

**February 2022**

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Re: Year 8 into 9 Guided Pathway**

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 Portland we are delighted to offer an ambitious 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.

We are conscious how much the last two years have impacted on the lives and education of children and under our Covid recovery plans, we are seeking ways to actively support them both from a welfare and educational point of view. In light of this, we have reviewed our curriculum model and how this might be adapted to support our students to experience a full range of subjects under the National Curriculum for Key Stage 3, whilst still having the best possible outcomes at Key Stage 4.

Therefore, the Guided Pathway process will no longer take place in Year 8 (with qualifications to start in Year 9) and will instead go ahead in Year 9 (with qualifications to start in Year 10).

At this stage therefore, students only need to make one choice and that is **whether to specialise in History or Geography during Year 9**. Students will still study both subjects but will have two periods of their favoured subject and one period of the other. As it is a requirement for all students to study either History or Geography at GCSE it is expected (although not compulsory) that they will select the option they choose in Year 9 for that GCSE. They will also have the opportunity to study both at GCSE should they so wish.

Below is a breakdown of the curriculum by Periods Per Week.

	En	Ma	Sc	Pe	Mf	Gg	Hi	Lf/Re	Dt	Ar	Cs	Dr	Mu	Total PPW
<b>Y9</b>	4	4	3	2	2	1/2	2/1	1	2	1	1	1	1	<b>25</b>

### **Next Steps:**

All students will receive a Google Form in their student email account. They should use the form to submit their choice for History or Geography online. Just a reminder that this choice is about which humanities subject has the extra period in Year 9; students will study both Geography and History. The deadline to complete this choice is **Monday 7th February 2022**.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with Mr J Walker, using the academy enquiries email address which can be accessed on the website.

Year 8 students will have a graduation process at the end of year 8, celebrating their excellent progress during the first two years at Portland. More details about this will follow at a later date.

Yours faithfully,



J Walker  
**Assistant Principal - Deep Experience**