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Dear Parent,

Academic Options at Ellesmere College: Years 11 to 12

I am writing in advance of our information evening on Wednesday 7th February 2024 to inform you that our Sixth Form Prospectus is available for you to peruse online. Further details of each course are set out via our website link [Sixth Form](#), where you can watch videos about each subject made by our teachers and the students who chose those subjects. When you land on the Sixth Form page please scroll down to the heading **Sixth Form Prospectus**. The webpage is also available here: <https://www.ellesmere.com/the-schools/sixth-form-choices/>.

I would also like to share with you the program our School has subscribed to in order to help your child prepare for academic, career, and future success. Xello is an engaging online program that helps students build the skills, knowledge and plans to be future ready. The program uses an investigative, discovery-based learning process. Students better understand themselves, their future career options, and the 21st century skills they'll need to succeed. Exploring this program will provide insights that may help those unsure about which subjects and course of study to select for Sixth Form. This is used in School and further information can be obtained by contacting Mr R Macintosh, Head of Careers, should your son or daughter need careers guidance.

Your child can make their choices through our online system. I attach a guidance document to assist you. At this stage they simply select the ones they want to study and then the work begins to put them into timetable blocks. Either Dr Gareth or I will make contact later in Lent term if the combination chosen doesn't fit. In most cases it does so we will only need to contact a small number, if any. If you have any difficulties with access to the Options-Online software, please email our Director of ICT on andy.hassard@ellesmere.com.

How to complete options online

Pupils will receive an email from 'noreply@sims.co.uk' into their Ellesmere email account. They should log in to their Ellesmere email where they will see the email. They are to navigate to the 'Accept Invitation' link in the email then login by choosing the Microsoft option from the list presented and use their usual Ellesmere <http://www.ellesmereonline.com/>

Please find attached a guide to help navigate the Options Online 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 Tuesday, 27th February, 2024. 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. If there remains uncertainly by the 28th please email me to request an extension. There will be the opportunity to amend choices later, once circuits are finalized, but at that stage changes will have to fit within the timetabled blocks.

It is the hope that no pupil will need to retake their Mathematics or English GCSE but occasionally some may be required to. Mathematics and English re-take classes are scheduled within the timetable. Considerations of re-takes need not limit your choice however, considerations around ability in English or Mathematics would suggest steering clear of some courses.

Yours sincerely,

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