



Year 9-11 Guided Pathway Information

September 2019

Overview

Introduction for courses starting September 2019

YEARS 9-11 GUIDED PATHWAY INFORMATION

We are pleased to attach the Guided Pathway information booklet for Years 9-11 at Outwood Academy Freeston.

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 in later life. To that end we are delighted to offer an innovative curriculum, which enables any student within our academies to fulfil their potential and develop the all-important knowledge, skills and qualities which will serve them well in later life.

As you will be aware, qualification courses in our curriculum are run over three years (9, 10 and 11), rather than the two years (10 and 11) which were traditionally advocated. This additional year is one of the hallmarks of our Trust. 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 and Disabilities and Attendance; regular attendance, especially throughout Years 9-11, is critical to your child's success.

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

In the attached booklet you will see that the core subjects: GCSE English Language and Literature, GCSE mathematics and GCSE sciences (combined science or biology, chemistry and physics) are taken by all students alongside non-examined courses in physical education and personal, social, health and religious education (currently called the Life programme).

Students then have **three** subjects to choose as part of their Guided Pathways allocation, to start in Year 9.

To allow students to spread the examination load and help them achieve a balance in their studies, up to two of these can be studied and taken at the end of Year 10.

This early entry option also helps students prepare for the further examinations that they will take at the end of Year 11 and can often be a real turning point in students' education.

In addition to this, we will advise and support some students who may require extra time in GCSE mathematics, by offering extra time on this core subject within the Guided Pathways.

In Year 11, there will be a further opportunity to have additional time for GCSE English and/or mathematics, for those who need it.

We do this in the full knowledge that further and higher education, as well as many employment opportunities, require students to have attained a high level in literacy and numeracy (GCSE grade 5, known as a 'strong' pass, or higher).

Furthermore, we fully support the entitlement that students have to study the group of qualifications which the government calls the English Baccalaureate (EBacc): one English, mathematics, two 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 at least one of these Guided Pathway subjects (geography or history or a modern foreign language), which will be taken over the entire period of Years 9-11. For many students it will be appropriate that they also study a second EBacc subject so that they can attain the Full EBacc which, increasingly, higher education establishments are looking for. We will advise you if we believe that your child should be following this route and as always, provide specialist independent careers advice to ensure that you have access to impartial support during this process.

We understand that this is a crucial time and the choosing of qualification courses is very important. You will find further information about support available to you later in this booklet, including details of the Guided Pathway Information Evening.

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, Vertical Mentor Group time.

This 25 period week is split into compulsory Core subjects and Guided Pathway subjects.

	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Core	English 5 hrs Maths 4 hrs Science 4 hrs PE 2 hrs RE/LIFE 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
Guided Pathways	<p>Students can choose <u>three subjects</u> from a list of courses >> EBacc subjects (see list below / over page) will be completed at the end of Year 11 and given <u>three hrs per week in Year 9, two hrs per week in Year 10 and three hrs per week in Year 11</u> >> Other subjects will be completed at the end of Year 10 and given <u>three hrs per week in Year 9 and four hrs per week in Year 10</u></p> <p>The expectation is that all students will study at least one EBacc subject in Year 9/10/11; and that many will study for the full EBacc (1x MFL and 1x Humanity).</p>		<p>In <u>Year 11</u> students will choose subjects to fill <u>up to 6 hrs of Guided Pathway time</u>.</p> <p>Depending how many EBacc subjects a student is studying in Year 9, they will have either 3 or 6 hrs of Guided Pathway time available in Year 11 (see below).</p> <p>This time could be used to pick up a new subject or consolidate performance in the key subjects of English and maths.</p>

		Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Possible Pathways	3x EBacc (Incl Full EBacc)	Choice 1 = 3hrs EBacc Choice 2 = 3hrs EBacc Choice 3 = 3hrs EBacc	2hrs EBacc 2hrs EBacc 2hrs EBacc +4hrs accelerated subject # or consolidation	3hrs EBacc 3hrs EBacc 3hrs EBacc
	2x EBacc (Incl Full EBacc)	Choice 1 = 3hrs EBacc Choice 2 = 3hrs EBacc Choice 3 = 3hrs Other (The other choice could be Option Maths in Y9 & 10)	2hrs EBacc 2hrs EBacc 4hrs Other # +2hrs accelerated subject # or consolidation	3hrs EBacc 3hrs EBacc + 3hrs Guided Pathway
	1x EBacc	Choice 1 = 3hrs EBacc Choice 2 = 3hrs Other Choice 3 = 3hrs Other (One of the other choices could be Option Maths in Y9 & 10)	2hrs EBacc 4hrs Other # 4hrs Other #	3hrs EBacc + 6hrs Guided Pathway

