

# ELY COLLEGE

## Guided Choices

KS4 2021

CMAT

Cambridge Meridian  
Academies Trust



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

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.

# YEAR 8 GUIDED CHOICES

# ELY COLLEGE



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.



# Introduction

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.

The restrictions in place due to COVID limit our traditional means of sharing information – we can't hold our usual options information evening but we can be creative and we have found new ways in which to give you all the information you need to make these informed choices. 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 subjects 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 in 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.

Yours sincerely



Simon Warburton  
Principal



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## Year 8 Guided Choices



# 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 2021. 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

Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	Guided Choices booklet and information available on the College website.
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2021	Year 8 'Guided Choices Evening' online 6pm – 7pm. Details of how to join will be shared before the event.
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2021	Year 8 'Options Online' system becomes available.
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	Year 8 Parents' Evening. <i>Your chance to discuss choices with your family and teachers</i>
<b>By Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021</b>	<b>Choices complete and entered onto SIMS Options online</b>
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Student choices (NOT ALLOCATED OPTIONS) communicated home for final checking.





## Core Curriculum Subjects

GCSE English Language & GCSE English Literature

GCSE Mathematics

GCSE Combined or Separate Sciences

PSHE

Philosophy, Religion & Ethics

Games

## Option Subjects Available

Art & Design

Business

Computer Science

Design Technology: 3D Products

Design Technology: Fashion and Textiles

Digital Information Technology

Drama

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 Y11

**MATHEMATICS** 1 GCSE taken at the end of Y11

**SCIENCE** 2 or 3 GCSEs taken at the end of Y11 \*

**PSHE** No examination or accreditation

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

**GAMES** No examination or accreditation

\* A decision over whether it is best for you to sit the three separate GCSE science subjects (Physics, Chemistry and Biology), or the combined science qualification (two GCSEs) will be made, at the end of Year 9, based on progress during the course. For both routes all three science subjects are studied, the only difference between the routes is how in-depth this study is.

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**. 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 (List A subjects)

This accreditation, strongly supported 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 A' 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 A'. 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 A'. 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 at least two subjects from List A?***

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 large majority of students follow at least two of the academic qualifications found in list A.



## Making Guided Choices

We have looked closely at individual students and their potential ability. This information, along with their current performance in all subjects should inform the best courses of study at Key Stage 4. Each student will need to select five subjects from across two lists, with a minimum of two choices coming from list A, indicating an order of preference. Students will then be allocated four subjects from their five choices. We will always aim to allocate students their four most preferred subjects, but you should be aware that there may be combinations that prove impossible to schedule, as well as courses that fill up or are not popular enough to prove viable. If you have any questions please contact your Form Tutor or Senior Tutor in the first instance. Choices are made by using the Options Online system.

**Make sure you list your order of preference when making your *five* choices!**

### GCSE Grading

As of September 2018, all subjects now follow the new GCSE specifications. The GCSE is no longer graded using A\* to G letters, but instead with the new numbering system 9 down to 1. The graphic shows the rough conversion between grades and number scores. It is also important to note that most people considered a 'C' grade at GCSE as a Good Pass. This has now changed where 4 is considered a Standard Pass and 5 is a Strong Pass. Students should talk about, carefully consider and ask any questions they may have before making their selections. As an Academy we are happy to offer additional careers advice if needed and recognise the importance of taking time to decide on subject choices.

Old grades	New grades
A*	9
A	8
B	7
C	6
	5 STRONG PASS
	4 STANDARD PASS
D	3
E	2
F	1
G	
U	U





## Making your choices

This year we are asking students to make their option choices using the online SIMS Options system that is accessible through their SIMS Student accounts. This was introduced to them during IT lessons at the end of the Autumn term. If any student still cannot access this system, then please email: [guidedchoices@elycollege.co.uk](mailto: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 A	List B
Geography	Art & Design
History	Business Studies
French	Design Technology: 3D Products <b>OR</b> Design Technology: Fashion & Textiles
Spanish	Digital Information Technology
Computer Science	Drama
	Engineering
	Hair & Beauty
	Health & Social Care
	Hospitality & Catering
	Media Studies
	Music
	Philosophy, Religion & Ethics
	Sport (BTEC) <b>OR</b> PE (GCSE)

Please choose a **total of 5 subjects** from a combination of both **List A** and **List B**.

In most cases, you will be able to study four of the five that you choose. Please help us by indicating the order of your preference. Your tutor may talk with you and/or your parents about the choices you have made.

