

11 January 2023

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
18 January	Key Stage 4 booklet	Options booklet containing information about the options process and the subjects your child can opt for will be issued.
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.
20 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.
24 January	GCSE Subject Information Evening 5.30pm	Information about the options process and the opportunity to ask questions to the Curriculum Leaders.
6 February	Report	Data Collection Point 2 provides a report from your child's current subject teachers.
30 January- 24 February	Individual Student Meeting	Each Year 8 student will have an appointment to 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.
March (AM)	Options surgeries	15-minute consultations by appointment with Ms Williams for parents and students who may have further questions or issues about the options.
3 March	Option form submission deadline	Option forms must be submitted by Year 8 students to their tutor.

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Options Booklet, Recommended Pathway and Option Form

On Wednesday 18 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 will be given out on Friday 20 January. The online options form will also be published on Google Classroom on Friday 20 January. This form should be filled in and returned by **Friday 3 March**.

The options booklet can be used, in conjunction with the information evening 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 (EBacc)

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 2023
- Economics- 3L in both Mathematics and English by the time of the report in February 2023

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GCSE Information Evening

There will be a GCSE Information Evening for all Year 8 parents and students on **Thursday 24 January 2023**. Students and their parents are invited to attend the meeting that will take place at Maiden Erlegh School in Reading at **5.30pm**. The meeting will give an outline of the options process and the factors that students and their parents should consider. Parents and students will also have the opportunity to meet curriculum leaders and ask any questions.

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

Parents' Evening

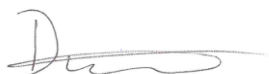
Parent consultation meetings, where you will have an opportunity to meet with your child's subject teachers, are scheduled for **Thursday 9 February**. Please note that students are encouraged to attend.

The Consultation Sessions

On **Thursday 2 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 10.00am on 27 February. Your child will also be able to attend the meeting if you wish.

Any further questions regarding the Year 8 Options process, please contact the school office and your query will be passed on to the relevant person.

Yours sincerely



Ms D Williams
Assistant Headteacher