

January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am pleased to attach the Guided Pathway information booklet for courses starting in Year 9 at Outwood Grange Academy.

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 beyond. It is our intent that the experiences we provide our students through our wider educational offer, and specifically our curriculum offer, drives our Trust vision of Students First: raising standards and transforming lives.

To that end, at Outwood Grange Academy, we are delighted to offer an innovative curriculum, which enables all students within our academy to fulfil their potential and develop the all important knowledge, skills and qualities which will serve them well in later life.

Students as they move from Year 8 into Year 9 have their first main point of choice within their five year educational journey with us. The use of Year 9 in this way is one of the hallmarks of our curriculum. This, along with the permanent, subject specialist directors of English, maths, science, humanities, modern foreign languages, computer science and the arts, work across all of our academies. They 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 & Disabilities and Attendance. Regular attendance, especially throughout Years 9-11, is critical to your child's success.

There are a number of opportunities over the next few years for students to personalise their curriculum pathway, the main choices being:

- One hour Creative Experience subjects (starting in Y9)
- GCSE or Vocational Expressive course (starting in Y9)
- Choice of main Guided Pathway GCSE qualifications (starting in Y10)
- Choice of one further Guided Pathway course for some students (starting in Y11)

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

Furthermore, we fully support the entitlement that students have to study the group of qualifications which the government calls the English Baccalaureate (EBacc): English, mathematics, 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 either Geography or History at GCSE. For many students

it will be appropriate that they also study a modern foreign language. This will ensure students can attain the Full EBacc which, increasingly, higher education establishments are looking for.

These subjects are also an excellent foundation for those who wish to go on and study A Levels in the 'Facilitating Subjects' (biology, chemistry, Physics, English, geography, history, maths, modern and classical languages).

It is possible to study both geography and history alongside a modern foreign language if a student wishes. We will advise you if we believe that your child should be following the Full EBacc route and as always, provide specialist independent careers advice to ensure that you have access to impartial support during this process. We will revisit this in a year's time, ahead of the main Guided Pathway qualification choices.

We understand that this is a crucial time and the choosing of qualification courses is very important. You will find further information on the Academy Website by clicking the Guided Pathways button. You will also be able to contact Heads of Departments to discuss any course queries through their email address which is provided in the booklet.

Students have had an assembly streamed into classrooms in December 2021 explaining the process and copies of the presentation, the booklet, link to the Google Form to make their choices and any further information will be posted in their tutor group Google classroom.

Deadline for all returns is 30th January 2022.

Whatever your child 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. Please contact me directly via email should you have any questions or you have any difficulties accessing the documents.

Yours faithfully

Mr R Larder

Vice Principal

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[Guided Pathways Booklet - Please Click to access](#)