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Curriculum FET Minute: 0006/2024

To: Deputy Directors-General, Chief Directors, Directors (Head Office and district offices), Heads: Curriculum Support, Circuit Managers, Heads: Management and Governance, Subject Advisers and Principals of secondary schools

Subject: Subject Choices for Grade 9 learners

1. As we approach the end of the current academic year, it is essential for our Grade 9 learners to start considering their subject choices for the upcoming school year. These choices are crucial as it will influence the learners' academic paths and future career opportunities.
2. The primary purpose of choosing the correct subjects in Grade 9 is a significant decision that will impact their academic journey through high school and beyond. It is important to select subjects that not only align with their interests and strengths but also support their future educational and career aspirations, noting the importance of Mathematics vs Mathematical Literacy.
3. Principals and SMTs would have to state the available subjects offered at their school to cater for the diverse interests and talents of their learners.
4. To assist learners in making informed decisions, schools must conduct the following:
 - **Information sessions:** where subject teachers will provide detailed explanations of each subject, including the curriculum content and assessment methods. Dates and times for these sessions must be communicated as soon as possible.
 - **Guidance counselling:** Guidance Counsellors or Grade Heads or Life Orientation teachers must be available for one-on-one sessions to discuss learners' interests, strengths, and career goals to help them choose the most suitable subjects.
 - **Parent-teacher meetings:** encourage parents/guardians to attend a meeting to discuss their child's progress and subject preferences with teachers. Also, to discuss the importance of learners' working towards achieving the best possible grades in subjects should they desire to continue their studies as universities have demands higher than policy for entry.

5. Important dates? to consider would include:

- Information sessions, where learners also understand the importance of their subject choices and be encouraged to work hard and keep to their initial subject choices rather than opt to change subjects at any point.
- Subject Choice Forms Distribution
- Deadline for Submission of Subject Choice Forms

6. Submission of Subject Choice Forms:

Each learner must receive a Subject Choice Form during the information sessions. Ensure that the form is completed and signed by both the learner and the parent/guardian before submission. The completed forms must be submitted by the specified deadline.

7. With careful consideration and guidance, Grade 9 learners will make informed decisions that will set a strong foundation for their future studies and careers.

8. A draft guideline for subject choices can be found at: <https://rb.gy/tg02lg>

9. For further information, please contact Ivan Fortuine, Deputy Chief Education Specialist: Life Orientation & Religion Studies, email address: Ivan.Fortuine@westerncape.gov.za or telephone number 021 467 2082.

10. Principals are requested to bring the content of this minute to the attention of staff and learners.

Kind Regards

SIGNED: BJ LORISTON

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: CURRICULUM AND ASSESSEMENT MANAGEMENT

DATE: 2024-08-15