

22nd January 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

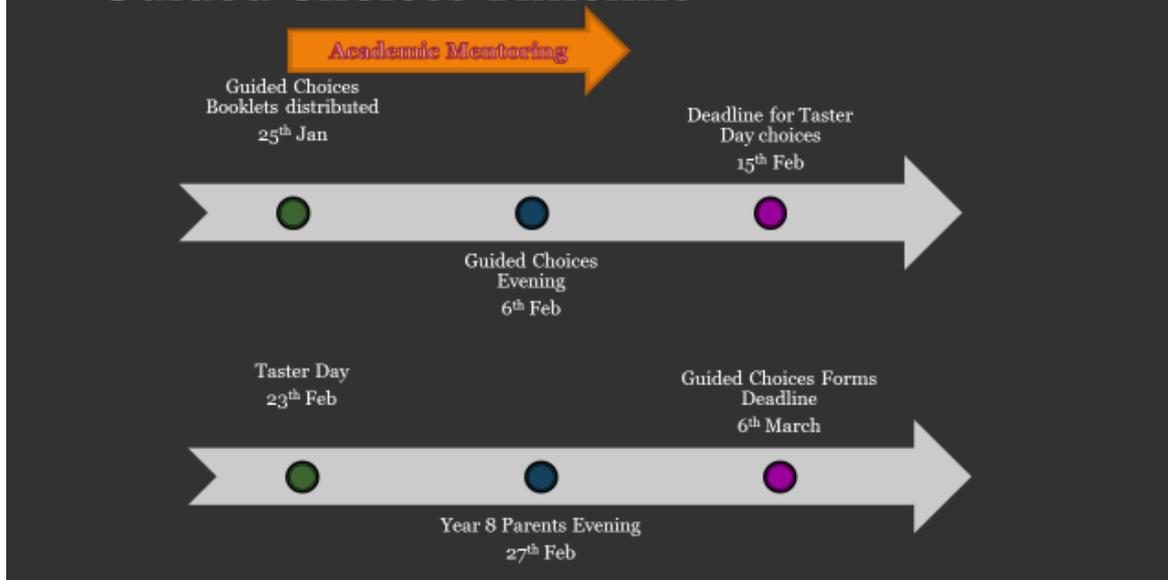
Year 8 Guided Choices

We are writing to you regarding the forthcoming GCSE Guided Choices (options) process that all Year 8 students will complete between now and March 2018. This is the starting point for dialogue and ultimately decisions over which GCSEs and other qualifications your son/daughter will study over the coming years. The aim is to give every student the best possible platform and foundations in knowledge to go forward into an ever changing post 16 environment.

Please use this letter as a guide to the forthcoming weeks and months. We aim to provide detailed information to all students and parents as we move through this very important pathway process and we will offer support and guidance throughout, both in school time and at our information evenings.

January and early February	The latest progress report will be released on Friday 26 th January. This will be one part of the information used to help guide students towards subjects they have strengths in.
January and early February	Academic Mentoring: Form Tutors will use some of their academic mentoring time to discuss careers and possible GCSEs on a 1:1 basis with students.
January to March	Students will start to discuss careers and GCSE subjects during their academic mentoring slots, form time and relevant lessons during the school day. We advise that conversations regarding future careers continue at home. It is a good idea to look at desired jobs and work backwards to find out what qualifications may be required or preferable.
26th January	Year 8 students will receive a Guided Choices Booklet (also available in the website) which will contain details about each course we offer and how it is assessed. A subject choices form allowing students to make informed guided choices will be inside.
6th February 2018 6.00pm – 8.00pm	Guided Choices Evening: parents/carers and students are invited to a formal presentation in the school hall by the Senior Leadership Team. Additionally, subject staff will be present to talk about the courses on offer and answer questions throughout the evening.
7th – 15th February	Subjects are chosen for the Taster Day held on 23rd February . Choices to be completed during this time via SURVEY MONKEY . Deadline 15th February .
12th - 16th February 2018	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Taster Day 23rd February	This is an opportunity for students to experience lessons in subjects they have not studied before.
Tuesday 27th February	Year 8 Parents' Evening - This is where parents/carers and students talk with individual class teachers as they did in year 7. This is also an opportunity to talk about suitability for particular courses.
Tuesday 6th March	Final Deadline for students to return their Guided Choices forms and select the courses they wish to follow.

Guided Choices Timeline



There are a number of free career guidance websites available to help young people with career choices and the government also provide a useful website: <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/job-profiles/home> that allows students to find out more about the job and the entry requirements needed. These might, in turn, help discussions at home.

Should you have questions regarding the process please feel free to contact your child's form tutor in the first instance. Their email address is based on InitialSurname@elycollege.co.uk - for example, Ms J Brown would be JBrown@elycollege.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Ms J Brown
Vice Principal