

# Year 8 into 9 Guided Pathways Booklet



**2018 - 2020/2021**

**“Helping you to make  
the right choice”**

# Year 8 into 9

## KS4 GUIDED PATHWAY INFORMATION

We are pleased to attach the Guided Pathway information booklet for Key Stage 4 at Outwood Academy Acklam.

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 and knowledge rich curriculum, which enables any student within our academies to fulfil their potential and develop the all-important skills and qualities which will serve them well in later life.

As you will be aware, our Key Stage 4 curriculum is run over 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 Key Stage 4 is critical to your child's success.

A further feature of our curriculum at Key Stage 4 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 (Life lessons). 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; these are the non-EBacc subjects. 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 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): a GCSE grade 5 or higher in one English, mathematics, two sciences, one humanities subject (geography or history) and a modern foreign language. To support attainment in this important group of subjects we require all students to study at least one of these subjects (geography or history or a modern foreign language or indeed computer science), which will be taken over the entire period of Key Stage 4 (years 9, 10 and 11). Computer Science, whilst not contributing directly to the full EBacc, is an EBacc subject. For many students it will be appropriate that they also study a second EBacc subject so that they 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 KS4 subjects 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.            &gt;&gt; <u>EBacc subjects</u> (see list below / over page) will be completed at the end of year 11 and given <u>3 hrs per week in year 9, 2 hrs per week in year 10 and 3 hrs per week in year 11.</u>            &gt;&gt; <u>Non-EBacc subjects</u> will be completed at the end of year 10 and given <u>3 hrs per week in year 9 and 4 hrs per week in year 10.</u></p> <p><b>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).</b></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	3xEBacc (Incl Full EBacc)	3hrs EBacc choice 1 3hrs EBacc choice 2 3hrs EBacc choice 3	2hrs EBacc choice 1 2hrs EBacc choice 2 2hrs EBacc choice 3 +4hrs accelerated subject # or consolidation	3hrs EBacc choice 1 3hrs EBacc choice 2 3hrs EBacc choice 3
	2xEBacc (Incl Full EBacc)	3hrs EBacc choice 1 3hrs EBacc choice 2 3hrs Non-EBacc choice 3 (The non-EBacc choice could be Option Maths in Y9 & 10)	2hrs EBacc choice 1 2hrs EBacc choice 2 4hrs Non-EBacc choice 3 # +2hrs accelerated subject # or consolidation	3hrs EBacc choice 1 3hrs EBacc choice 2 +3hrs Guided Pathway
	1xEBacc	3hrs EBacc choice 1 3hrs Non-EBacc choice 2 3hrs Non-EBacc choice 3 (One of the non-EBacc choices could be Option Maths in Y9 & 10)	2hrs EBacc choice 1 4hrs Non-EBacc choice 2 # 4hrs Non-EBacc choice 3 #	3hrs EBacc choice 1 +6hrs Guided Pathway

# Courses completed at the end of year 10

## Core

### Maths

Students will continue to study Mastery experienced in year 7 and year 8. Each theme focusses on the key areas of Numeracy and looks to enhance the student's mathematical fluency (ability to answer questions efficiently and accurately), and also develops their mathematical reasoning and problem solving skills. Each theme is designed to stretch the student by depth of understanding rather than going onto the next stage. Examples of some of the themes studied include Place value, Multiplication and Division, Prime Factors, Negative numbers, Ratio problems and Amounts as percentages

### English

In year 9, pupils will begin preparing for the WJEC English Language and English Literature exams. In English Language, they will read and answer questions on a variety of fiction and non-fiction extracts, exploring writers' intentions and different reactions of different readers. They will complete a variety of transactional writing tasks, including articles, reviews, speeches and letters. They will also develop skills for narrative writing with a variety of titles and techniques to engage and sustain the reader's attention.

For English Literature, they will study the play *An Inspector Calls*, the novella, *A Christmas Carol* and begin to read sections of *Macbeth*. They will also have the opportunity to read a wide variety of poetry, including those in the WJEC Anthology, alongside some unseen poems from different eras.

