

7 December 2020

**Outwood Academy Bydales**

Coast Road, Marske-by-the-Sea,

Redcar, TS11 6AR

Tel: +44(0)1642 474000

Web: [www.bydales.outwood.com](http://www.bydales.outwood.com)

Email: [enquiries@bydales.outwood.com](mailto:enquiries@bydales.outwood.com)

Principal: Ms Seana Rice

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Year 8 into 9 Guided Pathways**

After detailed consideration we are now in a position to share with you our curriculum plans for students in year 8 as they move into year 9. These plans have been carefully designed to take into account lost/missed learning due to the ongoing pandemic situation and to support students in their academic recovery. The curriculum in operation at Outwood Academy Bydales was judged as Outstanding by Ofsted in 2018 due to its flexibility, engagement and promotion of high quality outcomes for students. Our curriculum will ensure your child will continue to enjoy the benefits of following a breadth of subjects whilst also having the opportunity of choosing some subjects to study at a greater depth.

Firstly, all students will continue to study English, mathematics, science, physical education and life. In addition, all students will now continue to study geography, history and a modern foreign language for one hour a week in year 9.

There will be two subjects which will be new for your child that all year 9 students will study for one hour a week:

**Digital Literacy** - this course allows students to develop important information technology skills such as word processing, analysis of data, understanding bias and reliability of internet sources, communicating effectively using technology and website design. These skills are delivered through a series of projects which relate to our everyday lives.

**Expressive Arts** – this is a new and exciting development for students and will bring together art, design technology, drama and music. It will provide the opportunity for students to be creative and express themselves in different ways and experience enjoyment and contribute to the enjoyment of others through expressive presentation. Our expressive arts curriculum combines the disciplines together as a basis for discovery. The work the students will create will result in a collaborative piece of work that will be presented to the wider community. The curriculum aims to provide students with a richer vocabulary to work, play and grow a life they love living. The structure will provide a role in shaping a sense of personal, social and cultural identity.

All students will choose one of geography/history to study at greater depth for two hours a week, in preparation for starting the GCSE in this subject in year 10.

Students who are intending to study a modern foreign language at GCSE (meaning they would be studying for the Full EBacc) will also choose this language and begin to study this at greater depth for two hours a week, in preparation for starting the GCSE in year 10. Students who are not intending to study a language at GCSE will choose a different subject, but note all students will continue to study a language for one hour a week.

All students will study a third subject, which will start at GCSE/equivalent level in year 9, with the intention this is completed after two years of study.

Outwood Grange Academies Trust, a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 06995649.

Registered office address: Potovens Lane, Outwood, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF1 2PF.

VAT number: 158 2720 04. Outwood Grange Academies Trust is an exempt charity.

A list of Directors' names is open to inspection at our registered office.

Your child has received a series of assemblies to support them in this process. Next week they will receive a booklet with details of all the courses offered, as well as a letter giving the login details for their pathways form. We would encourage you to complete this form with your child. Due to current circumstances we are unable to hold our Guided Pathway Information Evening in school, however a presentation for parents will be placed on our website next week. Please note the deadline for forms to be completed is Friday 29 January 2021.

If you have any questions or would like further information in relation to our curriculum plans, please contact Miss Ferris via e-mail, [j.ferris@bydales.outwood.com](mailto:j.ferris@bydales.outwood.com) or on the telephone number above.

Yours sincerely



Seana Rice  
Principal



Jo Ferris  
Vice Principal