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Dear Parent,

As we move towards the end of term I thought I would write to brief you on matters for next term. GCSE exam rehearsal examinations will take place during Week 3 & 4 of Lent Term. These will be formal examinations conducted as if they were the final GCSEs in order to give pupils the essential experience. Planning for GCSE revision is typically a trigger for pupils to think about what they will study when they move onto Sixth Form and I thought it would be helpful to outline the process for making those option choices.

There are three courses of study to choose from and a range of subjects within each course; A level, International Baccalaureate Diploma or BTEC Diploma. Students are to choose three subjects at A level. There are other opportunities to acquire further qualifications, which carry university entrance points referred to as UCAS points, that we run in the first year of the Sixth Form. These are the highly valued Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) and the Higher Level English Speaking Board Certification (ESB), these and three Advanced levels are certainly going to keep A level students busy. The second route available is the International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB). A global qualification which involves a selection of six subjects, three are followed at Higher level and three at Standard level. It is an excellent course for the good all-rounder as the core subjects of English, Mathematics, and one Science continue along with a choice within Humanities and the Arts. The third route is our BTEC Sport Diploma. This 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. Details of each course and subject details can be found in the Sixth Form Options Booklet available online via our website

The choices are made through our online system which we will be opening end of Michaelmas Term. There are a set of videos outlining each subject posted on our YouTube channel to provide more information.

[Ellesmere College Sixth Form Choices - Subject Videos](#)

The course is outlined by the teacher supported by students currently in the Sixth Form studying that subject and they will give an insight into why they chose that subject which I hope will assist your daughter or son in making their choices. It replicates the information you would have heard had we been able to run our usual Year 11 Information Evening this term, which due to the pandemic we could not.



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There is no action for you to take just yet, I am sharing this for information so you can see the direction of travel. If there is the desire to start discussing this over the holidays then the best starting point is the videos I have mentioned earlier and our prospectus which will help students narrow down from what they don't want to do to what they are interested in doing. The link here takes you to that page [Sixth Form](#) when you land on the Sixth Form page please scroll down to the heading **Sixth Form Prospectus**.

I hope you find this overview helpful. The timetable for the rehearsal examinations will be available the first week of the Lent Term. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas.

Regards,

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