### Science

In Science we are doing the new AQA 9-1 GCSE. It is studied over 3 years (Y9, 10 and 11).

At the end of Y11, students sit six exam papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas. Initially all students will cover the work required for the 3 separate sciences.

The course covers areas of all three sciences: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Below is a list of the topics in each subject:

#### Biology

1. Cell biology
2. Organisation
3. Infection and response
4. Bioenergetics
5. Homeostasis and response
6. Inheritance, variation and evolution
7. Ecology

#### Chemistry

8. Atomic structure and the periodic table
9. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
10. Quantitative chemistry
11. Chemical changes
12. Energy changes
13. The rate and extent of chemical change
14. Organic chemistry
15. Chemical analysis
16. Chemistry of the atmosphere
17. Using resources

#### Physics

18. Energy
19. Electricity
20. Particle model of matter
21. Atomic structure
22. Forces
23. Waves
24. Magnetism and electromagnetism
25. Space Physics

## Guided Pathway Courses

The courses which students can choose from, to start in year 9 are:

GCSE History (EBacc)	GCSE Religious Studies	BTEC Performing Arts - Acting	Level 1/Level 2 Award in Hospitality and Catering
GCSE French (EBacc)	BTEC Health & Social Care	BTEC Engineering	BTEC Sport
GCSE Geography (EBacc)	GCSE Art and Design	National Certificate in ICT	
GCSE Computing (EBacc)	BTEC Music	GCSE Business	

## Change to GCSE grades

Grades in most GCSE subjects, for current Year 8 students, will be graded 9-1; with 9 being the highest grade. Approximate grade comparator:

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

## Terminology that may help you and your child

<b>Core</b>	These are compulsory subjects: English, maths, science, PE, RE/Life
<b>Guided Pathway Choices</b>	There is an element of choice about studying these subjects
<b>Key Stage 4</b>	Programmes of study for students in Years 9, 10 and 11
<b>Level 1</b>	GCSE grades 3-1 or equivalent (grades 3-1 are replacing grades D-G at GCSE)
<b>Level 2</b>	GCSE grades 9-4 or equivalent (grades 9-4 are replacing grades A*-C at GCSE) With grades 5+ being classed as good grades
<b>Level 3</b>	'A' Level grade A*-E or equivalent
<b>GCSE</b>	A course graded 9-1. These are assessed by a mix of examination and coursework (see individual subject guides for further information)
<b>BTEC / Cambridge National / Technical Award</b>	Vocational qualifications graded pass/merit/distinction/distinction* and equivalent to a GCSE. Mostly portfolio/coursework based, with a small 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
<b>EBacc subjects (EBacc = English Baccalaureate)</b>	The EBacc 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.
<b>Full EBacc</b>	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 courses over Key Stage 4 to keep their future options open.

## Attainment 8

The government has set a new Level 2 Threshold measure called Attainment 8. Whilst Attainment 8 is a measure of a school's performance, it may become the admissions criteria for 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 good grades in:

- GCSE Mathematics and GCSE English
- Any three GCSE qualifications from the Sciences, Geography, History or Languages
- A further three qualifications which can be either BTEC/Cambridge 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 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 are impossible to timetable.

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 KS4 Guided Pathway Evening on **Tuesday 23 January 2017 at 5:30pm-7:00pm** to discuss option courses
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
4. A number of post-16 providers will be available on the evening too, to share information about possible future courses after year 11

