



# YEAR 8 GUIDED CHOICES EVENING

*Richard Spencer - Principal*  
*Jayne Edmunds-Grezio – Vice Principal*

Guided Choices  
2019

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CMAT | Cambridge Meridian  
Academies Trust







**CAMBRIDGE  
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# Education

**WINNER of  
Secondary School  
of the Year!**

**A**WARDS  
2018



One of the most improved schools  
in the East of England.  
Winning awards and recognition.  
20% increase in admissions in 2018.



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CONGRATULATIONS!

Ely College  
The class of 2018  
Best ever GCSE  
results!



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# What's happening?

- From Year 9, students will make some choices about the subjects they study.
- You and your parents or carers will need to think about what courses you will study...







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# You will all still need to study...

## GCSE English Language & GCSE English Literature

2 GCSEs

## GCSE Mathematics

1 GCSE

## GCSE Science

2 or 3 GCSEs (Some students will study Separate Sciences in GCSE Biology, Chemistry & Physics from year 10, all others will study Combined Science)

## Religious Studies

Currently Year 9 and Year 10 are being prepared for entry for the full GCSE in Religious Studies at the end of Year 10. A decision on whether to enter the current Year 8 in this way will be made in the coming months based on feedback and staffing

## PE/Games

Non examined – 2 hours a week

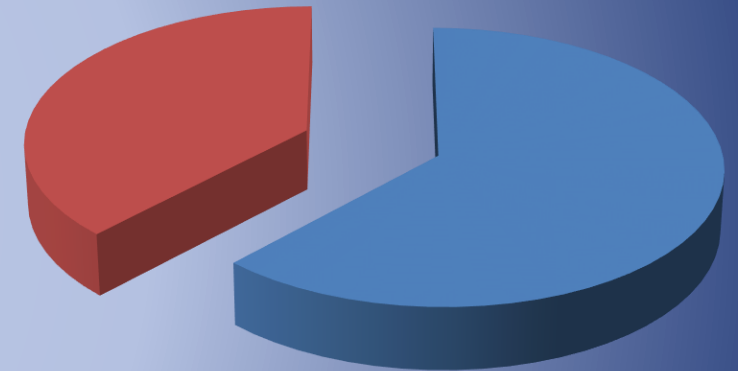
Core  
Curriculum



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# Why make choices now?

- Previous/traditional model:
  - KS3: Years 7,8,9 (9 terms)
  - KS4: Years 10 & 11 (5½ terms)
- Giving students the time to secure **great outcomes**.
- More time → deeper learning
  - Y10 & 11: 70 weeks
  - **Y9,10 & 11: 109 weeks**



■ Key Stage 3  
■ Key Stage 4





# Why make choices now?

- English, mathematics and science *gradually* introduce GCSE content through Year 9
- Three years allows for increased depth and challenge....
- ...and some additional time for learning
- Helps us to ensure that students have a wider choice of GCSEs or vocational qualifications (**four options** instead of the three choices many school now offer)





We have secured significant improvements to GCSE results since 2016. This year will be the first cohort to benefit from a three-year GCSE programme and we expect them to secure almost  $\frac{3}{4}$  grade more on average in their option subjects as a result.

Ely College – Progress 8 Headline GCSE improvements 2015-18	2016	2017	2018	Target 2019
Progress 8 - English	-0.28	-0.03	-0.15	+ 0.25
Progress 8 - Maths	-0.37	+0.02	+0.16	+ 0.25
Progress 8 - EBacc	-0.20	+0.05	+0.15	+ 0.40
Progress 8 - Open	-0.67	-0.46	-0.29	+ 0.10
Progress 8 - Overall	-0.38	-0.12	-0.04	+ 0.25

