



**HEADTEACHER**  
Mr G Pendlebury  
**DEPUTY HEADTEACHER**  
Mr N Maguire

9<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear Parents/ Carers of Y9

A very Happy New Year to you all! Please carefully read over the following key information relating to Year 9 and the Options process.

### **GCSE Options: Tutor Time Support**

**WB 12<sup>TH</sup> January**, the weekly tutor time timetable will be adjusted to support the GCSE Options process and the delivery of key information your child needs to make informed choices.

- On Mondays, students will engage with the **Unifrog** platform (there is more information on this separately below).
- In addition, tutors will deliver key information about some GCSE Options information on offer during Tuesday and Thursday tutor times for the next few weeks.
- Some departments have elected to deliver this information via subject teacher during lesson time.
- Next week, students will be given an A5 booklet to make notes in when they complete their Unifrog activities and to make notes during GCSE Options talks.
- These booklets will stay with their tutors and will be sent home with students in early February.

### **GCSE Options: Key Dates for the Diary**

Please see below for an overview of key dates associated with the GCSE Options process. The electronic GCSE Options information booklet is currently being updated and will be ready in time for the Options Evening.

**There will be a separate communication sent to parents/carers on the GCSE Options Evening (12<sup>th</sup> February) closer to the time.**

- **January:** tutors and subject teachers will deliver key information about Options subjects to students.
- **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February:** students will complete a **mock** MS form to indicate their chosen GCSE Option subjects.
- **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February:** Year 9 Progress Reports issued.
- **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February: YEAR 9 GCSE OPTIONS INFORMATION EVENING (6-7.45PM)**
- **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February: YEAR 9 GCSE OPTIONS FORM OPENS**
- **16<sup>th</sup>- 20<sup>th</sup> February:** February Half Term Break
- **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March: YEAR 9 PARENTS/CARERS EVENING**
- **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March: YEAR 9 GCSE OPTIONS FORM CLOSES**

## **Learning Ladders**

If you would like a more in depth understanding of the curriculum in an individual subject, please see our learning ladders. The learning ladders will prove a useful source of information, to support with any conversations at home about further study and GCSE Options.

<https://gms.bucks.sch.uk/learning/departments-a-z/>

A reminder that you are also welcome to contact individual teachers at any time during the school year.

## **Unifrog:**

Unifrog is designed to support learners in making informed decisions about their futures, with a range of tools that are suitable for all year groups.

- Each student has their own account that provides a range of information related to their interests and aspirations.
- Key features of the platform for students include psychometric testing quizzes, career and subject exploration and search tools for live apprenticeship and employer opportunities and even university courses.
- A parent/carer can open their account here: [www.unifrog.org/parent](http://www.unifrog.org/parent)
- You can open your account using your email address (an email address we already have linked to your child) or using Single Sign-On with a Microsoft or Google email account.
- For more information, go to [www.unifrog.org](http://www.unifrog.org) or contact our Careers Lead, Mrs Brunt ([mbrunt@gms.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:mbrunt@gms.bucks.sch.uk))

## **Uniform:**

A reminder of our uniform expectations particularly now the weather is colder.

- The GMS school blazer is **mandatory**.
- We do offer students the option of wearing a plain black v-neck jumper under their blazer should they wish to.
- Hair: extremes of style and colour are not acceptable. Nor are tramlines.
- Jewellery: a small, plain single stud in each ear (double piercings are not permitted); a plain, simple ring and/or a watch.
- All other body or facial piercings are not permitted! Individuals will be told to remove them.

<https://gms.bucks.sch.uk/our-school/school-uniform-equipment/>

## **Equipment**

A reminder that students need to be ready for learning by bringing the following items to school every day:

- Their student planner.
- A pencil case including the following items: black or blue pen x 2, green pen, highlighter, ruler, pencil, sharpener, maths equipment (calculator, protractor, compass), glue stick, eraser, scissors, whiteboard marker and colouring pencils.
- A water bottle.

## **First Point of Contact:**

A reminder that your **first point of contact** to the school is your child's form tutor.

Their email contacts are below.

9K1	Mrs A Green (Mon, Tues, Wed) / Miss J Moyse (Thurs, Fri)	<a href="mailto:agreen@gms.bucks.sch.uk">agreen@gms.bucks.sch.uk</a> <a href="mailto:jmoyse@gms.bucks.sch.uk">jmoyse@gms.bucks.sch.uk</a>
9K2	Mrs L Ralphs Cole	<a href="mailto:lralphs-cole@gms.bucks.sch.uk">lralphs-cole@gms.bucks.sch.uk</a>
9K3	Mr H Magnay	<a href="mailto:hmagnay@gms.bucks.sch.uk">hmagnay@gms.bucks.sch.uk</a>
9H1	Mr N Sienes	<a href="mailto:nsienes@gms.bucks.sch.uk">nsienes@gms.bucks.sch.uk</a>
9H2	Mr D Taylor	<a href="mailto:dtaylor@gms.bucks.sch.uk">dtaylor@gms.bucks.sch.uk</a>
9H3	Mr G Pightling	<a href="mailto:gpightling@gms.bucks.sch.uk">gpightling@gms.bucks.sch.uk</a>
9E1	Miss A Winter	<a href="mailto:awinter@gms.bucks.sch.uk">awinter@gms.bucks.sch.uk</a>
9E2	Miss A Sawney	<a href="mailto:asawney@gms.bucks.sch.uk">asawney@gms.bucks.sch.uk</a>
9E3	Mrs C Gennery / Mrs J Hayward (Wed)	<a href="mailto:cgennery@gms.bucks.sch.uk">cgennery@gms.bucks.sch.uk</a> <a href="mailto:jhayward@gms.bucks.sch.uk">jhayward@gms.bucks.sch.uk</a>

I hope this is helpful!

Thank you and best wishes

**Miss A Miles**  
**Director of Learning Year 9**