



S V Pritt-Roberts M.Ed.
Deputy Head Academic

18th December 2018

Dear Parent,

Academic Options at Ellesmere College: Years 11 to 12

I appreciate that it may seem rather early to be asking Year 11 pupils to indicate what they hope to study in September 2019, however, it is necessary to gather this information so that work can commence on timetabling.

There are three main courses to choose from; A level, International Baccalaureate Diploma or BTEC Diploma. Students are to choose three subjects at A level. The IB involves a selection of six subjects. BTEC is equivalent to two A levels and can be done with another A level or students may opt to do the extended diploma which is a three A level equivalent programme and is not combined with a separate A level. Details of each course are set out in the Sixth Form Options Booklet, distributed in the Michaelmas term and is available online via our website

The choices are made through our online system and we have had to take soundings from students with regard to whether they wish to pursue A level or IB – as they are distinct pathways and a student cannot appear in both. If your daughter/son finds they do not have the IB pathway available to them when they login please email Dr. Gareh and he will enable the IB pathway to be visible in place of the A level one. If she/he wishes to put in options for both routes, then please do the pathway that is available online and request a form for the other route. If you have any difficulties with access it can be resolved at the start of term, just email reception after the festivities and they will pass your email onto our Director of ICT.

How to complete options online

Students will have received an email from 'noreplay@sims.co.uk' into their Ellesmere email account. They are to navigate to the 'click this link', link in the e-mail then login by choosing the **Microsoft option** from the list presented and use their usual **Ellesmere network login**. Please ignore other portals that might be listed by the software provider, Capita, as we only use their options portal (we have other suppliers for parents' portal and activities).

The final date for the completion of the online options is Friday, 25th January 2019. Please ensure that your son/daughter does not delay in submitting their options since it is important that their choices influence decisions about subjects and circuits.

It is the hope that no pupil will need to retake his or her Mathematics or English but occasionally some do. Retake classes in Mathematics and English are scheduled and so considerations of re-takes need not normally limit choice except in so much as ability in English or Mathematics would suggest steering clear of some courses. If further guidance is required please, in the first instance, contact your son or daughter's Tutor or Housemaster/Housemistress. Mr R Macintosh, Head of Careers, is the person to contact if your son or daughter is in need of careers guidance.

Yours sincerely,

S.V. Pritt-Roberts