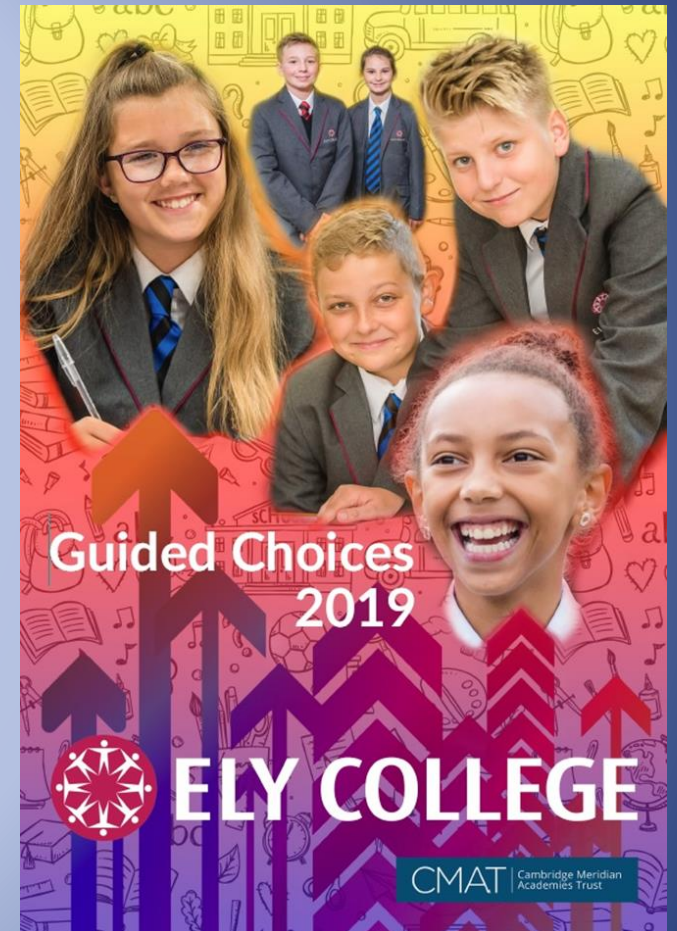




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# One size doesn't fit all...

- Each of you has received a Guided Choices booklet and selection form.
- We will guide and advise you towards the courses we think best suit your aptitude and ability.
- You will have the chance to find out about the different courses available.
- Throughout the process you get the support and guidance of your tutor.



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# WHAT THE FUTURE MIGHT HOLD?



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# What is the English Baccalaureate (Ebacc)?

- Introduced by the Government in 2010
- It comprises of GCSEs in 5 subjects (a sort of academic “Grand Slam”)
- English, maths, science (including computer science), a modern language, history or geography
- For *most* students, it provides a sensible academic foundation for future work and study that leaves future options as open as possible.





# What information do we use to guide students?

We look at a range of information to help guide our students towards the most appropriate subject choices:

- Current performance information
- Liaison with Curriculum Leaders
- Historical attainment (Year 6 / CATs/ PIE and PIM data)
- Effort and attitude to learning information
- Consultation with Senior Tutors
- Evidence based but flexible







# How have things changed recently?

- A move away from examined *modules* at GCSE – mostly terminal, end of course exams
- 1970's – 80's: All exams in one go at the end
- No resits for GCSE.
- All GCSEs are now graded 1-9 (9 being the highest!)

New GCSE grading structure

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A*
8	A
7	A
6	B
5	B
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
1	G
U	U

GOOD PASS (DfE)  
5 and above = top of C and above

AWARDING  
4 and above = bottom of C and above



# Choosing the right subjects...



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- Don't choose because of the teacher
- Don't choose because your friends are doing it
- This process is important, but not life-threatening!



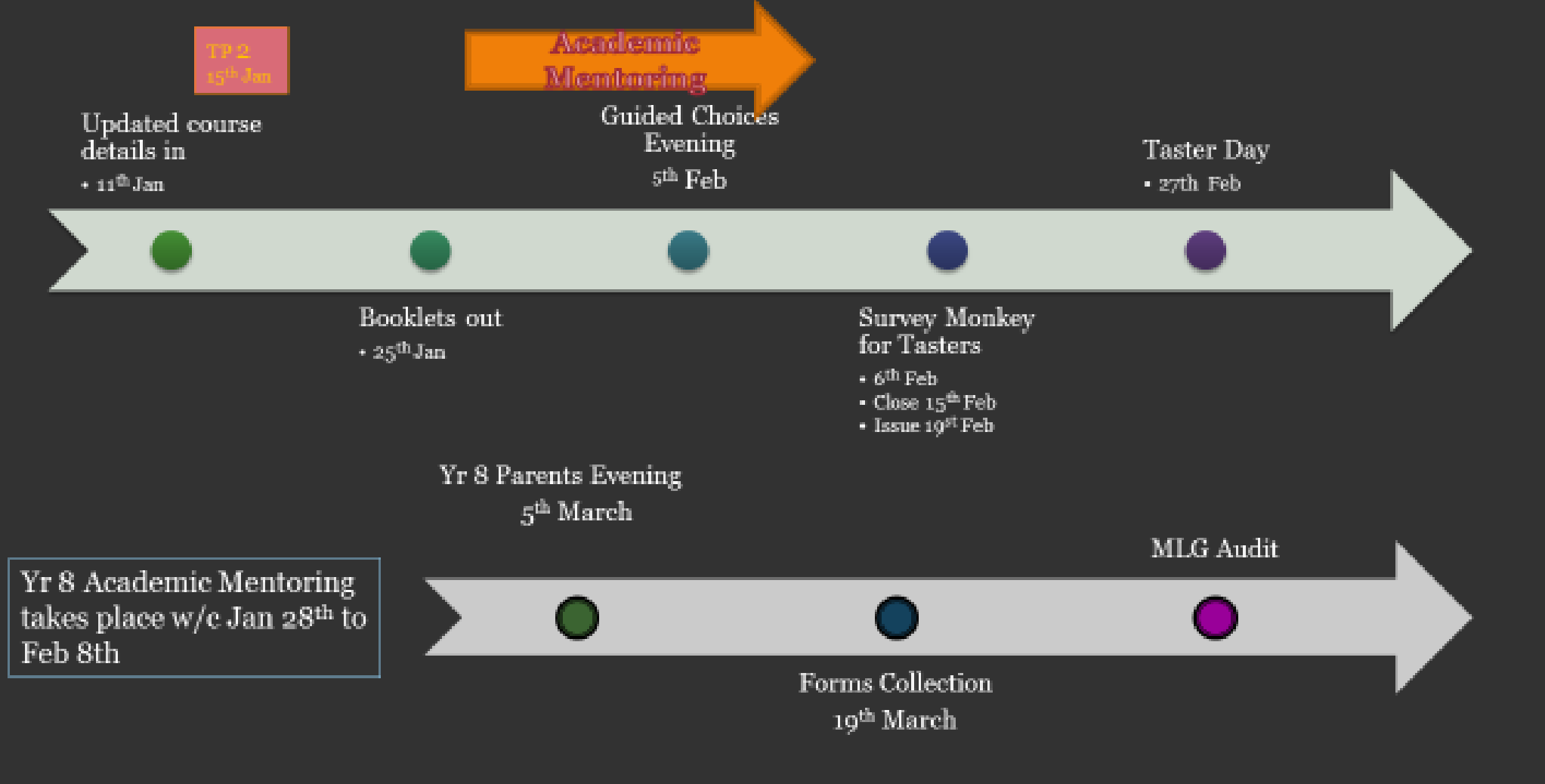
**We are very good at this.** More than 95% of our students received their preferred choices and less than 5% of these changed one of their subject choices in the 1st term



