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Where we aspire, nurture, personalise,
engage and promote success

25th February 2020

Year 9 Options Evening

Dear Parents / Carers

As we move through the Spring Term, we are working hard to plan for the next academic year with regards to the curriculum and qualifications that our current Year 9 students will study, when they begin in Year 10 in September 2020.

This is a very important time for Year 9 students. Until now, students have had very little choice about which subjects they study, as they are required to follow the National Curriculum. As they move to Year 10 this will change and students will study the core subjects (English, Maths, Science), but also the Option subjects they have chosen. Therefore, we will be asking the students this term, to decide with their parents / carers about the subjects they wish to study in KS4. Students will receive information, advice and guidance to help them make sound choices based on their own interests, abilities and ambitions. As parents / carers, your help in supporting this process is essential.

Throughout Years 7 to 9, the curriculum at Maplewell offers all students a broad and balanced diet of a wide range of subjects and areas of study, but also a range of learning styles. The content that our students' study and the skills that they develop form the foundations of the GCSE / Entry Level and other vocational qualifications, that students will be awarded at the end of Year 11. The Year 9 options process allows students the chance to choose which courses they will continue with, to form their Year 10 and 11 curriculum and timetable.

Options booklets will be available to students by the end of this week to begin considering the courses offered, although students should resist the temptation to start making any decisions until they receive their options form. The form will highlight which choices are suitable and available to them. We call this the Options Process and this letter sets out the key dates for this process.

The main event for parents is the **Parents Evening** on Tuesday **3rd March**.

We would like students to attend the Parents Evening with you; this will enable you to gather more specific information about particular options, including any your son / daughter might be choosing. This will also help to guide student choices. During this evening teachers of subjects that your child may not yet have studied, will be available and if your child is considering opting for one of these subjects, we would strongly recommend that you talk to these teachers during the evening.



Key Dates for parents / carers and students;

- **Options Assembly** for students on **Friday 28th February**
- Key Stage 4 **Option Booklet** sent home by **27th February**
- Key Stage 4 **individual options forms** sent home by **2nd March**
- **Parents Evening** on Tuesday **3rd March**
- **17th March** deadline for **options form return** to office

Timetabling and staffing the options is a complex process and whilst we try our best to accommodate sensible options, occasionally this proves impossible. If problems arise we will look at reserve choices and contact you. We hope to be in a position to finalise next year's timetable by the beginning of July, when we will inform students of their final options.

Kind regards

Kasia Glinka
Assistant Headteacher