

15th January 2026

Dear Parent / Carer,

Year 8 Guided Choices

As you will be aware, Year 8 students make their GCSE option choices this term. This letter is to give you a brief timeline of the stages of the process allowing them to choose their GCSE option subjects starting in September 2026.

In the **week commencing 2nd February**, the Guided Choices booklets will be handed to students during registration. This gives an overview of the process and where additional information to help make decisions can be found. The selection of courses on offer are designed to best ensure both achievement through Key Stage 4 and access to appropriate post-16 courses beyond Year 11.

On **Tuesday 10th February**, I invite you to the Guided Choices evening which takes place in person at the college. At the event there will be a presentation explaining the process in more detail and the opportunity to ask questions. There will also be subject staff available who can give you more specific information about each of the courses. Year 8 is a large year group and so to manage numbers I would ask that you attend at the times below:

Students with surnames starting A-K

- 5.00 – 5.45pm: In A block dining hall with subject teachers
- 5.45 – 6.15pm: In A block assembly hall for presentation

Students with surnames starting L-Z

- 5.45 – 6.30pm: In A block dining hall with subject teachers
- 6.30 – 7.00pm: In A block assembly hall for presentation

On **Friday 13th February**, the online system will go live and at this point students can start choosing their options. The deadline for this is **9am Tuesday 17th March**.

More detail about the online system will be given during the Guided Choices evening.

On **Tuesday 10th March**, the Year 8 Meet the Tutor Evening will take place. This will give you an opportunity to talk to your child's tutor about their progress and thoughts on GCSE choices.

On **Tuesday 17th March** the Options Online system will close at 9am.

Final allocations will be communicated late April..

Should you have any questions about the Guided Choices process contact me by email: guidedchoices@elycollege.co.uk

Yours faithfully



KJ Norton-Berry
Assistant Principal