broad progression routes when you finish Year 11.

In this Guided Choices process we are trying to give you as much choice as possible. When we have all of your choices we will try to meet your preferences as best we can. It is important that you tell us your order of preference and understand that it may not be possible to meet every preference. We must maintain reasonable class sizes and also try to work around potential clashes.

Please make sure you access all the information you need to help make your choices.



Simon Warburton
Principal



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Welcome to your Guided Choices booklet

This booklet has been designed to provide information on the courses we plan to offer at Key Stage 4 (Years 9-11) here at Ely College from September 2024. It is a guide to help you make the right decisions about the courses you choose next year. Full detail on each individual course can be found in the 'Subject Information Booklet' that has been emailed out and is also available on the School Website in the 'Year 8 Guided Choices' section found under the 'Students' menu. If you would like more information then please look at the guided choices webpage which can be found in the 'Students' section of the college website.

It is important that you spend time making decisions that are right for you. You need to gather information from teachers, friends who might have been through this before, and family. Make sure that you understand what each course is about. Think carefully about what you are good at and about what the requirements of the course are.

The success of our students is based on:

- Students being guided onto the most appropriate subjects and qualifications
- High expectations of achievement established through our target setting and monitoring
- High quality teaching and learning
- Effective support and intervention between parents, subject teachers and tutors.

It is vital that you make decisions based on what is right for you, try not to be influenced by what your friends are doing.

To help you make your choice there is information on the college website which includes videos, subject information sheets and examples of student work. This can be found at:

<https://www.elycollege.com/year-8-guided-choices>

Key Dates

By Friday 9th February 2024	Guided Choices booklet and information available on the college website.
Tuesday 13 th February 2024	Year 8 'Guided Choices Evening' takes place in college. Surnames A-K 5.30pm – 6.30pm. Surnames L-Z 6:30pm – 7:30pm
Wednesday 14 th February 2024	Year 8 'Options Online' system becomes available.
Tuesday 19 th March 2024	Year 8 Meet the Tutor Evening. <i>Your chance to discuss choices with your family and tutor</i>
1pm Monday 25th March 2024	Choices complete and entered onto SIMS Options online.
Wednesday 27 th March 2024	Student choices (NOT ALLOCATED OPTIONS) communicated home for final checking.





Core Curriculum Subjects

GCSE English Language & GCSE English Literature

GCSE Mathematics

GCSE Separate Sciences

PSHE

Philosophy, Religion & Ethics (Core)

Games

Option Subjects Available

Art & Design

Business

Computer Science

Design Technology: 3D Products

Design Technology: Fashion and Textiles

Drama

Economics

Engineering

French

Geography

Hair & Beauty

Health & Social Care

History

Hospitality & Catering

Media Studies

Music

Philosophy, Religion & Ethics

Physical Education

Spanish

Sport

Our Curriculum

THE KEY STAGE 4 PROGRAMME OF STUDY

CORE CURRICULUM SUBJECTS

ENGLISH (Language & Literature) 2 GCSEs taken at the end of Year 11

MATHEMATICS 1 GCSE taken at the end of Year 11

SCIENCE 3 GCSEs taken at the end of Year 11

PSHE No examination or accreditation

Philosophy, Religion & Ethics (PRE) No examination or accreditation

GAMES No examination or accreditation

With the exception of Games, PSHE and PRE the entire core curriculum subjects will be examined at GCSE. PRE can also be studied at further depth as an option subject.

All examined subjects lead to GCSE qualifications or equivalent Level 2 such as BTEC. This means that most students will follow a complete programme of study ultimately leading to between 8 and 11 GCSEs and equivalents.

GUIDED CHOICES

The subjects available within this programme are wide and varied. Guidance is given in this document as to the choice of subjects offered to each student. In making these choices, they are expressing a preference for the subjects they would like to follow.

Whilst it is hoped that all courses and subjects will be available in September, and that students are able to study their first choices, it is important that students make clear **their order of preference when selecting in list 2**. We cannot guarantee every student will be able to study their 1st choice or that all subjects will run, although we will do our very best to try and make that possible.

Students should consider a number of factors before making their final choices. As well as selecting subjects where they have talent and subjects they enjoy, students should consider their ambitions for future study or careers. Choosing a combination of subjects that offers some variety during their GCSE years, whilst building a good foundation of subjects to move on with. They should certainly ask the question 'to what extent is a subject desirable or essential to a preferred career path'?

As an integral part of this process, students should speak further with their teachers, tutors and the leadership team.



