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12th February 2024

Academic Options at Ellesmere College: Years 8 to 9

Dear Parent,

Although the choices for GCSE options are not made until Lent term in Year 9, we do introduce some limited choices at the end of Year 8 as pupils move from Lower to Senior School. Clearly if a subject is dropped at this stage, it will be difficult to pick it up again for GCSE. The curriculum consists of core subjects for all pupils in Year 9. These are English, Mathematics, the three sciences of Biology, Chemistry and Physics, History, Geography, Religious Studies and Physical Education.

Pre-GCSE introduction courses are available as optional subjects. They are: Art and Design, Business Studies, Computer Science, Design and Technology, Drama, French, Latin, Media Studies, Music, P.E. (academic) and Spanish.

There will be a review of performance in the summer exams to ensure choices made are sensible. Some of these subjects are only available in Senior School and are offered in Year 9 as a pre-GCSE introduction, which will assist GCSE decisions for Year 10. It is anticipated that these subjects will be available in four option blocks. Pupils will choose one subject from each block. Support for Learning and English as an Additional Language, as a chargeable extra, will continue to be available and should be chosen as one of the four so they can be timetabled into the school day.

There will be a presentation on Monday 26th February at 4:45pm in the Arts Centre where I will share an overview of the Year 9 curriculum. Dr Chatterjee will outline the Year 9 pastoral structure and you will be introduced to the Middle School Housemasters and Housemistress. This will be followed by a Parents' Meeting in Lower School.

The guidance to access the options online software is below.

How to complete options online:

Pupils will have received 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 then should go through the process outlined in the attached guidance.

The final date for the completion of the online options is Friday 16th March 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.

Yours sincerely,

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