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# Guided Choices Timeline





# Taster Sessions

- You will receive an email with a link to the taster session booking form.
- You may complete the form any time before **8pm** **on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February**

## Guided Choices - Taster Session selections

\* 1. Student surname



**List A**  
**(EBACC)**  
**Choose at least 2 subjects**

**List B**  
**Choose remaining subjects (up to 3)**

- Remember to state the order of preference (1-5)
- All students will study at least one List A subject
- Most will be able to study 4 out of 5 choices made
- Tutors will guide and support students through this process

**Guided Choices Form 2019 – 2020** Name:..... Form:.....

The core subjects Maths, English, Science, Ethics and Religious Studies and Games are studied alongside these options.

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** subjects choices should be chosen from **List A**

**Remember to state your order of preference**

List A	Order of Preference
Geography	
History	
French	
Spanish	
Computer Science	

Please make your **remaining 3 choices** from **List B**

**Remember to state your order of preference**


List B	Order of Preference
Art & Design	
Business Studies	
Creative iMedia	
Drama	
Engineering	
Design Technology: 3D Products <b>OR</b>	
Design Technology: Fashion & Textiles	
Hair & Beauty	
Health & Social Care	
Hospitality and Catering	
Media Studies	
Music	
Sport (BTEC) <b>OR</b>	
PE (GCSE)	


Student Signature: ..... Tutor Signature: .....

Do you have another language other than English? Yes / No

If Yes, please indicate which language: .....

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# Example 1

List A	Order of preference
Geography	1
History	2
French	
Spanish	4
Computer Science	

List B	Order of preference
Art & Design	
Business	
Creative i-Media	
D&T (Textiles)	
D&T (3D Products)	
Drama	5
Engineering	
Hair & Beauty	
Health & Social Care	
Hospitality & Catering	
Media Studies	3
Music	
Sport	



# Example 2

List A	Order of preference
Geography	
History	4
French	5
Spanish	
Computer Science	

List B	Order of preference
Art & Design	1
Business	
Creative i-Media	2
D&T (Textiles)	3
D&T (3D Products)	
Drama	
Engineering	
Hair & Beauty	
Health & Social Care	
Hospitality & Catering	
Media Studies	
Music	
Sport	



# Example 3

List A	Order of preference
Geography	5
History	
French	
Spanish	
Computer Science	1

List B	Order of preference
Art & Design	
Business	
Creative i-Media	
D&T (Textiles)	
D&T (3D Products)	
Drama	
Engineering	2
Hair & Beauty	
Health & Social Care	
Hospitality & Catering	
Media Studies	
Music	3
Sport	4





# WHAT HAPPENS NEXT.....



- Taster sessions chosen via Survey Monkey
- Taster Sessions Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February
- Year 8 Parents Evening Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March
- Option Form Deadline Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March

*We will do our best to give the first choice of subjects, although this may not always be possible.*



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# AND THEN...

- ...we check your choices, and might meet with some of you to talk them through...
- ...we write to you and your parents and carers in the summer term to confirm your courses.
- ...please contact us to discuss if you want! The Senior Tutor should be your main point of contact.



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Turing  
House



Scott  
House



Etheldreda  
House



Franklin  
House



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# Please remember...



- All things to all people will probably never happen!! You may get a reserve choice!
- Some courses may not run if numbers aren't high enough
- Late changes are not normally allowed
- There's a lot to do – please be patient. Choices will be confirmed in the summer term as soon as possible. Budget and staffing plays a role
- More than 95% of students last year got their preferred subject choices
- Only a handful of students requested a change of subject in the first half term
- *We are trying to do the right thing by your child*



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