



MAIDEN ERLEGH
CHILTERN EDGE

Key Stage 4 Options

25 January 2024

Year 9: The time to make some decisions!

Year 9 are fast approaching the most critical point in their school careers to date when they get to:

- Make some choices over what subjects they study
(perhaps more importantly, which subjects they will choose not to continue with!)
- Start to focus on possible routes at College (and beyond)
- Begin GCSE content in a number of lessons (e.g. English, Maths, Science)



Year 9: The time to make some decisions!

**An outline of the
process**

Stage One: Complete the Straw Poll activity



Stage Two: Read information issued carefully, talk to your teachers and ask questions.
(Request a Careers interview if you are really stuck!)

Stage Three: Make your decision and hand in your form (ON TIME)!

Some important dates in this process

- ▶ *December 2023 Initial introduction and straw poll*
- ▶ *22 January: thinking about your future workshop*
- ▶ **25 January: p5 Full Options process briefing (students) and information evening (parents)**
- ▶ **30 January: Options forms available from tutors**
- ▶ **5 February : Receive Term 3 Progress Report**
- ▶ **6 February: Y9 Parents' Evening**
- ▶ **8 February : Deadline for Options choices**
- ▶ **Term 4 - Discussions with Heads of Departments about allocations and courses and meetings with students if required**
- ▶ **Term 5 & 6 - Confirmation of Options and Introductory sessions**



Information Received Today

- ▶ During assembly this afternoon students received:
 - ▶ A copy of the options booklet (in hard copy)
 - ▶ Information about the on-going support with the options process

Students have also been given digital access to the booklet via Google Classroom

Looking Ahead

- ▶ **A Levels**

Maiden Erlegh School Sixth Form, Reading School, Kendrick School, Highdown, Henley College,

- ▶ **Vocational Diplomas/BTEC Level 2 and Level 3**

Henley College, Reading College, BCA, UTC

- ▶ **Apprenticeships**

Employers

GCSE Reforms

- ▶ Summer 2017 saw the first results in English and Maths of the new reformed GCSEs
- ▶ Current Y11 - all GCSEs reformed.

GCSE Reforms - What do they mean for students?

One of the biggest outward changes is in the way grades are reported and their comparative value

The table on the right shows the connection between the 'old' and 'new' grades. Previously a 'Good Pass' was deemed a C grade or better. Moving forward a 'Good Pass' has been set at a Grade 5

The Government intends that:

- Broadly the same number of students will achieve a Grade 4+ as those who have previously achieved a C+
- A Grade 5 will be awarded to the top 1/3 of students who previously would have achieved a C grade and the bottom 1/3 of students who would have achieved a B grade
- Broadly the same number of students will achieve a 7+ as previously achieved an A or A*.

All of which means:

The new Grade 5 (Good Pass) is at a higher level than the 'old' C grade – meaning overall less students will achieve it.

Why does it matter?

Students who do not achieve a Good Pass in English and Maths in Year 11 will have to **re-sit** the exams in Post-16 study.

New GCSE Grades	
A* - A	9
	8
	7
B	6
C	5 "Good pass"
	4 "Good pass"
D-G	3
	2
	1
U	U

GCSE Reforms - What do they mean for students?

- ▶ More rigorous exams papers (more content)
- ▶ Terminal exams (taken at the end of Y11)
- ▶ Longer (and multiple) exam papers
- ▶ Very little (or no) coursework contribution
- ▶ Much greater emphasis on accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar
- ▶ BTEC qualifications have also been made more rigorous with a compulsory examination element included

GCSE or BTEC

The 'traditional' route is the GCSE, however the reformed BTECs have been brought into line in terms of rigour and are considered on an equal footing by Post-16 providers. For some students BTECs provide an excellent opportunity to secure good grades by completing work throughout the 2 years and reduce the overall number of exams being sat in May / June of Y11.