## Option English and mathematics

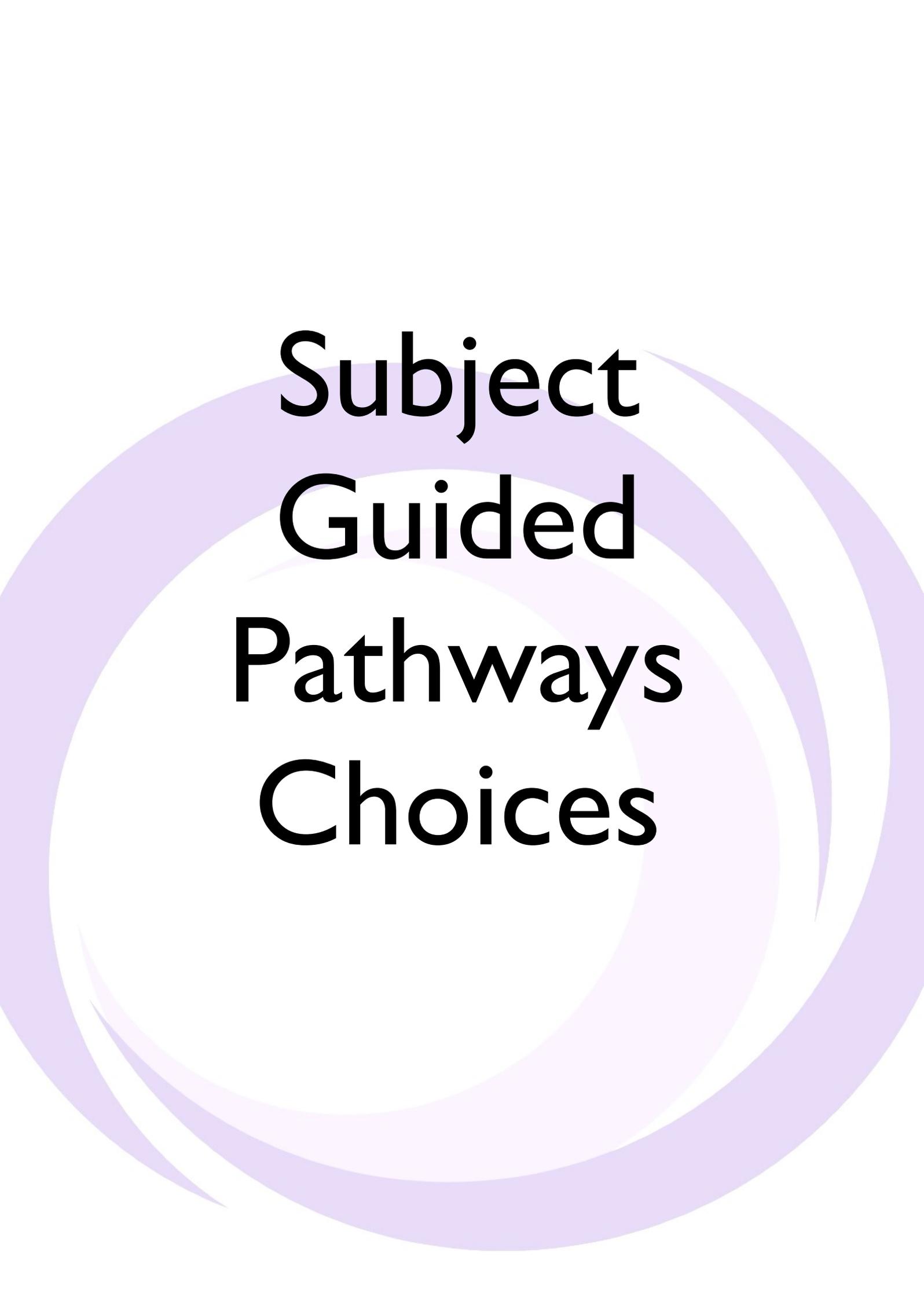
One of the core values of the Trust is to focus on raising standards, particularly in the basic skills of Literacy and Numeracy. As mentioned already in the introduction, we may identify some students who would benefit from using year 9 and 10 Guided Pathway time to improve their GCSE Maths grade by 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. Many thanks.

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 option forms to be returned:

**Friday 26 January 2018**

Forms to be returned to Student Services



**Subject  
Guided  
Pathways  
Choices**



# GCSE History



## Course Details

Qualification - GCSE

Exam Board - Edexcel

QAN Code - 60180924

Method of Assessment - History GCSE is made up of 3 externally examined papers



## Course information and structure

GCSE History builds on the knowledge and skills students have gained in Year 7 and Year 8, as well as opening new periods of history for them to study.

### History GCSE is made up of 3 externally examined papers:

Paper 1 - Thematic study and historic environment (30%) Medicine in Britain c1250—present and The British sector of the Western Front. 1914-1918, injuries, treatment and the trenches

Paper 2– Period Study and British depth study (40%) Early Elizabethan England, 1558-88 and The American West c1835 –1895

Paper 3– Modern Depth study (30%) Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918 –1939

### Students' Comments

“The GCSE History course delves into a wide diversity of aspects of the subject and it increases your knowledge of key events and the course is still enjoyable.”

“I have really enjoyed the course. I especially enjoyed the Germany section as I learnt a lot of interesting things about the conflict”

### Progression Routes

History is an impressive academic subject valued by all branches of higher education and employers.

The study of History provides students with a capacity for analysis, an ability to communicate and an understanding of the decision making process.

These skills are highly sought after by employers and will benefit students in their working and social life.

The skills acquired from the study of History will benefit those seeking a career in law, civil service, commerce, business, media and many others.

### Advice and Guidance - Year 8 students

This course builds on the skills learnt in Key Stage 3. Speak to your History teacher for guidance on the suitability of this course for you.



# GCSE French



## Course Details

Qualification -	GCSE
Exam Board -	AQA
QAN Code -	60181576
Method of Assessment -	100% exam (Equally weighted at 25% each in Listening, Speaking, Reading & Writing.)



## Course information and structure

Students study all of the following themes on which the assessments are based:

Theme 1: Identity and culture

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

These themes apply to all four question papers. Students are expected to understand and provide information and opinions about these themes relating to their own experiences and those of other people, including people in countries/ communities where the target language is spoken. They will also develop an understanding of the culture of France and other French-Speaking countries.

Assessments in GCSE Languages has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier.

### Students' Comments

**"The teachers really helped us to organise our work and prepare for the examinations."**

**"I particularly enjoyed learning about the different cultures and customs."**

**"Studying a language at GCSE enabled me to do the degree that I wanted to do at the university I wanted to go to."**

### Progression Routes

**Many professions and international companies** seek employees who are able to speak a foreign language, and will often pay a higher salary for this skill.

**Almost all university courses** include an option to add study of a foreign language and/or study abroad.

**Do this if** you want a traditional qualification, if you are aiming for university or if you want to study languages at Advanced Level.

### Advice and Guidance - Year 8 students

You will have studied the language you are opting to do at GCSE level already at Key Stage 3.



# GCSE Geography



## Course Details

Qualification - GCSE Geography (9-1)

Exam Board - AQA

QAN Code - 60184103

Method of Assessment—Geography GCSE is made up of 3 externally examined papers



## Course information and structure

Studying geography gives students the opportunity to travel the world via the classroom, learning about both natural and social sciences along the way. Students will understand how geography impacts everyday life and discover the key opportunities and challenges facing the world. Students will also develop academic and life skills from writing, team-work and communication to analytical skills.

The 9-1 GCSE consists of 3 examinations taken at the end of the course.

Paper 1 Living with the physical environment (1 hr 30)

Paper 2 Challenges in the human environment (1hr 30)

Paper 3 Geographical applications (1hr 15)

Geography students will undertake two geographical field studies out of the classroom to prepare for the geographical skills paper.

### Students' Comments

“Geography—it’s great! You learn about the world and interesting things that happen to it”.

“Geography is an all round qualifications, which include both fun and learning together”.

“Choose Geography so you become more aware”.

### Progression Routes

This qualification is a recognised part of the National Qualifications framework. As such this GCSE provides progression from Key Stage 3 to post 16 studies. The course also lays an appropriate foundation for further study of geography or related subjects.

It allows the students to develop their communications skills, graphical skills, technological skills, including ICT and GIS. It further allows the students to develop their interpersonal skills through debate and discussion and it also allows them to develop their entrepreneurial skills and awareness of all career possibilities.

### Advice and Guidance - Year 8 students

This course builds on the skills learnt in Key Stage 3. Speak to your Geography teacher for guidance on the suitability of this course for you.



# GCSE (9-1) Computer Science



## Course Details

Qualification - GCSE (9-1) Computer Science

Exam Board - OCR

QAN Code - 6018355X

Method of Assessment - 80% Written Examination & 20% Controlled Assessment



## Course information and structure

The course will give learners a real, in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. Learners will no doubt be familiar with the use of computers and other related technology. However, the course will give them an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes', including computer programming, which many learners find absorbing. The course will also develop critical thinking, analysis and problem solving skills through the study of computer programming. For many learners, it'll be a fun and interesting way to develop these skills.

### Students' Comments

"Programming is so much fun and I really enjoy solving problems independently."

"I enjoy lessons and learning about how computers work"

### Progression Routes

GCSE Computer Science counts towards the English Baccalaureate science measure, offering students a new option that achieves maximum recognition.

It is also an ideal starting path for KS5 ICT or Computing or even to enter the industry to begin life as a programmer.

## Advice and Guidance - Year 8 students

Speak to a member of the Business & ICT Department for guidance on the suitability of this course for you.



# GCSE Religious Studies



## Course Details

Qualification - GCSE Religious Studies (9-1)

Exam Board - AQA

QAN Code - 60184000

Method of Assessment—Religious Studies GCSE is made up of 2 externally examined papers

## Course information and structure

Religious Studies encourage students to; develop their knowledge and understanding of religions and non-religious beliefs, develop their ability to construct well-argued, well-informed, balanced and structured written arguments - demonstrating their depth and breadth of understanding of the subject, reflect on and develop their own values, beliefs and attitudes in the light of what they have learnt and contribute to their preparation for adult life in a pluralistic society and global community.

The 9-1 GCSE consists of 2 examinations taken at the end of the course.

Component 1: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity and Islam (1 hr 45)

Component 2: Thematic studies: Relationships & families, Religion & life, Religion, peace & conflict and Religion, Crime & punishment. (1hr 45)

### Students' Comments

New course.

### Progression Routes

Religious Studies is a rigorous academic subject valued by all branches of higher education and employers. This qualification is a recognised part of the National Qualifications framework. As such this GCSE provides progression from Key Stage 3 to post 16 studies. The course also lays an appropriate foundation for further study of theological, philosophical and social subjects.

It allows the students to develop their critical thinking, analysis, reflection evaluation skills as well as developing an understanding of the decision making process. Religious studies is a highly valued subject knowledge with well established links to other subjects especially law and social studies.

### Advice and Guidance - Year 8 students

This course builds on some of the skills learnt in Key Stage 3 Life lessons . Speak to your Life teacher for guidance on the suitability of this course for you.



# BTEC Health & Social Care



## Course Details

Qualification - BTEC Tech Award in Health and Social Care  
Exam Board - Pearson BTEC  
QAN Code - 60303955  
Method of Assessment - 75% coursework; 25% exam.

## Course information and structure

In this exciting and challenging course you will be introduced to the health and social care sector. You will gain the important knowledge, understanding and skills that are essential for working in this area. This will include skills that health care professionals use on a daily basis, such as assessing people's health and wellbeing and designing individualised health care plans. You will also study human growth and development across different life stages and how different factors affect it, as well as investigating how individuals deal with specific life events.

The course requires a high level of commitment to coursework—both in and out of class.

### Students' Comments

"I want to become a midwife when I leave school so the BTEC Health & Social Care course has really helped me gain the knowledge and skills I need to go to college".

"I really like the way we are taught in lessons. There is always lots of different things to do".

### Progression Routes

The healthcare sector is major employer in the UK.

The BTEC Tech Award in Health & Social Care qualification is a highly regarded qualification that could take you on to college to study a Level 3 Health & Social Care course or access the world of work through an apprenticeship.

Many students who successfully complete Health and Social Care courses go on to work in the NHS.

### Advice and Guidance - Year 8 students

You need to seek advice from Mrs. Mescus or Ms. Conway to determine whether or not this course is suitable for you.



# GCSE Fine Art



## Course Details

Qualification - GCSE Fine Art

Exam Board - EDEXCEL

QAN Code - 601/8069/9

Method of Assessment - 60% coursework; 40% practical exam.

## Course information and structure

Art is a skill based, highly personalised course. You will be given lots of opportunity to develop your own ideas and you will face many interesting creative challenges. We aim for you to learn positively through enjoyment of the subject. At all phases you will be:

- Painting/Drawing/Printmaking/Sculpture/Mixed Media
- Recording in a wide range of materials and techniques
- Exploring visual language
- Researching and developing resources
- Exploring personal responses to your own and set themes
- Creative use of visual media including digital media and computers
- Contextual work from contemporary and historical sources:
- Presentation and visual communication skills

### Students' Comments

"Art is the only lesson I look forward to, no matter how I'm feeling I can always lose myself within my work."

"Art is the way I express myself in a way I can understand, and know I can be good at something."

### Progression Routes

The creative industries in the U.K. Contribute £60 billion to the economy and employ 1.4 million people. People with creative skills are highly valued in a rapidly changing world of work. There are hundreds of specialisms but it is competitive and you need to work hard.

Career options include: Fine Artist, Graphic Designer, Furniture Designer, Furniture Restorer, Illustrator, Industrial Designer, Textile Designer, Animator, Ceramics Designer, Community Arts Worker, Fashion Designer, Glass Blower/Designer, Photographer, Film Maker, Production Designer—Theatre/Television/Film, Architect, Interior/Spatial Designer, Jewellery Designer, Make-up Artist, Medical Illustrator, Museum/Gallery Curator, Printmaker.

Courses available after GCSE include: A Level, BTEC Level 1 Diploma in Art and Design, BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Art and Design, BTEC Level 3 extended Diplomas. BTEC Foundation Diploma Apprenticeships are also available for specific jobs.

## Advice and Guidance - Year 8 students

Is GCSE art for me? - If you love doing creative things, enjoy challenges, taking the initiative, have a good level of ability, are thinking of a career in visual arts or simply if you enjoy the subject. This course builds on skills and experiences developed during KS3 structure.



# BTEC Music



## Course Details

Qualification - BTEC Music (First Award)

Exam Board - Edexcel

QAN Code - 60068188

Method of Assessment - 40% external assessment and 60% controlled assessment.

## Course information and structure

All students are expected to have a keen interest in the subject and some practical musical ability.

The course is divided into 4 units which include composition (writing your own music in a variety of styles), performance (again, in a variety of styles), learning about the music industry and organising your own concert.

You will have the opportunity to create your own music and to play a variety of different instruments, including having lessons on one instrument.

### Students' Comments

“Music is an amazing option”.

“Without music, life would be boring”.

“I’ve learnt how to play new instruments”.

### Progression Routes

The creative industries in the U.K contribute £60 billion to the economy and employ 1.4 million people. People with creative skills are highly valued in a rapidly changing world of work. There are hundreds of specialisms but it is competitive and you need to work hard. A Music qualification demonstrates not only musical ability, but also the ability to self-motivate, work with others, improve and refine work and countless other things.

Don't think that the only possible career is a pop star—there are thousands of jobs that you can do with a music BTEC.

Possible qualifications you can study afterwards are A Level Music, Music Practice and Music Tech, BTEC Performing Arts.