**At least 2** subject choices should be chosen from **List A**

**The remaining 3** subject choices should be chosen from **List A** or **List B**

PLEASE ENTER YOUR CHOICES ON THE OPTIONS ONLINE PORTAL BY FRIDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH. If you are having any problems using the system then please email: [guidedchoices@elycollege.co.uk](mailto:guidedchoices@elycollege.co.uk)



Notes:

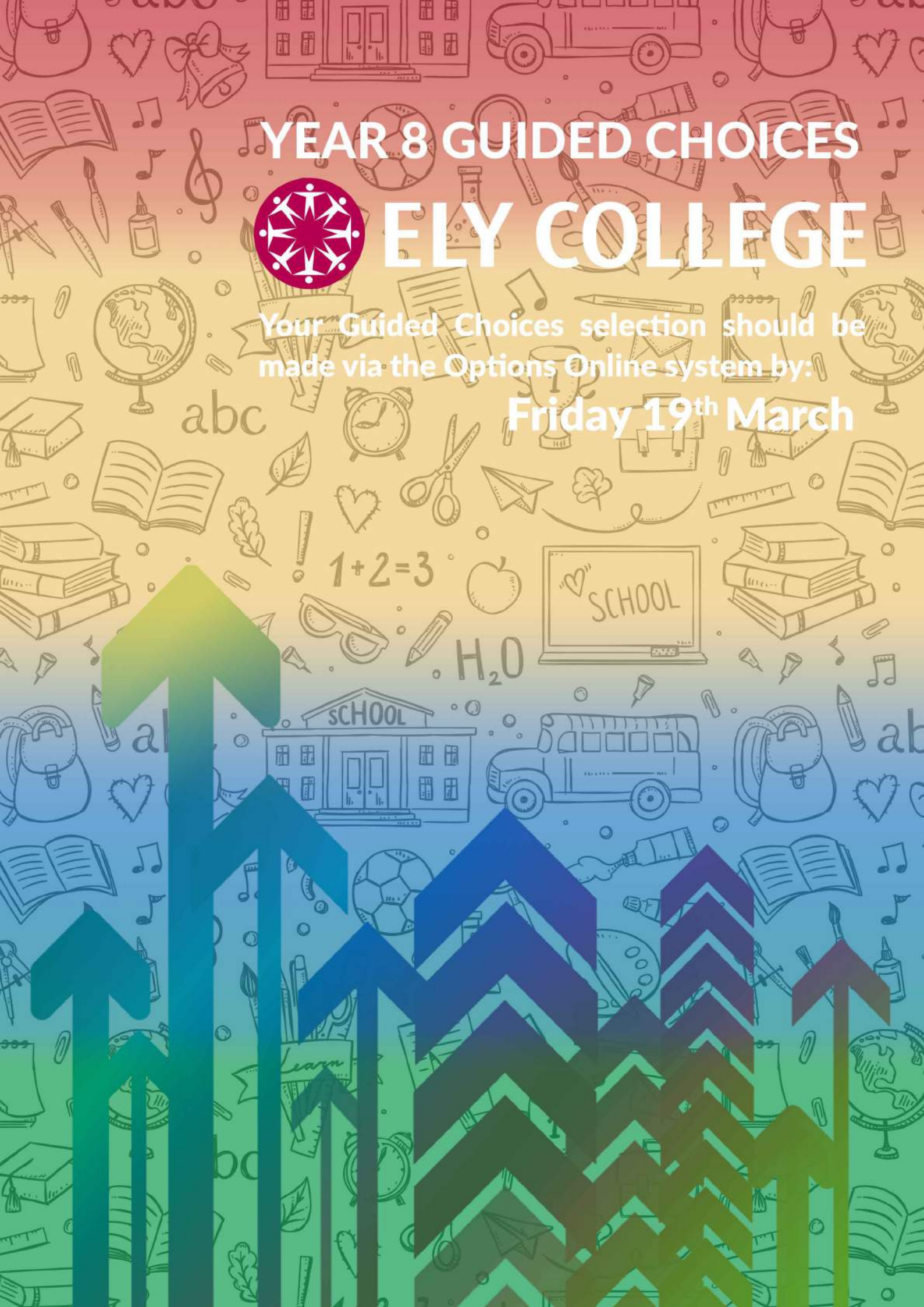


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**Your Guided Choices selection should be made via the Options Online system by:**

# Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March





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 can be raised with Mrs Kay who can be emailed directly via: [skay@elycollege.co.uk](mailto:skay@elycollege.co.uk)

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

Scott House: Mr Waters - [ScottHouse@elycollege.co.uk](mailto:ScottHouse@elycollege.co.uk)  
Turing House: Mr Burke - [TuringHouse@elycollege.co.uk](mailto:TuringHouse@elycollege.co.uk)  
Etheldreda House: Miss Bays - [EtheldredaHouse@elycollege.co.uk](mailto:EtheldredaHouse@elycollege.co.uk)  
Franklin House: Ms Anderson - [FranklinHouse@elycollege.co.uk](mailto:FranklinHouse@elycollege.co.uk)