GCSE

- 100% examination (in practical subjects this can be before May of Y11)
- All qualifications at Level 2
- Solid foundation for A Level study
- Graded 1-9

BTEC

- Majority of assessment is ongoing (Coursework)
- Smaller externally examined unit (~25%)
- Qualifications can be achieved at Level 1 or 2
- Solid foundation for onward vocational study
- Do not limit progression at A Level (or beyond)
- Graded Distinction / Merit / Pass

The National Picture - The EBACC

- ▶ The government keen to promote students studying a 'broad and balanced' curriculum defined as English, Maths, Science, History or Geography and a Modern Foreign Language - gaining a 'pass' qualification in each of these gains the 'EBACC' qualification.
- ▶ The EBACC is nominal, although students who have aspirations of attending University should consider trying to achieve it.
- ▶ It is a performance measure that schools are judged against
- ▶ We encourage **ALL** students to strongly consider this route.

For MECE students this would mean
opting for History **OR** Geography **AND**
French and then 2 other subjects

What lessons will you have?

Core curriculum:

English (studying for both Literature and Language qualifications)

Maths

Science (studying for 2 or 3 separate qualifications in Biology, Chemistry and Physics)

PD (including Careers guidance and support)

PE

What lessons will you have?

Additional Courses:

Students will select 4 additional qualifications from:

French, Geography, History, Art & Design, Design & Technology, Photography, Food & Nutrition, Drama, Music, BTEC Sport, Computing, iMedia

They will be chosen from the option block groups

Restrictions

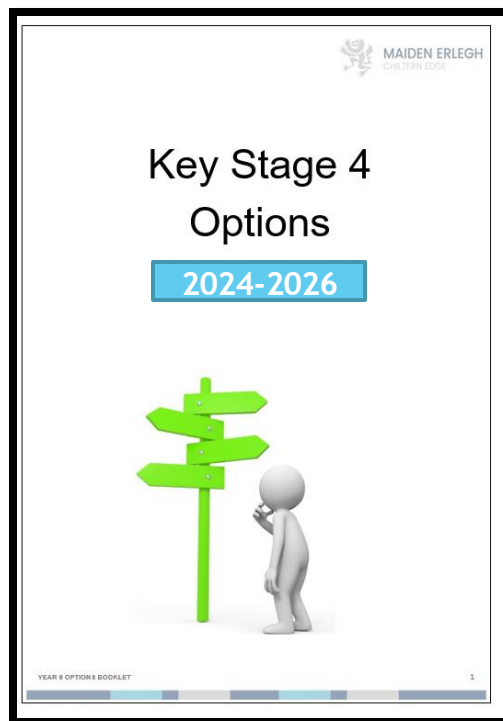
There are some restrictions in place

- Students should opt for **two** of the following: History, Geography, French
(Students wishing to follow the EBACC pathway must opt for History OR Geography AND French)
- Students may not opt for both Art & Design **AND** Photography
- Students may not opt for both Computing **AND** iMedia
- Students may not opt for the same subject twice
(even if appears in two separate blocks)

Key to note

- ▶ Ultimately, not all options on the form will run - students will be informed if a subject is to be withdrawn and the opportunity to pick another will be offered.
- ▶ In order to get the best fit for the most students, the reserve subject(s) may be used
- ▶ Teenagers change their minds.... Therefore continuing to work hard in ALL subjects is important for the remainder of Year 9
- ▶ If a course is oversubscribed then it is at the discretion of the Head of Department, in discussion with Senior Leaders, which students will be asked to pick again
 - ▶ This will be based on attitude not ability

The Options Form



Name _____ Tutor Group _____

MAIDEN ERLEGH
CHILTERN EDGE

Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge – Year 9 Key Stage 4 Option Choices 2024

You are reminded that you must pick 2 subjects from Group A and 2 subjects from Group B.

To qualify for EBACC entry you must select Geography **OR** History **AND** French

You should indicate 2 reserves which can be any subject not already selected. You may only select each subject once.

BLOCK A		BLOCK B	
GEOGRAPHY	ART & DESIGN	BTEC SPORT	PHOTOGRAPHY
HISTORY	COMPUTING / IMEDIA	MUSIC	DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY
FRENCH	DRAMA	FOOD & NUTRITION	FRENCH
	GEOGRAPHY	HISTORY	

My choices

Block A		Block B		Reserve 1	Reserve 2

Questions / Concerns

My aspirations

If you **ARE NOT** intending to complete your GCSEs at MECE please indicate where you are applying to:

Signed (parent/carer)

If you selected **Computing / IMEDIA** please say which you would prefer (circle)

The Options Form

IMPORTANT!

