



28 January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

## 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 remind you of an outline the timeline.

Towards the end of the Autumn Term students in Year 9 undertook a 'Straw Poll'. This is a non-binding survey which helps us 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.

I have compiled an overview of the current educational landscape with respect to GCSE and BTEC qualifications at KS4 and an outline of the Post 16 pathways currently available to students. You can read it on the [KS4 Options process page on our website](#) and it will be discussed further during the Parent Information Evening on 12 February.

To facilitate the options process there will be a special online area set up for students. The Year 9 '**Options**' **Google Classroom (code: uioq6wuh)** 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. Additionally, our website has a designated **KS4 Options** area where there will be a host of information to support the options process, including information on the subjects to supplement the Options booklet. This will go live to coincide with the Options Launch on **Thursday 12 Feb.**

Over the course of 4 school 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 Miss Jackson (Head of Year) on 'Thinking for our Future': what options	Monday 9 February	Period 2	AV Theatre	The workshop will run in place of students' timetabled period 2



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	lie ahead of us and how to start thinking about our choices.				lesson on this day.
<b>Options launch for students</b>	A 1 hour extended assembly to launch the 2026 Options process with students led by Miss Bliss (Head) & Ms Jackson (HOY). There will be a presentation about the specifics of the 2026 options process including how to complete the Options form.	Thursday 12 February	Period 5	AV Theatre	This assembly will run in place of the timetabled period 5 lesson on this day
<b>Options launch for Parents</b>	A 40-minute presentation to launch the Options process to parents led by Miss Bliss. Miss Jackson (HOY) and Y9 tutors will also be present.	Thursday 12 February	6pm	AV Theatre	This presentation will cover much of the same content on the process of Options at MECE. <b>You are strongly encouraged to attend (but students are not required)</b>
<b>Year 9 Progress Report Issued</b>	Spring Progress Report issued to parents & students	Thursday 26 February	By 4pm	MCAS App / Student App	
<b>Year 9 Parents' Evening</b>	An opportunity to speak to your son/daughter's teachers about	Tuesday 03 March	4.30-7pm	Main School Hall	Information on booking appointments will be



Event	Description	Date	Time	Location	Further information
(face to face)	current engagement and progress and suitability for GCSE courses (where appropriate)				shared closer to the time.
<b>Deadline for Options Forms</b>	The deadline for students to have submitted their Options form.	Thursday 05 March	9am	Via Tutors	Forms will be shared with pupils on <b>Thursday 26 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  
Headteacher

Miss K Jackson  
Head of Y9

