



S V Pritt-Roberts M.Ed.
Deputy Head Academic
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3rd January 2018

Dear Parent,

Academic Options at Ellesmere College: Years 9 to 10

It may seem rather early to be writing to you about the course of study your child will be following in September 2018, but I am raising the topic so it can be discussed over the coming weeks.

The curriculum consists of core subjects for all pupils in Year 10. These are English Language and Literature, Mathematics, and at least two sciences, from Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Pupils may opt to do all three sciences, one will count as one of their option choices.

All other subjects are chosen as options. I will build the blocks from the information given on the completed preference forms. Support for Learning and English as an Additional Language, as a chargeable extra, will continue to be available and must be counted as an option.

If a pupil has a heavy music or sports commitment I suggest that you discuss whether to select the one non exam option offered, as that will enable lessons such as music instrumentals, tennis lessons, and non-exam P.E. to be fitted in to the timetable, so they are part of the school day. If a pupil does not choose this as one of their seven then please be aware that they will carry a very heavy timetable and other pursuits may not be fitted into the timetable, in the case of instrumental lessons we will continue the moving lesson rota so they will come out of academic lessons on a rotational basis, as they do now. Pupils often make the mistake of thinking universities and employers will be impressed by the number of GCSEs they do, they are not. Their only focus is the grade not the quantity, and therefore this is an opportunity to discuss managing workload and look at how best to balance the growing academic workload, as they move through the GCSE years, with other valuable commitments that make your daughter/son who they are.

The full details of each subject can be read on the website. The information is being updated but I share the link now as much of the information will not change and it may prove helpful in your discussions.

<https://www.ellesmere.com/assets/pdfs/admissions/Downloads%202017/year10gcseoptionsinformationbookletsept2017.pdf>

The Parents' Meeting scheduled for Friday 26th January 2018 will provide an opportunity to discuss with teachers and tutors the appropriate choice for your daughter/son. If you are unable to attend, or would like to discuss choices then please do not hesitate to contact the personal tutor allocated to your son or daughter.

Ellesmere College, Ellesmere, Shropshire SY12 9AB

Tel: 01691 622321 Fax: 01691 623286

www.ellesmere.com

A Woodard School

Registered Charity number 1103049

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Ellesmere

A 7 – 18 Coeducational School

I attach a form to fill in to indicate your son or daughter's subject preferences, please can this be returned to Dr T Gareh, Head of Middle School, by the end of January 2018.

Yours sincerely,

S. V. Pitt-Roberts

Encs.

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Year 10 Options
Please return by end of January 2018

For September 2018

All pupils will follow GCSE English Language and English Literature, Mathematics, and at least two sciences or may select three.

Pupils:

- ◆ All must select **SEVEN option subjects** in total, to include the minimum of two sciences. *You may opt to follow all three sciences*, and choose a further four optional subjects.
- ◆ If you wish to have Support for Learning lessons for either maths or English they are to be chosen as an option choice
- ◆ Extra English as an Additional Language (EAL) lessons, where needed, must take up an option choice, where English is not first language
- ◆ ***Performance in the end of Year 10 May exams will determine if choices are sensible.***

Name of pupil

House and Tutor (leave blank if new pupil joining Sept 18)

Option Choices	<i>Tick seven choices</i>
Art	
Biology	
Business Studies	
Chemistry	
Computer Science	
DT Product Design	
Drama	
French	
Geography	
History	
<i>Latin</i>	
<i>Media Studies</i>	
Music	
P. E. Academic (GCSE)	
P.E./Ex-curricular non exam option (see note 1)	
Physics	
Religious Studies	
Spanish	
*Support for Learning English	
*Support for Learning Maths	
English as an Additional Language	

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<p><i>*Support lessons English/Maths can be combined in one block, so may count as one choice</i></p>	
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1. P.E. /Ex-curricular allows time on the timetable for PE lessons, tennis lessons, instrumental music lessons, study skills, and a citizenship course. It enables space on the timetable to give support in managing time and workload and is recommended though not compulsory.

Please return this form to your tutor who will pass it on to Dr. Gareth - all to be returned by end of January
***If you are not currently attending the College, please send this form into Admissions within a week of receiving it.
You risk not getting the options you prefer if you fail to return this form promptly.***

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