

2026



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 very important. The subjects you choose now will form the focus of your study for the next three years 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 2026. It is a guide to help you make the right decisions about the courses you choose next year. Full details on each individual course can be found in the 'Subject Information Booklet' 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 web page 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 6 th February 2026	Guided Choices booklet and information available on the college website.
Tuesday 10 th February 2026	Year 8 'Guided Choices Evening' takes place in college.
Friday 13 th February 2026	Year 8 options system becomes available.
Tuesday 10 th March 2026	Year 8 Meet the Tutor Evening. <i>Your chance to discuss choices with your family and tutor</i>
9am Tuesday 17th March 2026	Deadline: Choices complete and entered onto the online options system.





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

Dance

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 3**. 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.



Making your choices

We are asking students to make their option choices using the online options system that is accessible through their Bromcom student account or the email sent to them. If any student is having difficulties accessing the selections then please email:

guidedchoices@elycollege.co.uk

Information on how to access and fill in the choices online can be found 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	List 3
Geography	Art & Design	Art & Design
History	Dance	Business
Philosophy, Religion & Ethics	Drama	Computer Science
	Design Technology: 3D Products OR Design Technology: Fashion & Textiles	Dance
	French	Drama
	Music	Design Technology: 3D Products OR Design Technology: Fashion & Textiles
	Spanish	Economics
		Engineering (Cambridge Nationals)
		Geography
		Hair & Beauty (C&G Technical Award)
		Health & Social Care (Cambridge Nationals)
		History
		Hospitality & Catering (Vocational Award)
		Media Studies
		Music
		Philosophy, Religion & Ethics
		Sport (Cambridge Nationals) OR PE (GCSE)



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

From **List 1:** 1 choice

From **List 2:** 1 choice

From **List 3:** 2 choices and 1 reserve (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 PORTAL
BY 9am TUESDAY 17th MARCH.**

If you are having any problems using the system then please
email: guidedchoices@elycollege.co.uk

NOTES:

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

**Tuesday 17th March
before 9am**

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 Thatcher who can be emailed directly via:
lthatcher@elycollege.co.uk

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

Etheldreda House: Mrs Southworth / Mrs Bays -
EtheldredaHouse@elycollege.co.uk

Equiano House: Mr Burke - EquianoHouse@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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