



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

9th December 2019

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 2020, 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 Sport 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. I would like to test if there is a demand for any other subject BTEC courses. These would only run if there was a viable number – and we have the relevant staff expertise. If there is an area you would like considered please email me to let me know.

Details of each course are set out in the Sixth Form Options Booklet available online via our website link [Sixth Form](#) When you land on the Sixth Form page please scroll down to the heading **Sixth Form Prospectus**. Further guidance will also be available at our Sixth Form Choices evening on 14th January 2020.

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. Gareth 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

Pupils will have received an email from 'noreply@sims.co.uk' into their Ellesmere email account. They should login to their Ellesmere email where they will see the email. They are to navigate to the 'Accept Invitation' link in the e-mail then login by choosing the Microsoft option from the list presented and use their usual Ellesmere network login.

Please find attached a guide to help navigate the Options On-line process.

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, 31st January 2020. 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. Re-take 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,