GCSE Courses

GCSE courses are designed to be accessible for all abilities. They are assessed in various ways. Some have an element of school based assessment carried out on tasks completed during the course. All have a final examination or assessment worth at least 40% of the overall grade which is taken towards the end of the course. To be successful in completing GCSE courses it is vital that students consistently produce their best work at all times. It is important that students organise their time efficiently and allow enough time to complete work to a high standard. Work which is rushed is seldom of the best standard and deadlines set by teachers are expected to be met at all times.

The English Baccalaureate

This accreditation, strongly encouraged by the government, requires a student to achieve a grade 5 pass or higher in the following combination of subjects:

- English;
- Mathematics;
- a minimum of 2 GCSEs in Science subjects including Computer Science;
- History or Geography;
- French or Spanish (or a qualifying 'other' language)

Some of these subjects are clustered in List 1 of the guided choices form. Students do not receive an additional certificate for achieving this full combination, but the subjects above are considered to be 'facilitating' subjects and are highly regarded by both universities and future employers. The English Baccalaureate is not compulsory at Ely College, however for many students that combination of subjects would be advantageous and desirable. It therefore represents a balanced combination of academic subjects that we recommend as suitable for most students.

HUMANITIES (Geography & History)

Our aim is to prepare our students for the future with a strong grounding in key knowledge about the world and society. Humanities subjects are highly regarded by employers and further education colleges and Sixth Forms.

Both History and Geography are included in List 1. We would encourage most students to choose *at least* one of these subjects. It is also perfectly possible and desirable to select both.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES (French & Spanish)

Knowledge of at least the basics of a foreign language is an important skill that many employers value greatly. For most young people, these subjects are rewarding, enriching and vital. However, we do appreciate that not every student will be able to cope with the demands of studying a language at GCSE.

The two languages offered are included on List 1. However, if you speak a native or home language already, we would like you to tell us, and may be able to support you in sitting that at GCSE level.

Why do we ask students to select from List 1 before List 2?

While we don't structure our guided choices to require students to follow the English Baccalaureate, or make a language compulsory for all, it is good practice that the majority of students follow at least two of the qualifications found in list 1.



Making your choices

We are asking students to make their option choices using the online SIMS Options system that is accessible through their SIMS Student accounts. This system is being introduced during IT lessons. If any student cannot access this system, then please email: guidedchoices@elycollege.co.uk

Information on how to access and fill in the choices online can be found on the college website at:

<https://www.elycollege.com/year-8-guided-choices>

The core subjects Maths, English, Science, PSHE, Philosophy, Religion & Ethics and Games are studied alongside these options:

List 1	List 2
French	Art & Design
Geography	Business
History	Computer Science
Philosophy, Religion & Ethics	Design Technology: 3D Products
Spanish	OR Design Technology: Fashion & Textiles
	Drama
	Economics
	Engineering (Cambridge Nationals)
	French
	Hair & Beauty (C&G Technical Award)
	Health & Social Care (Cambridge Nationals)
	History
	Hospitality & Catering (Vocational Award)
	Media Studies
	Music
	Sport (Cambridge Nationals)
	OR PE (GCSE)

Please choose a **total of 5 subjects** in the following way

From **List 1**: 2 choices (no preference order)

From **List 2**: 2 choices and 1 reserve (preference order, see below)

From List 2 please rank in preference order (1st choice, 2nd choice, reserve choice).

In total, students will be **allocated 4 subject choices** for their Year 9 programme. Please make sure that your reserve choice is one you are happy to follow to the end of Year 11 as every effort will be made to give you your top choices but if this is not possible the reserve choice will be assigned.

PLEASE ENTER YOUR CHOICES ON THE OPTIONS ONLINE PORTAL BY 1pm Monday 25TH MARCH. If you are having any problems using the system then please email: guidedchoices@elycollege.co.uk



Your Guided Choices selection should be made
via the Options Online system by:

**Monday 25th March
before 1pm**

A wealth of advice and guidance is available throughout this process.

As always, your Form Tutor is the first point of contact for general queries. In addition to this, subject teachers are always available to offer advice on the content of their own subject's curriculum.

Queries relating to additional support for learning and SEN can be raised with Mrs Wickham who can be emailed directly via:
kwickham@elycollege.co.uk

Senior Tutors are available to assist with more complex queries and can be contacted via email:

Etheldreda House: Mr Newsome - EtheldredaHouse@elycollege.co.uk
Franklin House: Ms Anderson - FranklinHouse@elycollege.co.uk
Scott House: Mr Waters - ScottHouse@elycollege.co.uk
Seacole House: Mr Fricker - SeacoleHouse@elycollege.co.uk
Turing House: Mr Burke - TuringHouse@elycollege.co.uk

YEAR 8 GUIDED CHOICES



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