



17 January 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

Year 8 Options – Information for Parents and Students

I am writing to further inform you of the important events taking place in the next few weeks, which aim to offer guidance and support for both you and your child regarding their option choices. The calendared dates are shown below.

Date	Event	Details
19 January	Key Stage 4 booklet	Options booklet containing information about the options process and the subjects your child can opt for.
19 January	Options Taster Day	Students will receive a 30 minute 'taster' session in the following subjects: Business Studies, Economics, Creative iMedia, PE, Photography, Health and Social Care.
21 January	Options form published	The form to be filled in to express your child's preferences. This will contain a recommendation about the types of subjects your child is best suited to study.
21 January	Option Information published on website	Information videos from the Curriculum Leaders of each option subject will be available on the school website. These will provide key information regarding each subject area.
27 January	Key Stage 4 6pm Options Evening (Online event)	Information about the options process and the opportunity to ask questions to the Curriculum Leaders of the optional subjects.
7 February	Report	Data Collection Point 2 provides a report from your child's current subject teachers.
31 January-18 February	Individual Student Meeting	Each Year 8 student will meet with a member of the Senior Leadership Team for 10 minutes to discuss their options.
9 February	Year 8 Progress Meeting	An opportunity to meet with your child's current teachers to discuss progress.
3 March (AM)	Options surgeries	15-minute consultations by appointment with Mrs Gibbs for parents and students who may have further questions or issues about options.
4 March	Option form submission deadline	Option forms must be submitted by Year 8 students to their tutor.

Options Booklet, Recommended Pathway and Option Form

On Wednesday 19 January, your child will be given an options booklet in advance of the Options Evening. A letter giving the school's recommendation as to which curriculum pathway your child should follow, including an options form, will be given out on Friday 21 January. This form should be filled in and returned by **Friday 4 March**.

The options booklet can be used, in conjunction with the information evening, subject presentations on the school website and progress meetings, to help you and your child make options choices.

Curriculum Pathways

To help guide students and parents in their selection of subjects we place all students into Options Pathways. These **do not** represent any kind of streaming or setting process. Rather, they are a means of guiding students and parents towards the subjects that experience has shown those students in that particular pathway are likely to succeed in.

These pathways are:

Blue – students are required to study the English Baccalaureate (please see below for further details).

Yellow – students are not required to study the English Baccalaureate and will have an increased number of practical or vocational subjects available to them.

Core Curriculum

Irrespective of their pathway, all students will study for GCSEs in:

- English Language and Literature;
- Mathematics;
- Science;
- Religious Studies.

English Baccalaureate

The majority of students in Year 8 will be required to study those subjects that make up what is known as the English Baccalaureate. These are English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science, History or Geography and a Modern Foreign Language (French or Spanish).

Economics and Computer Studies

Some subjects have entry requirements

- Computer Science – 3L in mathematics by the time of the report in February 2022;
- Economics - 3L in both mathematics and English by the time of the report in February 2022.

Options Information Evening

There will be a Virtual Options Information Evening for all Year 8 parents and students on Thursday 27 January 2022 at 6pm. Please see the zoom invite below.

[Please click here to access the Options Information Evening.](#)

Meeting ID: 931 3685 5739

Passcode: 219889

The meeting will give an outline of the options process and the factors that students and their parents should consider. When the presentation is over, at approximately 6.20pm, parents and students will have the opportunity to ask any questions to the curriculum leaders of option subjects. Please ensure you have watched the relevant presentations on the school website in advance.

I should stress that this is **not** an evening to discuss the progress of individual students.

Parents' Evening

Parent consultation meetings, where you have an opportunity to meet with your child's subject staff, are scheduled for Thursday 9 February. Please note that students are encouraged to attend. Appointments can be made nearer the time via the Parents' Evening System.

The Consultation Sessions

On Thursday 3 March (AM), I will be available to answer any questions that you may still have about your child's options. To book one of the available 15-minute appointments, please contact the school's reception from 10am on 28 February. Your child will also be able to attend the meeting if you wish.

If you have any further questions regarding the Year 8 Options process, please contact the school office via meroffice@maidenerleghtrust.org and your query will be passed on to the relevant person.

Yours sincerely



Mrs S Gibbs

Deputy Headteacher