



4 January 2023

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 Erleigh 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, is the **Year 9 'Options' Google Classroom**. The access code for this classroom is: [v3pfvkb](#) 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. Many of the students have already logged into this following the Straw Poll activity in December. 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 24 January**.

Over the course of 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 Ms Biddiss (Head of Year) & Miss Jackson (Y9 Tutor) on 'Thinking for our Future': what options lie ahead of us and how to start thinking about our choices.	Friday 20 January	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 2023 Options process with students led by Miss Bliss (Deputy Head). There will be a presentation about the specifics of the 2023 options process including how to complete the Options form.	Tuesday 24 January	Period 5	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 launch for Parents	A 40-minute presentation to launch the Options process to parents led by Miss Bliss. Ms Biddiss (HOY) and Y9 tutors will also be present.	Tuesday 24 January	6.00pm	AV Theatre	This presentation will cover much of the same content on the process of Options at MECE. You are strongly encouraged to attend.
Year 9 Progress Report Issued	Spring Progress Report issued to parents & students	Monday 6 February	By 4pm	MCAS App / Student App	
Year 9 Parents' Evening (face to face)	An opportunity to speak to your son/daughter's teachers about current engagement and progress and suitability for GCSE courses (where appropriate)	Tuesday 7 February	4.30-7pm	Main School Hall	Information on booking appointments will be shared closer to the time.
Deadline for Options Forms	The deadline for students to have submitted their Options form.	Thursday 9 February	9am	Via Tutors	Forms will be shared with pupils on Tuesday 31 January

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

Yours sincerely

Miss E Bliss
Deputy Head, Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge