



27 January 2022

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 a 'Straw Poll'. This is a non-binding survey which helps 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 and maturely.

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 is: [prmsmdx](#). 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 **Wednesday 2 February**.

Over the next 3 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 1-hour workshop led by Mrs Hills, (Assistant Head) 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.	Monday 31 Jan	Period 1	AV Theatre	The workshop will run in place of students' timetabled period 1 lesson on this day.
Options launch for students	A 1 hour 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 2022	Wednesday 2 February	Period 5 (2.05pm)	AV Theatre	This assembly will run in place of the timetabled period 5 lesson on this day

Event	Description	Date	Time	Location	Further information
	options process including how to complete the Options form.				
Options launch for Parents	A 30-minute presentation to launch the Options presentation to parents led by Miss Bliss and Mr Hartley.	Wednesday 2 February	6.00pm	Zoom	The Zoom Link will be shared on Tuesday morning with parents.
Year 9 Progress Report Issued	Spring Progress report issued to parents	Monday 7 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 8 February	4.30-7pm	School Cloud online parents' evening platform	Information shared yesterday and can be found here
Deadline for Options Forms	The deadline for students to have submitted their Options form.	Monday 14 February	9am	Via Tutors	Forms will be shared with pupils on Monday 7 February

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