Courses completed at the end of Year 10

Core

English Language
English Literature
Mathematics
Combined Science Trilogy
or Separate Sciences

Core PE
Life

EBACC

Spanish
History
Geography

Guided Pathway Courses

The courses which students can choose from, to start in September 2019 for Year 9 are:

GCSE

Art and Design (Fine Art)
Design and Technology **Textiles**
Design and Technology **Resistant Materials**
Photography
Religious Studies
Creative iMedia

BTEC Tech Awards

Performing Arts
Music Practice
Health and Social Care
Enterprise

Vocational Award

Sport and Coaching Principles

Students to choose THREE subjects (plus two reserves) from these lists	
Students need to choose AT LEAST one subject from this list	
<p>GCSE History</p> <p>GCSE Geography</p> <p>GCSE Spanish</p>	<p>GCSE Art and Design (Fine Art) Design and Technology (Textiles or Resistant Materials) Photography Creative iMedia Religious Studies</p> <p>BTEC Tech Awards Performing Arts Music Practice Health and Social Care Enterprise</p> <p>Vocational Award Sport and Coaching Principles</p>

Change to GCSE grades

Grades in all GCSE subjects are now graded 9-1; with 9 being the highest grade.

Approximate grade comparator:

New GCSE Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Previous GCSE Grade	G	F	E	D	C	B	A	A*	

Terminology that may help you and your child

Core	These are compulsory subjects: English, maths, science, PE, RE/Life
Guided Pathway Choices	There is an element of choice about which of these subjects to study
Level 1	GCSE grades 3-1 or equivalent (grades 3-1 have replaced grades D-G at GCSE)
Level 2	GCSE grades 9-4 or equivalent (grades 9-4 have replaced grades A*-C at GCSE) With grades 5+ being classed as strong pass grades
Level 3	'A' Level grade A*-E or equivalent
GCSE	A course graded 9-1. These are assessed mainly or solely by examination (see individual subject guides for further information)
BTEC / OCR National / Technical Award	Vocational qualifications, graded pass/merit/distinction/distinction*, and equivalent to a GCSE. Mostly portfolio/coursework based, with an exam element (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
Facilitating Subjects	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
Full EBacc (EBacc = English Baccalaureate)	For students to achieve the Full EBacc they must attain GCSE grade 5+ in maths, English, at least two sciences, one of history or geography and a modern foreign language

<http://russellgroup.ac.uk/for-students/school-and-college-in-the-uk/subject-choices-at-school-and-college/>

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 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; as previous measures have, for example 5+ A*-C. 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/OCR National/Technical Award, 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 two 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 Guided Pathway subjects to take?

1. Subject staff will be available at the Year 8 Guided Pathway Evening on **Thursday 24th January 2019 starting at 6pm** to discuss courses in more detail.
2. A careers advisor will also be available on this evening
3. Students are welcome to discuss course choices in relation to their future career plans and current level of performance with subject and VMG staff during the academy day, over the next few of weeks.

Option English and maths

One of the core values of the Trust is to focus on raising standards, particularly in the basic skills of Literacy and Numeracy. As mentioned already in the introduction, we may identify some students who would benefit from using Year 9 and 10 Guided Pathway time to improve their GCSE Maths grade by studying extra maths. These students will study two Guided Pathway subjects in Year 9 and 10 alongside Option Maths. The academy reserves the right to make this decision where we feel it will be in the best interests of the student. Where this applies, students and parents will be kept fully informed and we would ask that you work with us to help your child see that this is a positive opportunity to improve their life chances.

Further opportunities for improving GCSE English and GCSE Maths grades will be available in Year 11, performance reviews and discussions will take place during Year 10, ready for new cohorts starting in Year 11.

Deadline for Guided Pathway choices forms to be returned:

Monday 28th January 2019

Forms to be returned to Student Information Desk (SID)