

January 2024

Dear Parent / Carer,

Key Stage Four Options 2024

Please find attached your child's option booklet, which includes detailed information about the options process as well as qualification overviews and career advice. All Year 9 students during their CAPE lesson on Wednesday attended an options assembly and CAPE lessons for the rest of this half term will be dedicated to options and careers.

Please see below a reminder of key dates for this half term:

Monday 29th January onwards- Subject information talks during lesson time will take place.

Wednesday 31st January – Our Options Presentation Evening will be held 5pm-7.30pm.

Monday 5th February to Friday 16th February- There will be GCSE taster lessons offered across 2 weeks after school for students to sign up to if they wish.

Thursday 15th February- Year 9 Hybrid Consultative.

Friday 16th February- The option form will go live and students can start to submit their choices.

Friday 1st March- Deadline for all option choices to be submitted.

GCSE Taster Lessons

Please see below a timetable of when our GCSE taster lessons will be delivered after school for students to sign up to if they wish. We have particularly organised sessions for those subjects students would not have experienced before, in the hope it will give them a better insight into what studying this subject would be like. This is optional but any student who would like to sign up needs to do this via Edulink and the clubs section. We have a maximum of 25 places per session so it will be first come first serve.

| Subject | Time |
|--|---|
| BTEC Performing Arts Dance | Monday 5 th February 3pm- 4pm |
| OCR Enterprise and Marketing & GCSE Business | Monday 5 th February 3pm- 4pm |
| GCSE Statistics | Monday 5 th February 3pm-4pm |
| GCSE Design & Technology | Tuesday 6 th February 3pm- 4pm |
| OCR Creative I-Media | Wednesday 7 th February 3pm- 4pm |
| GCSE Ancient History | Thursday 8 th February 3pm- 4pm |
| BTEC Performing Musical Theatre | Monday 12 th February 3pm- 4pm |
| OCR Sport Studies | Tuesday 13 th February 3pm- 4pm |
| GCSE Further Maths | Thursday 15 th February 3pm-4pm |

Headteacher: Sarah Cox, BA (Hons)

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Options Evening

We are delighted to invite all Year 9 students and parents to our Options Evening on Wednesday 31st January. Please see specific arrival times below for X half and Y half students. We ask that X half students and parents arrive at 5pm and Y half students 6pm to ensure areas do not become too congested during the evening.

| Students | Arrival time | Evening breakdown |
|----------|--------------|---|
| X half | 5pm | Options Presentation 5.10pm-5.30pm- Main hall Options Fair 5.30pm–6.30 pm- Canteen |
| Y half | 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 USP and Anglia Ruskin University to answer any post 16 questions you might have.

The carpark Gate B entrance will be available to park in but we do ask where possibly you walk to ease congestion outside the school site.

Resources:

During the options process there are a number of resources students and families can access to fully understand the courses and qualifications on offer:

- The Appleton School Website – The Key Stage 4 Options section of our website includes audio PowerPoints for each course and careers resources.
- Unifrog – <https://www.unifrog.org/> This is a careers website that The Appleton School subscribe to which provides a wealth of information and support, including a career library, Further and Higher Education information and Apprenticeship advice and live vacancies. All students have access to Unifrog, usernames are the students email address.
- The National Careers Website- This provides information for both students and parents www.nationalcareersservice.gov.uk and there is a helpline where you can speak to a qualified careers advisor 0800 100 900.
- Careers advisor- Students can email Mrs Palmer, our Careers Advisor, for further support and guidance careers@theappletonschool.org.
- Family and Friends Network – Please encourage your child to speak to their friends and family about their chosen subjects and to find out their personal experiences of courses they are or have studied.
- Higher Educational Institutions – Access local College or University websites if you have a career path in mind. What expectations do these providers require from GCSEs? Are there any subjects that are compulsory or desired for specific courses?

- Teachers – Students can speak directly with their subject teachers, form tutors and Heads of Faculty who will all be more than happy to answer any questions they might have.

If you have any questions in regards to Year 9 Options please do not hesitate contact either your child's Tutor, Head of Year, subject teachers or myself.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'B. Cooper'.

Miss B. Cooper
Assistant Headteacher
The Appleton School