

# **Year 9 into 10**

## **Years 10 & 11 Guided Pathway Information**

### **Continuing the Five Year Curriculum Journey**

We are pleased to attach the Guided Pathway information booklet for Years 10 & 11 at Outwood Academy City.

At Outwood Grange Academies Trust we firmly believe that all children, irrespective of their starting point, are entitled to a broad and balanced curriculum which will enable them to succeed both whilst at the academy and beyond. It is our intent that the experiences we provide our students through our wider educational offer, and specifically our curriculum offer, drives our Trust vision Students First: raising standards and transforming lives. To that end, at Outwood Academy City we are delighted to offer a curriculum, which enables all students within our academy to fulfil their potential and develop the all-important knowledge, skills and qualities which will serve them well in later life.

Students, as they move from Year 9 into Year 10 at Outwood Academy City, have their first main point of choice within their five year educational journey with us. A feature of our Years 10 & 11 curriculum is the Guided Pathways, which, alongside a core entitlement, make up the broad and balanced range of subjects on offer. In the attached booklet you will see that the core subjects: GCSE English Language and Literature, GCSE Mathematics and GCSE sciences - combined (double) science or biology, chemistry and physics - are taken by all students alongside non-examined courses in physical education and personal, social, religious and health education (currently called the Life programme). Students then have three subjects to choose as part of their Guided Pathways allocation.

Furthermore, we fully support the entitlement that students have to study the group of qualifications which the government calls the English Baccalaureate (EBacc): English, mathematics, sciences, one humanities subject (geography or history) and a modern foreign language. To both support attainment in this important group of subjects and promote a broad and balanced curriculum for your child, we require all students to study either geography or history. For many students it will be appropriate that they also study a modern foreign language subject so that they can attain the Full EBacc which, increasingly, higher education establishments are looking for; these subjects are also an excellent foundation for all students, including those who wish to go on and study A Levels in the 'Facilitating Subjects' (biology, chemistry, English, geography, history, maths, modern and classical languages, physics). It is possible to study both geography and history alongside a modern foreign language if a student wishes.

We will provide specialist independent careers advice to ensure that students have access to impartial support during this process.

We understand that this is a crucial time and the choosing of qualification courses is very important. Further information about support available can be found in this booklet, including details of the Guided Pathway Information Evening.

Whatever students are hoping to study, and then do in later life, we are sure that the Guided Pathway process will be helpful, in the full knowledge that our sole aim is to put Students First: raising standards and transforming lives.

## Making the Choice

### In general terms what does the curriculum look like?

The timetable week contains 25 x 1 hour periods; plus, Tutor Time.

This 25 period week is split into compulsory Core subjects and Guided Pathway subjects.

	Year 10	Year 11
Core	English 5 hrs Maths 4 hrs Science 5 hrs PE 1 hr RE/LIFE 1 hr	English 5 hrs Maths 4 hrs Science 6 hrs PE 1 hr
Guided Pathways	Students can choose <u>three subjects</u> from a list of courses (see list below)  <b>The expectation is that all students will study at least one EBacc Humanity subject (geography or history) at GCSE in Years 10 &amp; 11; and that many will study for the Full EBacc (1x MFL <u>and</u> 1x Humanity).</b>	

## Guided Pathway Courses

The courses which students can choose from, to start in Year 10 are:

Students to choose three subjects (plus two reserves) from these lists	
Students will need to choose at least one subject from this list of Humanity subjects	Art (GCSE) Catering (Technical Award) Design & Technology (GCSE) Computer Science (GCSE) Drama (BTEC) Health and Social Care (Cambridge National) Music (GCSE) Spanish (GCSE) Sport Science (Cambridge National)
History (GCSE) Geography (GCSE)	