Pick two subjects from Block A

When you have decided - write your choice from each group

Questions or concerns

Aspirations

Do you need to add additional information?

DEADLINE: 9am Thursday 8 Feb

Name _____ Tutor Group _____

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HISTORY	COMPUTING / iMEDIA	MUSIC	DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY
FRENCH	DRAMA	FOOD & NUTRITION	FRENCH
	GEOGRAPHY	HISTORY	

My choices

Block A	Block B	Reserve 1	Reserve 2

Questions / Concerns

My aspirations

If you ARE NOT intending to complete your GCSEs at MECE please indicate where you are applying to:

Signed (parent/carer)

If you selected Computing / iMEDIA please say which you would prefer (circle)

Pick two subjects from Block B

Don't forget your reserves!


IMPORTANT!

Applying elsewhere?

The Options Form

- ▶ There is a copy of the form in the booklet for you to refer to, make notes on etc whilst you are reading about the different subjects that are available.
- ▶ The form you will be submitting will be completed on a separate document.
- ▶ It will be given to students through their tutor on Tuesday 30 January
- ▶ The deadline is 9am Thursday 8 February

Name _____ Tutor Group _____

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HISTORY	COMPUTING / iMEDIA	MUSIC	DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY
FRENCH	DRAMA	FOOD & NUTRITION	FRENCH
	GEOGRAPHY	HISTORY	

My choices

Block A	Block B	Reserve 1	Reserve 2

Questions / Concerns

My aspirations

If you ARE NOT intending to complete your GCSEs at MECE please indicate where you are applying to:

Signed (parent/carer)

If you selected Computing / iMEDIA please say which you would prefer (circle)

If they change their minds.....

- ▶ Teenagers change their mind!
- ▶ Any changes to the options form must be done through **Miss Bliss**
- ▶ Parents will be informed if students have requested a change to their options and written confirmation will be required **BEFORE** the change is actioned
- ▶ The later the change the greater the reduction in choices available, but better to ask the question than start a course that isn't right for you!

How to Make Choices

- ▶ **DO** pick subjects that you are interested in
- ▶ **DO** pick subjects that you are successful in
- ▶ **DO** pick subjects that might be useful for your future studies or career
- ▶ **DO** pick subjects that play to your strengths
- ▶ **DO** pick subjects that complement each other
- ▶ **DO** consider whether a GCSE or BTEC might be a good route



How Not to make Choices

- ▶ **DO NOT** pick subjects because you like the teacher
- ▶ **DO NOT** pick subjects because your friends are taking them
- ▶ **DO NOT** pick subjects because your older brother or sister took them
- ▶ **DO NOT** pick subjects without reading the course content carefully
- ▶ **DO NOT** pick subjects just because your parents think you should take them

(Sorry!)



Preparing for your Future

The options process is the first step on the pathway to their future

It is important over the next few years that whilst they are working hard to achieve academically that they develop wider interests and skills that will be invaluable to them in later life. These experiences and skills might make the difference at a College or Job interview in the future!

Further information available

- ▶ Limited bookable appointments with the Careers Advisor are available for students struggling with their choices - students are asked to raise the request through Ms Biddiss.
- ▶ Support and guidance:
 - ▶ Tutor
 - ▶ Subject Teachers
 - ▶ Head of Year (HOY)
 - ▶ Senior Team (including SENCo)

There is also a wealth of information on our dedicated Options section of the website:
[Options Process](#) and [Subject Information](#)

Parents' Evening - Year 9

- ▶ You are asked to make appointments with your **English / Maths and Science** teachers. This is because you have started (or are about to start) GCSE content in these subjects already.
- ▶ You should then make **up to 5** other appointments with the teachers of the subjects you are considering for GCSE. This is to help you decide if the subject is right for you or not.
- ▶ Students have been given a booklet to write the appointment times down on
- ▶ We expect Y9 students to attend Parents' Evening with you



Life is a matter of choice and every
choice you make makes you

John C Maxwell