

Year 9 Options process 'Time to Choose'

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to let you know that I have launched the Yr 9 options process with our students today and I wanted to let you know a little bit about the process.

The students have had an assembly where I have outlined the options process to them. All students will be given a 'Time to Choose' booklet to bring home tomorrow. This booklet contains all of the information that they and you need to know at the start of the process. It includes information about what support is available, what all of our students must study at Key Stage 4 and also gives information about each of the subjects that are on offer at Malbank as part of the options process. The booklet also shows, you on the second page, how the options process is rolled out to students and parents / carers. There is also a dedicated page on the school website which is still under construction and will be completed by the 6th January 2021. Although it isn't fully completed there is a lot of useful information to help you and your child. This can be found using the following link <https://www.malbank.com/page/?title=Year+9+Options&pid=52>

In a nutshell, your child will have 4 subject choices to make. All students have to choose to study either Geography or History. They will also have to choose a Language to study, this is because the Department for Education aim for students to achieve the English Baccalaureate qualification which is also outlined in the booklet. Students can then choose 2 other subjects. I will explain this process fully in a presentation which will go onto our website on the 6th January.

The most important first step is that you and your child are aware of the range of subjects and types of courses on offer at Malbank and that you read the information provided in the booklet about the subjects that are of interest.

We are going to send the options form out via INSIGHT and to the students on TEAMS on Friday (17th Dec).

Then on the 6th January we will fully launch our option webpage. Usually, we would have an options evening to share the information in person, but we have had to adapt and make use of technology! We will launch an information page on our website which will have:

- A presentation from Mr Harrison
- A presentation from myself which will outline the detail of the options process
- An electronic copy of the 'Time to Choose' booklet
- A video for each subject available as an option choice, where the subject team will share with you information about the content of the course, the assessment programme etc. You will be able to choose which subject videos you watch with your child to help make the right choices together.

If your child has an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) there will be additional support from our SENDCO, Mrs Lunt and from the Connect team.

I hope that the information in the booklet and on the website is useful. I will get in touch with you on the 6th January to let you know how to access the information outlined. In the meantime, if you have any questions please don't hesitate to get in touch with the school. Mrs Ellison (Year 9 Progress manager) should be your first port of call, however you can get in touch with me by email on jme@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk

I would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and wish you all the best for 2021.

Yours Sincerely,

J.M. Edwards

Janine Edwards – Assistant Head (Curriculum and Safeguarding)