15 January 2018

Year 10 into 11 Guided Pathways – Information Sheet

At the Year 8 into 9 Options Evening, back in January 2016, 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.

How will the curriculum at Outwood 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 in Year 10 taking GCSEs in Geography, History, French and Computer Science will now continue these through into Year 11 – we communicated this change to you in January 2017. 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.

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. 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.

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 help and guide students ?

In January 2018, 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 the member of SLT working with your child, during after school drop-in sessions in the week beginning 21 January 2018. Discussion will be on-going during Year 10, as the option blocks take shape; with final decisions regarding courses being made in September 2018.

What intervention will Outwood 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 achieving good grades in English and maths. Some students may need to take extra English and/or maths and/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 that this is a positive opportunity.

And finally …

Rest assured, we are committed to equipping all our students with the Key Stage 4 qualifications needed to ensure that they have the best possible chance of success in the next phase of their life.

Attainment 8 for students

Bucket	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 'bucket' 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 can be doubled. We believe the key here is, wherever possible, to ensure all slots have grades in.

As GCSEs are reformed over the next few years, there will be a combination of 9-1 and A*-G grades.
GCSE grades in A*-G subjects will have equivalent scores with G=1, F=1.5, E=2, D=3, C=4, B=5.5, A=7, A*=8.5
Point scores for BTEC Level 2 grades are PASS=4, MERIT=5.5, DISTINCTION=7, DISTINCTION*=8.5

The government has indicated that, where in the past a grade C was classed as a 'good' pass grade, a grade 5 will now be classed as a 'strong' pass grade and grade 4 as a 'standard' pass grade.

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 (between a grade B and A)**

Student 2

Subject	Grade	Score	Notes
GCSE Maths	7	14	Maths is doubled (7x2=14)
GCSE English Literature	9	18	Doubled (9x2=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	A	7	
GCSE English Language	7	7	
Empty slot		0	
Total		67	Divided by 10 = average grade **6.7 (between a grade B and A)**

~These are EBacc subjects – a student's best three EBacc grades contribute towards their Attainment 8 total score

Further examples:
An Attainment 8 score of 50 represents an average grade of 5 (between a grade C and B)
An Attainment 8 score of 33 represents an average grade of 3.3 (between a grade D and C)