

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. 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. If necessary, there will be an opportunity for you to meet with the member of SLT working with your child, during after school drop-in sessions in the week beginning Monday 9th January. Discussion will be on-going during Year 10, as the option blocks take shape; with final decisions regarding courses being made in July 2017.

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

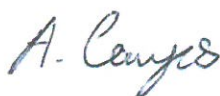
We have tailored our curriculum to ensure that every student has the opportunity to obtain a good Attainment 8 score and can achieve good grades in English and maths. Some students may need to take extra English and/or maths and/or science to help them achieve their best possible grades in these key 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.

There will be an information evening for parents / carers of students in Year 10 regarding Attainment 8 and the options process on Thursday the 5th January 2017 in the main hall at 5pm.

Yours Sincerely



A Conyers
Assistant Principal Deep Experience