

14 January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Year 10 into Year 11 Guided Pathways

You may remember from our Year 8 into 9 Guided Pathway Evening and Guided Pathway Booklet (back in January 2020) that the measure of a student's overall performance at Key Stage 4 is called Attainment 8. Good grades in all subjects, particularly GCSE English and Maths, are as important as ever.

As you'll know, students are sitting exams this summer in Art and Design, Enterprise and Marketing, Hospitality and Catering, Media Studies, Performing Arts, Physical Education and Resistant Materials. All other examined subjects (English, Maths, Science, Humanities, Languages and Computer Science) are taken in Year 11.

For most students, this will release curriculum time in Year 11 that we can use to help them to achieve the very best possible portfolio of qualifications. Our upcoming Information, Advice and Guidance process, led by senior leaders, will support students by personalising their Year 11 curriculum. Where necessary, we'll use our proven interventions (such as extra English, Maths or Science) to make sure we bring the very best out of your child.

I have enclosed an information sheet about:

- the Attainment 8 measure
- Outwood Academy Hasland Hall's Year 11 curriculum
- our Information, Advice and Guidance process to prepare students for Year 11

I'll also be recording a video presentation that outlines the main features of our Year 10 into 11 Guided Pathways process. This will be shared with later this week.

Yours sincerely



Will Trugeon-Smith
Assistant Principal

Year 10 into 11 Guided Pathways – Information Sheet

At the Year 8 into 9 Guided Pathway Evening, back in January 2020, 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 Academy Hasland Hall 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 taking qualifications in Geography, History, French, Spanish and Computer Science will also continue these through into Year 11. In addition to this, they have 1 hour of physical education.

Taking into account the courses that have finished in Year 10, students will either be guided towards the study of further subjects in Year 11 (complementing their existing qualifications) or towards taking extra classes in English, Maths and Science). 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 maximise their life chances. Our Guided Pathways process supports this vision.

What is the new government measure for students?

In 2016, the government introduced a new method of gauging a student's overall performance in their Key Stage 4 exams. This new Level 2 threshold uses a measure called Attainment 8; it is sometimes referred to as 'GCSE average point score.' Two examples of how Attainment 8 works can be found on the reverse of this letter. 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. A number of colleges and sixth form providers are already starting to ask for particular Attainment 8 scores as part of their admissions criteria.

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 Academy Hasland Hall help and guide students?

By February 2022, as part of the Guided Pathways process, students will have a meeting with 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 a senior leader working with your child, during after school drop-in sessions in the week beginning 24 January 2022. Discussions will continue during Year 10, as the option blocks take shape, with final decisions regarding courses being made in September 2022.

Which interventions will Outwood Academy Hasland Hall use to ensure that 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, Maths 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 this as a positive opportunity.

And finally...

Rest assured, we are committed to equipping all our students with the qualifications, knowledge, skills and understanding they'll need to have the best possible chance of success in the next stage of their life.

Attainment 8 for students

Group	Slot	Subject	Notes	Weighting
1	1	English	For English – can be Language or Literature – best grade double counted, but only if both taken	X 2
	2	Maths		
2	3	EBacc 1	EBacc = English Baccalaureate subjects From - GCSE Sciences, including GCSE Computer Science; GCSE Geography; GCSE History; GCSE MFL	X 1
	4	EBacc 2		
	5	EBacc 3		
3	6	Other 1	From - approved vocational courses, further EBacc subjects, other GCSE subjects	X 1
	7	Other 2		
	8	Other 3		

Notes:

The highest grades, for each group of subjects, are the ones that contribute towards the Attainment 8 total score.

The total score (see examples) is a student's Attainment 8 score. Sometimes this will be divided by ten to give an average score per slot/per subject. Please note, the total is always divided by ten, even if a student has some slots empty – ten because two of the eight grades are doubled.

Examples

Student 1

Subject	Grade	Score	Notes
GCSE Maths	6	12	Maths is doubled (6x2=12)
GCSE English Language	8	16	Doubled (8x2=16) - the student has also taken English Literature
GCSE History~	4	4	EBacc slot 1
GCSE Combined Science~	7	7	EBacc slot 2
GCSE Combined Science~	7	7	EBacc slot 3
BTEC Construction	Pass	4	
GCSE Computer Science~	3	3	
GCSE English Literature	7	7	
Total		60	Divided by 10 = average grade 6.0

Student 2

Subject	Grade	Score	Notes
GCSE Maths	7	14	Maths is doubled ($7 \times 2 = 14$)
GCSE English Literature	9	18	Doubled ($9 \times 2 = 18$) - the student has also taken English Language
GCSE French~	8	8	EBacc slot 1
GCSE Physics~	7	7	EBacc slot 2
GCSE Chemistry~	6	6	EBacc slot 3
GCSE Business Studies	7	7	
GCSE English Language	7	7	
Empty slot		0	
Total		67	Divided by 10 = average grade 6.7

~These are EBacc subjects