

6 January 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 10 into 11 Guided Pathways – Information Sheet

At the Year 8 into 9 Options Evening, back in January 2015, we explained how a student's overall Key Stage 4 performance would be measured and we briefly described the Year 11 curriculum model. This is a reminder of those points.

What will the curriculum at Outwood be in Year 11 ?

In Year 11, students will continue to study GCSEs in maths (4 hours per week), English language and English literature (5 hours) and science (6 hours). Students in Year 10 taking GCSEs in Geography and History will now continue these through into Year 11 – we communicated this change to you a few weeks ago. They will also have 1 hour of physical education. In addition to these, and factoring in subjects that will be taken at the end of Year 10, students will be guided towards the study of further subjects in Year 11 to complement their existing qualifications. By providing students with a broad and balanced curriculum, and supporting them to achieve the highest possible grades, our aim is to ensure that they have the best possible life chances. Our guided pathways process supports this vision.

What is the new government measure for students ?

From 2016, the government has introduced a new method of gauging a student's overall performance in their Key Stage 4 exams. This new Level 2 Threshold uses a method called Attainment 8. Two examples of how Attainment 8 works can be found on the reverse of this letter. Up to 2015, the Level 2 Threshold for students and schools was 5 or more GCSEs, including English and maths, at grades A*-C. This measure was used by many colleges, apprenticeships, employers and universities in their admissions criteria, to determine the suitability of candidates for particular courses or jobs. We believe it is important to work with students to achieve good outcomes on both Attainment 8 and English and maths.

For information, students will still receive certificates which have a grade on them to show their final result for each subject. This is unchanged from previous years.

How will Outwood help and guide students ?

In January 2017, as part of the guided pathways process, students will be seen by a member of the academy's Senior Leadership Team to discuss courses for Year 11. Students will bring home a letter detailing this discussion. Discussion will be on-going during Year 10, as the option blocks take shape; with final decisions regarding courses being made during the Summer term 2017.

What intervention will Outwood use to ensure all students are successful ?

We have tailored our curriculum to ensure that every student has the opportunity to obtain a good Attainment 8 score and can achieving good grades in English and maths. Some students may need to take extra English and/or maths and/or science to help them achieve their best possible grades in these key subjects. We believe that for some students this is the right course of action and would ask that, should this be the case, you work with us to help your child to see that this is a positive opportunity.

And finally ...

Rest assured, we are committed to equipping all our students with the Key Stage 4 qualifications needed to ensure that they have the best possible chance of success in the next phase of their life.

If you would like to discuss this further, we will be holding an informal information evening from 5-5.30pm on Tuesday 10 January 2017.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs L Carroll
Acting Assistant Principal – Deep Experience

Outwood Grange Academies Trust, a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 06995649.

Registered office address: Potovens Lane, Outwood, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF1 2PF.

VAT number: 158 2720 04. Outwood Grange Academies Trust is an exempt charity.

A list of Directors' names is open to inspection at our registered office.

Attainment 8 for students

Bucket	Slot	Subject	Notes	Weighting
1	1	English	For English – can be Language or Literature – best grade double counted, but only if both taken	X 2
	2	Maths		
2	3	EBacc 1	EBacc = English Baccalaureate subjects From - GCSE Sciences, including GCSE Computer Science; GCSE Geography; GCSE History; GCSE MFL	X 1
	4	EBacc 2		
	5	EBacc 3		
3	6	Other 1	From - approved vocational courses, further EBacc subjects, other GCSE subjects	X 1
	7	Other 2		
	8	Other 3		

Notes:

The highest grades, for each 'bucket' of subjects, are the ones that contribute towards the Attainment 8 total score.

The total score (see examples) is a student's Attainment 8 score. Sometimes this will be divided by ten to give an average score per slot/per subject. Note, the total is always divided by ten, even if a student has some slots empty – ten because two of the eight grades can be doubled. We believe the key here is, wherever possible, to ensure all slots have grades in.

As GCSEs are reformed over the next few years, there will be a combination of 9-1 and A*-G grades.

GCSE grades in A*-G subjects will have equivalent scores with G=1, F=1.5, E=2, D=3, C=4, B=5.5, A=7, A*=8.5

Point scores for BTEC Level 2 grades are PASS=4, MERIT=5.5, DISTINCTION=7, DISTINCTION*=8.5

The government has indicated that where in the past a grade C was classed as a 'good' grade, a grade 5 will now be classed as a 'good' grade.

Examples

Student 1

Subject	Grade	Score	Notes
GCSE Maths	6	12	Maths is doubled (6x2=12)
GCSE English Language	8	16	Doubled (8x2=16) - the student has also taken English Literature
GCSE History~	4	4	EBacc slot 1
GCSE Combined Science~	7	7	EBacc slot 2
GCSE Combined Science~	7	7	EBacc slot 3
BTEC Construction	Pass	4	
GCSE Computer Science~	3	3	
GCSE English Literature	7	7	
Total		60	Divided by 10 = average grade 6.0 (between a grade B and A)

Student 2

Subject	Grade	Score	Notes
GCSE Maths	7	14	Maths is doubled (7x2=14)
GCSE English Literature	9	18	Doubled (9x2=18) - the student has also taken English Language
GCSE French~	8	8	EBacc slot 1
GCSE Physics~	7	7	EBacc slot 2
GCSE Chemistry~	6	6	EBacc slot 3
GCSE Business Studies	A*	8.5	
GCSE Child Development	B	5.5	
GCSE English Language	7	7	
Total		74	Divided by 10 = average grade 7.4 (between a grade A and A*)

~These are EBacc subjects – a student's best three EBacc grades contribute towards their Attainment 8 total score

Further examples:

An Attainment 8 score of 50 represents an average grade of 5 (between a grade C and B)

An Attainment 8 score of 33 represents an average grade of 3.3 (between a grade D and C)

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