



21 January 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

### Year 9 GCSE Options Process

The Spring term of Year 9 sees the formal launch of the GCSE Options process at Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge. I wanted to write to outline the timeline.

Towards the end of the Autumn Term I shared some information about the wider educational landscape with respect to Key Stage 4 qualifications which can be found [here](#). Students in Year 9 also undertook the first of 2 'Straw Polls'. They completed the second poll at the start of the Spring term via Google Forms. These are non-binding surveys which help me identify which subjects are *likely* to be viable for GCSE option groups and indicates whether we may have a recruitment need. I would like to extend my thanks, again, to the students for completing these surveys promptly.

COVID means that the logistics around Options will look a little different this year. We are working hard behind the scenes to ensure that students are not disadvantaged and that we try and replicate the best we can the in-person experiences that would have occurred in a 'normal' year. To facilitate the options process there will be 2 special online areas set up. The first, for students, will be a **Year 9 'Options' Google Classroom**. The access code for this classroom will be shared via Year 9 tutors later this week. This will be a resource bank of information including information on the individual courses and links to external sites that can provide additional guidance for them. The second is an extension of the **Key Stage 4 Options Designated Area** on our website where there will be a host of information to support the options process, including short videos from each of the options subjects. This will go live to coincide with the Options Launch on Tuesday 2 February.

Over the next 4 weeks the following events will be taking place to provide students (and parents) with the relevant information and to offer students with the necessary support to make these decisions:

Event	Description	Date	Time	Location	Further information
'Decision making' workshop	A 45 minute workshop led by Mrs Hills, (Assistant Head & Careers Lead) and Ms Biddiss (Head of Year) on 'thinking for our future': what options lie ahead of us and how to start thinking about our choices.	Tuesday 26 January	Period 4 (12.30pm)	Year 9 Options Google Classroom	The workshop will run in place of students' timetabled period 4 lesson on this day. <b>Attendance is compulsory.</b> Google Classroom code will be shared via Tutor on Monday

Event	Description	Date	Time	Location	Further information
Options launch for students	A 45 minute extended assembly to launch the 2021 Options process with students led by Miss Bliss (Deputy Head). There will be a presentation about the specifics of the 2021 options process including how to complete the Options form.	Tuesday 2 February	Period 5 (2.20pm)	Year 9 Options Google Classroom	This assembly will run in place of the timetabled period 5 lesson on this day <b>Attendance is compulsory.</b>
Options launch for Parents	A 30 minute presentation to launch the Options presentation to parents led by Ms Bliss and Mr Hartley. There will be a QA opportunity.	Tuesday 2 February	6.30pm	Zoom	Registration details will be sent to parents next week.
Year 9 Progress Report Issued	Spring Progress report issued to parents	Friday 5 February	By 4pm	Email	
Year 9 (virtual) Parents' Evening	An opportunity to speak to your son/daughter's teachers about current engagement and progress and suitability for GCSE courses (where appropriate)	Tuesday 9 February	4.30-7pm	School Cloud online parents' evening platform	Registration & login details will be sent to parents next week.
Deadline for Options Forms	The deadline for students to have submitted their Options form.	Thursday 11 February	4pm	Google Forms	Google Form link will be shared with students, via the Options Google Classroom, on <b>Monday 8 February</b>

Thank you in advance for your support over the next few weeks as Year 9 undertake their options process.

Kind regards,



Miss E Bliss  
Deputy Head, Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge