



Ref: KR/ES

2 November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Guided Choices

Year 9 will soon be approaching the point at which they choose their options subjects for GCSE. I would like to inform you of some key dates and information that are important for both yourself and your child in order to assist you in this process.

Due to current restrictions we have planned what would usually be face-to-face events to be virtual.

Pupils will all take **English Language, English Literature, Maths and Science** as compulsory subjects and also follow PE and Personal development. Pupils will then pick three additional subjects. In order to ensure that their curriculum choices are broad and balanced, one, or more, of these three choices must be **French, German, Computer Science, History or Geography**.

Taking both a language and another of the above subjects is advisable as it ensures that pupils have studied a broad curriculum and can make clear progress through A Level choices and beyond that on to university courses.

The options blocks will be shared in January when pupils make their preliminary choices. The subjects will be sorted into three blocks and pupils will be asked to pick one subject from each block.

Key Dates:

Assemblies:

Guided choices assemblies during form time on a Thursday. Pupils will be shown an introductory screen cast from myself and then over a series of weeks screencasts from each options subject. These presentations will be available on the website in '**learning**' and '**guided choices**' following form time as both slides and screencasts. . The information booklet with course information is also available on the website. Following each set of screen casts pupils can email me at k.robson@mardenhigh.net with any questions. These questions, together with answers, will be available on a FAQ document which will also be available in the Guided Choices area of the website. I also invite any questions from parents and carers.

During November 2020:

Taster lessons will take place in subject areas.

Week beginning 4 January 2021:

Choices run through. Pupils will pick from the three option blocks. Pupils will have had their assemblies and will have the Christmas break, with your support at home, to consider their **provisional choices**. A Google form will be shared with pupils to complete at home. At this point pupils will be given the option block information. Pupils should use all of the information available to make an informed decision.

Please note that the run through is to give a clear indication about the popularity of courses. If numbers are low, some options may not run.



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Thursday 4 February 2021:

Guided Choices Evening: Details of this will be available nearer the time. This is usually an opportunity to come into school and visit subject areas and talk to staff and pupils. Due to current restrictions this is likely to be an online event.

Early February 2021:

A full subject report will be available for your child on the Parent Portal.

Thursday 25 February 2021:

Year 9 **Parents Evening.** An appointment will be given for you to either come in or to receive a phone call from your child's form tutor to discuss their report and their provisional choices.

Friday 5 March 2021:

Deadline for the completion of the **guided choices form.** This is likely to be a Google form completed at home.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Karen Robson

Assistant Headteacher
Student Progress and Curriculum