

# Year 8 into 9

## Years 9-11 Guided Pathway Information

### Continuing the Five Year Curriculum Journey

We are pleased to share the Guided Pathway process for Years 9-11 at Outwood Academy Normanby.

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 Normanby we are delighted to offer an innovative 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 8 into Year 9 at Outwood Academy Normanby, have their first main point of choice within their 5 year educational journey with us. The use of Year 9 in this way is one of the hallmarks of our curriculum. This, along with the permanent, supernumerary subject specialist directors of English, maths, science, humanities, modern foreign languages, computer science and the arts, who work across all of our academies, are key to helping the teachers within each academy to add the maximum value that we can, to your child's education. In addition to these important subject specialists, we also deploy specialists in Special Educational Needs & Disabilities and Attendance; regular attendance, especially throughout Years 9-11, is critical to your child's success.

There are a number of opportunities over the next few years for students to personalise their curriculum pathway, the main ones being:

- Choice of Health & Wellbeing course – **chosen in January of Year 8**, to start in Year 9
- Choice of main Guided Pathway qualifications – **chosen in January of Year 9**, to start in Year 10
- Choice of one further Guided Pathway course for most students – **chosen in January of Year 10**, to start in Year 11 (information about this will be shared in Year 9 and again in Year 10)

These elements are a further feature of our flexible Guided Pathways curriculum for Years 9-11; which, alongside a core entitlement, make up the broad and balanced range of subjects on offer.

At Outwood Academy Normanby, 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 at GCSE. 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 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 advise you if we believe that your child should be following the Full EBacc route and as always, provide specialist independent careers advice to ensure that you have access to impartial support during this process. We will revisit this in a year's time, ahead of the main Guided Pathway qualification choices.

We understand that this is a crucial time and the choosing of, particularly, qualification courses is very important. You will find further information about support available to you in this booklet, who to contact should you wish to discuss the Guided Pathway process in further detail.

Whatever your son or daughter is hoping to study, and then do in later life, I am sure that you will find the Guided Pathway process 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.

	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Core	English 4 hrs Maths 4 hrs Science 3 hrs PE 2 hrs RE/LIFE 1 hr Geography 1 hr History 1 hr MFL 2 hrs Design & Technology 1 hr Art 1 hr Drama 1 hr Music 1 hr Computing 1 hr	English 5 hrs Maths 4 hrs Science 4 hrs PE 1 hr RE/LIFE 1 hr	English 5 hrs Maths 4 hrs Science 6 hrs PE 1 hr
Health & Wellbeing course	Choice of one subject <i>Subject one 2 hrs</i>	<i>Continuation on 4 hrs #</i>	
Guided Pathway qualifications	Subject one is either history or geography >	Choice of two subjects <i>Subject one 3 hrs</i> <i>Subject two 3 hrs</i>	<i>Continuation on 3 hrs each</i>
Further Guided Pathway course			Choice of one course <i>Course one 3 hrs</i>

# Course completed at the end of Year 10

# Making the Choice

## Health & Wellbeing Course (Chosen in January of Year 8, to start in Year 9)

Students to choose one subject from this list
Sport Studies (Level 1/2 Cambridge National Certificate)
Health and Social Care (NCFE CACHE Level 2 Technical Award)

(There will be an opportunity to review progress on this course during the Autumn Term of Year 9)

## Guided Pathway Qualifications (Chosen in January of Year 9, to start in Year 10)

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

Students to choose two subjects (plus two reserves) from these lists	
Students will need to choose at least one subject from this list of Humanity EBacc subjects	Art and Design (GCSE) Art and Design Textiles (GCSE) Child Development and Care (NCFE CACHE Tech Award) Computer Science (GCSE) Design and Technology (GCSE) Enterprise and Marketing (Cambridge National Certificate) Geography (GCSE) Health and Social Care (NCFE CACHE Technical Award) History (GCSE) Hospitality and Catering (Vocational Award) Music Practice (BTEC Tech Award) Performing Arts - Drama (BTEC Tech Award) Religious Studies (GCSE) Spanish (GCSE) Sport Studies (Level 1/2 Cambridge National Certificate)
History (GCSE)  Geography (GCSE)	

Please note, we will be asking for only draft choices for these now. This is purely for our information to help with future planning and students will make their firm choices in a years' time.

## 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. Our curriculum has the flexibility to accommodate this and we would also encourage students to choose a broad range of subjects and qualifications over Years 9-11, to keep their future options open.

### Attainment 8

The government has set a new 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 this threshold.

## 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 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 Health & Wellbeing courses to take?

1. The guided pathways process was launched in an assembly before Christmas
2. Our website has information about the process under the heading Curriculum then Year 8 Guided Pathways.
3. Students are welcome to discuss course choices in relation to their future career plans and current level of performance with during tutor time over the next few weeks
4. Specific questions about courses can be asked via [m.robinson@normanby.outwood.com](mailto:m.robinson@normanby.outwood.com)

## Deadline for Year 8 into 9 choices forms to be returned/submitted:

**Friday 31st January 2021**

Choices will be collected via a Google Form which will be shared with you by text message.

Just a reminder that we will be collecting student's choices for the following:

- A Health & Wellbeing course – one choice
- A Guided Pathway qualifications – two qualifications; these will only be draft choices at this stage