

January 2026

Dear Parent / Carer

### Key Stage Four Options Process 2026

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the timeline for Year 9 Options. This process results in Year 9 students selecting subjects that they would like to study at Key Stage Four and will form the first steps in guiding students towards their future plans. Below I have outlined all the support available to your child, which will ensure they are able to make informed option choices and are guided throughout this process. I have also included some key dates for parents to be aware of.

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January- Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January-** Here your child will complete a number of internal examinations. This is where students will be assessed in key skills and knowledge across all their different subjects. These step current grades will then be shared with students and parents/ carers, to help support with choosing their option choices.

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January** - Your child's option booklet will be emailed to you and all our Year 9 option resources will go live on the school website. Students will attend an options assembly on this day as well, where the options process will be explained in full.

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January onwards-** Subject information talks during lesson time will take place. This is where teachers will spend 10-15 minutes during a lesson talking about their subject at GCSE level and students will have the opportunity here to ask any questions that they might have.

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January** – Year 9 Options Presentation Evening.

We are delighted to invite all Year 9 students and parents to our Options Presentation Evening on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January. Please see specific arrival times for your child's Form Class. We ask that if your child is in 901 to 905 students and parents arrive at 5pm and 906 to 909 students and parents arrive at 6pm to ensure areas do not become too congested during the evening.

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Students	Arrival time	Evening breakdown
901-905	5pm	Options Presentation 5.10pm-5.30pm- Main hall Options Fair 5.30pm–6.30 pm- Canteen
906-909	6pm	Options Presentation 6.10pm-6.30pm- Main hall Options Fair 6.30pm–7.30 pm- Canteen

This event will start with a short presentation in our main hall and then students and parents will be escorted to the canteen where there will be a number of subject stalls and specialist staff that you can discuss option choices with.

Here there will also be helpdesks for general option queries and Curriculum Support will also be on hand during the evening. We will also have our own Appleton Sixth Form stand, as well as representatives from wider colleges and Universities to answer any post 16 questions you might have.

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February** - All CAPE lessons for the duration of half term three will be dedicated to Careers.

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February to Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February**- There will be GCSE taster lessons offered across 2 weeks after school for students to sign up to if they wish. This will be an opportunity for students to experience what it would be like to study particular subjects at GCSE.

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February**- The option form will go live and students can start to submit their choices.

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March**- Year 9 Hybrid Consultative.

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March**- Deadline for all option choices to be submitted.

If you have any questions at any point during the options process, please do not hesitate contact either your child's Tutor, Head of Year or myself. Please be assured further information will be shared with you in due course as well.

Yours sincerely,

Miss K Green  
Assistant Headteacher  
The Appleton School