

Our Ref: SMO/LBY

13 December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 10 into 11 Guided Pathways

You may remember from the Year 8 into 9 Guided Pathway Evening and Guided Pathway Booklet, back in January 2020, that we planned for students currently studying Guided Pathway subjects in Year 10 to complete some of their courses at the end of Year 10 (Summer 2022).

I am writing to inform you that, following careful consideration of the curriculum and the impact of COVID-19 on the curriculum delivery, we have decided that all Guided Pathway subjects currently studied by our Year 10 students will continue into Year 11. The principal reason for this decision is the impact of national lockdowns, and other COVID-19 related disruptions, on our curriculum. At present, our students will not have sufficient curriculum delivery hours this academic year to cover the full specification content in detail.

While we understand that students and their parents/carers may be disappointed to learn that guided pathway courses will not complete this academic year, we have taken this decision to mitigate the negative consequences of students completing these courses in Year 10. This decision will ensure that all students are provided with additional curriculum time in Year 11 to achieve their full potential and fully prepare them to continue studying their chosen subjects in the next stage of their education.

As you are aware, at Outwood Academy Portland, we firmly believe that all children, irrespective of their starting point, are entitled to a broad and balanced curriculum. We believe that this change to the curriculum will allow our students to succeed both at the academy and beyond.

Whilst we believe that this change offers the best opportunities for the future success of our students at the present time, we are continuously evaluating the resources available to deliver the courses and the Department for Education (DfE) guidance on the completion of qualifications, so they are subject to change. We will, of course, keep you informed.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,



Mr S Morton
Vice Principal – Deep Support