## Terminology that may help you and your child

<b>Core</b>	These are compulsory subjects: English, maths, science, PE, RE/Life
<b>Guided Pathway Choices</b>	There is an element of choice about which of these subjects to study
<b>Level 1</b>	GCSE grades 3-1 or equivalent
<b>Level 2</b>	GCSE grades 9-4 or equivalent With grades 5+ being classed as strong pass grades
<b>Level 3</b>	'A' Level grade A*-E or equivalent
<b>GCSE</b>	A course graded 9-1. These are assessed mainly or solely by examination (see individual subject guides for further information)
<b>BTEC Technical Award / OCR National</b>	Vocational qualifications, graded pass/merit/distinction/distinction*, and equivalent to a GCSE. Larger portfolio/coursework based elements, with some assessment by exam (see individual subject guides for further information). Designed to equip students with applied knowledge and associated practical skills; and closely aligned with the world of work
<b>Facilitating Subjects</b>	The Facilitating Subjects are: maths, English, sciences (including computer science), geography, history and modern foreign languages. Please see link below regarding the value placed on these subjects
<b>Full EBacc (EBacc = English Baccalaureate)</b>	For students to study the Full EBacc they must take GCSEs in maths, English, at least two sciences, one of history or geography and a modern foreign language

<https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/>

## **What sort of future planning should students be doing?**

Where possible, if students have a goal to aim for, this can help focus their choice of courses. Having said that, we fully understand that many students will either not have a career path planned out or may change their plans. We would encourage students to choose a broad range of qualifications over Years 10 & 11, to keep their future options open.

## **Attainment 8**

The government created and now uses a Level 2 Threshold measure called Attainment 8. Attainment 8 is starting to become part of the admissions criteria for some further or higher education establishments and employment. A student's Attainment 8 score not only indicates their average grade, it also demonstrates performance across a range of subjects. It expects students to have achieved best possible grades in:

- GCSE Maths and GCSE English
- Any three GCSE qualifications from the Sciences, geography, history or modern foreign languages
- A further three qualifications which can be either BTEC Technical Award/OCR National, GCSE or other approved qualifications

We will therefore support students in the core curriculum and through their Guided Pathway choices to achieve their best possible score in this measure.

## **What if students cannot do their chosen course?**

We build the Guided Pathway subject blocks based on student choices rather than ask them to pick from pre-determined blocks, so we hope that the courses offered will be available to all the students who want them but we will ask you to give us two alternative/reserve choices.

Despite every effort to give all students their preferred choice, this may not always be possible. Alternatives may have to be considered if:

- Too many students opt for a particular course
- Too few students select a particular course
- We wish to advise a better range of courses to meet a student's needs
- Combinations of courses are chosen which don't work once the blocks have been created

We will write to you in the summer term to confirm your choices.

## **Can students change their mind?**

We always do our best to ensure that all students' choices can be matched but please bear in mind that students who submit choices after the deadline may not find it possible to be placed on their first choice courses. As soon as the options deadline has passed, work begins on timetabling. Alterations to choices may not be possible from this point onwards.

Once a decision has been made and a course begun, it is extremely difficult to make any changes. It is therefore essential that time and thought be given to the combination of courses to be taken.

## What support is available to help decide which Guided Pathway subjects to take?

1. Subject staff will be available at the Year 9 into 10 Guided Pathway Evening on Thursday 11th January 2024 to discuss courses
2. Students are welcome to discuss course choices in relation to their future career plans and current level of performance with subject and pastoral staff during the academy day, over the next few weeks
3. Make use of Praising Stars grades; including using the following table to see what GCSE grades might be possible:

### A Guide to Age Related Expectations

Level	Definition	Expected GCSE outcome if this working level is sustained
Excelling	You are working well above age related expectation in the subject	GCSE grade 8 to 9
Exceeding	You are working beyond age related expectation in the subject	GCSE grade 6 to 7
Achieving	You are working at age related expectation in the subject	GCSE grade 4 to 5
Developing	You are working towards age related expectation in the subject	GCSE grade 2 to 3
Emerging	You are working below age related expectation in the subject	GCSE grade U to 1