



05 December 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 Erlegh Chiltern Edge. I wanted to write to outline the timeline and share some initial information with you today.

Please also see attached a document that provides some information about the wider educational landscape with respect to Key Stage 4 qualifications. It also contains some key terms that you will hear mentioned over the course of the Options process and throughout Key Stage 4.

This morning Year 9 students completed a 'Straw Poll'. This is a non-binding survey 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 to the students for completing these surveys with great maturity this morning in the extra-ordinary assembly. For students who were absent I will speak to them over the next few days.

An outline of the process is as follows:

- **Straw poll (Dec):** A non-committal indication by the student. Allows for Senior Leaders to develop staffing and curriculum plans and Middle Leaders to identify potential numbers.
- **Making Decisions workshop (Jan):** *A 45-minute workshop led by Ms Biddiss (Head of Year) on 'thinking for our future': what options lie ahead of us and how to start thinking about our choices. This will take place within the school day.*
- **Options Afternoon / Parent Information Evening (Jan):** Afternoon information session for students (explain process, hand out curriculum booklets). That Evening a parent information evening and Options fayre providing opportunity to ask staff additional questions.
- **Subject Taster Sessions (Feb):** Subject staff have the opportunity to use timetabled lesson time to showcase GCSE curriculum
- **Options Deadline (Feb):** All student options forms returned
- **Induction (June):** Following the completion of the allocations, students complete an induction to each of their options. Typically, this includes a 2-hour session for each subject and a summer task being set.
- On completing induction – **confirmation of subject choices** are sent to parents **(July)**

As the process gets underway in the new year information will be shared on the school website as well as in the Y9 tutor Google Classrooms.

Yours sincerely

Miss E Bliss
Deputy Head