



February 2021

Dear Year 9 Students and Parents/Carers,

Year 9 is an important year for students as it marks perhaps the first year that they make significant decisions about their futures and in particular, about which subjects they would like to study at Key Stage 4. This year, the process will look and feel a little different to previous years, however I am committed to providing Year 9 students with best experiences of the choices process that I can.

The start of this process begins on **Monday 8th February** when I will conduct an **'Introduction to Choices' assembly** via "Loom". A link will be sent out to parents/carers and will also appear on Satchel:One on Monday morning. All students should watch this at some point on Monday. At the same time, I will also send out a **'Preparation for Key Stage 4'** presentation to parents via Loom which replaces the live evening event we've held in previous years. Our **Choices Booklet for 2021** will accompany this email. I urge all parents/carers in the strongest possible terms to both watch the presentation and read the booklet carefully, as it explains the choices process in detail and will help you support your son/daughter.

Following this, on **Wednesday 10th February**, I will share a series of **links to subject videos** that have been made by our Subject Leaders and Teachers. The aim of these videos is to give students the opportunity to learn more about what studying a subject will be like at Key Stage 4. At some point this week your son/daughter will also be invited to attend a **Live Tutor Session with their Tutor**. This will give them a further opportunity to ask questions about the choices process. Details of this will follow from your son/daughter's Tutor.

One of the most important aspects of a successful choices process, is for the students to be able to ask questions. As a result, for three days from **Monday 22nd to Wednesday 24th February**, we will be holding **live evening Question and Answer sessions via Zoom**. These will involve a Senior Leader and a Subject Leader/specialist who will give a further overview of the subject in real-time and then be available to answer any questions students or parents/carers may have. More details about these sessions will follow during half term.

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The first key date that students and parents/carers should be aware of is **Friday 26th February**; the deadline for students to submit their subject preferences via an online form. This does not represent the final decisions students will make about which subjects they wish to study, but is the first stage of a two stage process that helps us understand how best to build our timetable to best meet the subject preferences of our students. **This deadline must be met by all students and may affect their final choices decisions if not completed.** More detail about this will follow.

I hope that by the time your son/daughter makes their initial subject preferences, that they will feel better informed about the next stage in their education as they move into Key Stage 4.

Please direct any questions about the choices process to your son/daughter's Tutor in the first instance. I can also be contacted via our main reception or via email on: ahunter@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Hunter', written in a cursive style.

Mr A Hunter
Deputy Headteacher