### Advice and Guidance - Year 8 students

You should choose music because you enjoy it and want to find out more about it. You will be studying units that involve performing, so you must be prepared to perform in front of others.



# BTEC Award in Performing Arts



## Course Details

Qualification - Pearson BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in Performing Arts

Exam Board - Pearson

QAN Code - 603/0406/6

Method of Assessment— 40% External Synoptic Unit, 60% Coursework

## Course information and structure

This course is not simply about “acting” as some of the more traditional drama courses. Instead, it offers the student an exciting range of disciplines which helps them build confidence, self awareness and knowledge across all aspects of performance and theatre, including exploration of different practitioners and styles. This in turn develops skills which are transferable in to all aspects of life, both in and beyond the classroom.

The course is divided into 3 units which include exploring the performing arts, developing acting skills and techniques, and performing to a brief.

### Students' Comments from current courses

“Appearing in the school production has boosted my self confidence”.

“I didn't realise that there are so many different aspects to performing”.

### Progression Routes

This course is an appropriate foundation for progression in performing arts, theatre studies and generic subjects such as dance and drama.

It also provides a foundation for design work in set, costume and props and technical elements such as lighting and sound.

### Advice and Guidance - Year 8 students

You may need to seek advice from your subject teacher to determine whether you are ready to access this course. You will need to be passionate about drama and be prepared to perform in front of others.



# BTEC Engineering



## Course Details

Qualification - BTEC Tech Award in Engineering

Exam Board - Pearson

QAN Code - 603/0829/1

Method of Assessment - 40% Exam/60% Coursework

## Course information and structure

The BTEC Tech Award in Engineering covers a large range of topics through a portfolio of work that is added to throughout the two year course. Learners who choose this course will study different areas of engineering, engineering design and look at depth into engineered products. Students will apply knowledge and technical skills to a range of tasks in order to develop their confidence in an engineering environment.

Students will be assessed in through two elements of coursework both worth 30% of the final grade and two exams. One of the exams focusses on re-engineering a product and the other has a focus on investigating an experiment which links to an engineering problem. These two exams make up the remaining 40% of the qualification.

### Students' Comments

New Course

### Progression Routes

A good pass in this course combined with English, Maths and Science will allow you to potentially get an apprenticeship in the engineering field or study engineering at a higher level through college and university. It will also allow learners to go on to careers in the construction and manufacturing industries through other apprenticeships.

Britain has a need for engineers of all disciplines and career prospects for people going into industry remain good.

### Advice and Guidance - Year 8 students

Pupils must be self motivated and hard working as the course has many deadlines which must be met. The course has a broad range of activities which are both workshop and ICT based and builds on the skills and knowledge that they have gained at Key Stage 3.



# Cambridge Nationals ICT



## Course Details

Qualification - Level 1/2 Cambridge National Certificate in ICT  
Exam Board - OCR  
QAN Code - 600/4776/8  
Method of Assessment - 25% Written Examination & 75% Controlled Assessment

## Course information and structure

The Cambridge Nationals in ICT will equip learners with sound ICT skills for everyday use and provide opportunities to develop transferable skills such as planning, research and analysis, working with others or communicating technical concepts effectively.

They will also challenge all learners by introducing them to demanding material and skills; encouraging independence and creativity; providing tasks that engage with the most taxing aspects of the National Curriculum including data handling, modelling and programming.

### Students' Comments

New Course

### Progression Routes

For learners who want to progress to Level 3 qualifications they have the choice of various GCE qualifications which will further develop areas of their learning from Level 1/Level 2.

Learners can progress from OCR Level 1/Level 2 Cambridge National Award/Certificate/Diploma in ICT to other vocational qualifications:

## Advice and Guidance - Year 8 students

Speak to a member of the Business, ICT & Computing Department for guidance on the suitability of this course for you.



