

March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

**Year 10 into 11 Guided Pathways**

You will remember from the Year 8 into 9 Guided Pathways Evening and Guided Pathways Booklet, back in January 2019, that the measure of a student's overall performance at Key Stage 4 changed in 2016. This new measure is called Attainment 8. Alongside this new overall measure, good grades in all subjects, particularly in GCSE English and in GCSE maths, will continue to be important in their own right.

This letter is simply to reassure you that through both our curriculum and our highly successful intervention strategies, we are in a good position to support students in achieving the best possible portfolio of qualifications.

Please find attached, should you require more detail, an information sheet about:

- Attainment 8
- The Outwood Academy Ripon Year 11 curriculum
- Our advice and guidance process ready for Year 11

Yours faithfully,



Alan Hayden  
Vice Principal, Deep Experience

## Year 10 into 11 Guided Pathways – Information Sheet

At the Year 8 into 9 Guided Pathways Evening, back in January 2019, 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 Ripon look like 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, art, hospitality and catering, engineering, citizenship and computer science will continue these through into Year 11. 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. Where students have qualifications that are certificating in the summer of 2021 they will be given a choice of subjects to follow in Year 11. We will be offering Option maths and Option English choices. If the English and maths departments have recommended a student to take this pathway we strongly advise that they do so. In addition to this we will also be offering GCSE citizenship, GCSE photography, GCSE statistics and Vocational hospitality and catering. Please understand we will need viable group sizes for these courses to run so we will ask all students who make these choices to indicate reserve subjects.

### 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 - 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 Ripon help and guide students?

In March 2021, 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. If necessary, there will be an opportunity for you to meet with the member of SLT working with your child, with an online "Google Meet". Discussion will be

on-going during Year 10, as the option blocks take shape, with final decisions regarding courses being made in September 2021.

What intervention will Outwood Academy Ripon 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 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.

A final point.

Rest assured, we are committed to equipping all our students with the Key Stage 4 qualifications and the skills and knowledge needed to ensure that they have the best possible chance of success in the next phase 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 French	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. 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 ( $6 \times 2 = 12$ )
GCSE English Language	8	16	Doubled ( $8 \times 2 = 16$ ) - 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 engineering	L2 Pass	4	
GCSE computer science~	3	3	
GCSE English literature	7	7	
<b>Total</b>		60	Divided by 10 = average grade <b>6.0</b>

### 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 art & design	7	7	
GCSE English language	7	7	
Empty slot		0	
<b>Total</b>		67	Divided by 10 = average grade <b>6.7</b>

~These are EBacc subjects