# GCSE (9-1) in Business



## Course Details

Qualification - GCSE (9-1) in Business  
Exam Board - WJEC Eduqas  
QAN Code - 60303050  
Method of Assessment - Written Examination

## Course information and structure

This GCSE specification introduces learners to the business world, empowering them to develop as commercially minded and enterprising individuals. Learners will have the opportunity to develop a wide range of skills, enabling them to use business information critically, to develop arguments, to make justified decisions and to prepare them for further study and career pathways. The focus of the specification is to introduce and nurture an enthusiasm for studying business in a range of contexts. Learners will appreciate how businesses operate in a dynamic and competitive environment and develop an understanding of the interdependent nature of business functions from a local to a global perspective.

### Students' Comments

New Course

### Progression Routes

Students can progress to study a range of vocational or A-Level subjects including Business, Economics, Politics, Sociology and Law. Business and Enterprise is especially favoured by employers in areas of Business, Finance, Civil Service and Politics.

## Advice and Guidance - Year 8 students

Speak to a member of the Business & ICT Department for guidance on the suitability of this course for you.



# Hospitality and Catering



## Course Details

Qualification - WJEC Level 1 / Level 2 Award in Hospitality and Catering

Exam Board - WJEC

QAN Code - 60177032

Method of Assessment - 60% Controlled Assessment & 40% Written Examination

## Course information and structure

WJEC Level 1/2 Award in Hospitality and Catering has been designed so that knowledge, skills and understanding are developed through tasks that have many of the characteristics of real work in the sector. Each unit has what is referred to as an applied purpose, which acts as a focus for the learning in the unit. They have been devised around the concept of a 'plan, do, review' approach so that learners take part in practical activities in different contexts in order to learn the related theories. This approach mirrors many work related activities in the hospitality and catering sector and also provides for learning in a range of contexts. As such, the qualification provides learners with a broad appreciation of work in the hospitality and catering sector.

### Students' Comments

"I really like cooking and learning about the ingredients that we use."

"Learning to cook has allowed me to show off my skills at home and cook for my family."

### Progression Routes

A Level 2 pass is an excellent complement to English, Maths and Science and is well looked upon by industry and further educational establishments as an indication of suitability for careers in this field.

Pupils have gone on to successfully study Catering at FE level and now work in the catering industry.

## Advice and Guidance - Year 8 students

The course suits learners that have an interest in Catering and Hospitality. Pupils must be self-motivated as the course has deadlines which must be met. The course covers a broad range of catering activities and opportunities which are both theory and practical based.



# OCR Sports Studies



## Course Details

Qualification - OCR Level 1/2 Cambridge National Certificate in Sport Studies

Exam Board - OCR

QAN Code - 60051231

Method of Assessment—25% Exam/75% Coursework

## Course information and structure

The Cambridge Nationals in Sport Studies take a more sector-based focus, whilst also encompassing some core sport/physical education themes. Learners have the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge about different types of sport and physical activity, skills development and sports leadership to their own practical performance. They will learn about contemporary issues in sport such as funding, participation, ethics and role models, and sport and the media. Learners will develop an appreciation of the importance of sport locally and nationally, different ways of being involved in sport and of how this shapes the sports industry.

Students will be assessed in a 1 hour exam which will be 25% of the overall grade. As well as this, the practical elements of the course will make up 50% of the overall grade, with the last 25% being taken from coursework which focuses on the sport and media.

### Students' Comments

New Course

### Progression Routes

OCR supports any courses relating to sport at college and beyond. Courses that are closely linked to PE include both A-level PE and vocational sport pathways (BTEC Level 3 National Diplomas in Sport).

Potential jobs in the PE sector include teaching PE, physiotherapy, leisure and recreation, exercise and fitness instruction. Employers also value a PE qualification as it promotes health and well being, confidence and the ability to problem solve and work as part of a team.

### Advice and Guidance - Year 8 students

This course builds on the skills learnt in Key Stage 3. It is aimed at students with a passion for sport and a determination to succeed in a variety of new activities. The practical assessments mean that students need a good level of fitness and good technical skills as well as understanding of the rules of different sports.