



National Support School
designated by



National College for
Teaching & Leadership

What are Learning Pathways?

Learning Pathways is a process that allows parents, teachers and yourselves to work together and ensure that when you begin Year 9 in September you will be starting the right GCSE and BTEC courses to help you succeed.

Through this process you will choose a number of subjects to take as qualifications in year 11.

Why Choose in Year 8?

The government and exam boards have worked together over the last few years to overhaul the GCSEs offered in England. These are now more challenging, and most include content that used to be taught at A level or higher.

All exam papers can now only be taken at the end of year 11.

We have set up Year 9 as a 'step up' year where students will develop the skills and knowledge needed to be successful in their KS4 qualifications.

We believe in offering all students a broad curriculum that provides access towards further education and a wide choice of career opportunities.

We offer a three year key stage 4 curriculum to give students a longer time on their Key Stage 4 examination courses and we firmly believe that this will further enhance students' learning, progress and achievement.

Each student has been allocated a Pathway based on data from the end of Key stage 2, and current academic performance here at OSCA.

Aspire

The **Aspire** pathway has been designed to enable our most able to access A level courses at Post 16, and move onto to a university course of their choice.

All students on the **Aspire** pathway will also achieve the English Baccalaureate (Ebacc).

It is expected that the Ebacc will also be used by colleges, universities and employers as a part of their selection process.

Advance

The **Advance** pathway has been designed to enable access to Level 3 courses at Post 16, either A Level, BTEC or a combination, with a possible move on to higher education or higher level apprenticeships.

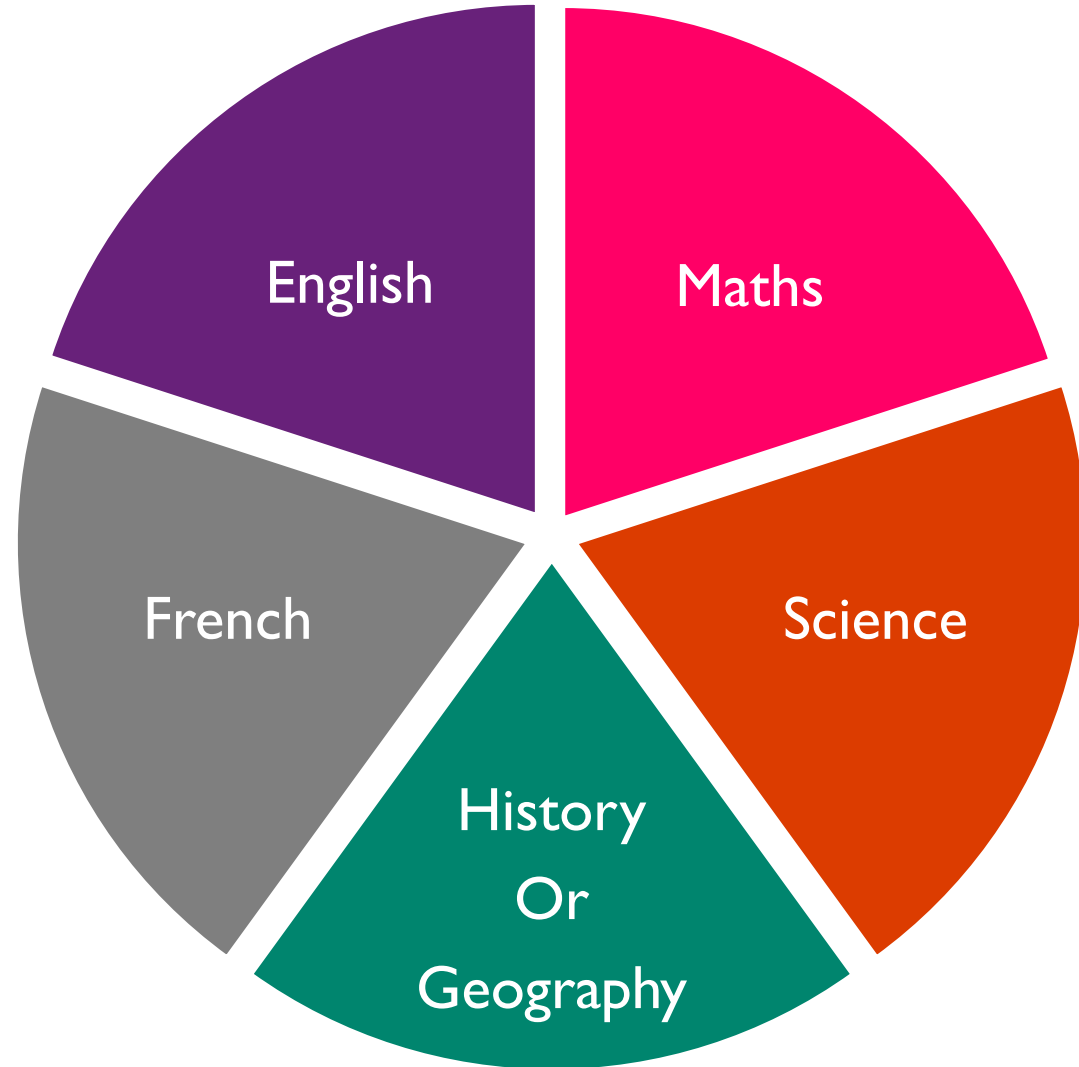
All students on the **Advance** pathway will study a broad and balanced curriculum, following some EBACC subjects which are highly regarded by universities and colleges, as well as a blend of traditional and new subjects.

Achieve

The **Achieve** pathway has been designed to provide students with a broad and balanced set of skills which will enable them access to vocational courses in higher education, or further work related learning and apprenticeships.

All students on the **Achieve** pathway will study a blend of traditional and new subjects, as well as receiving additional support through a bespoke study and work skills programme.

What is the EBACC?



The **English Baccalaureate** (EBACC) is a performance measure used by the government.

To gain the EBACC you must achieve a **grade 5** or above at the end of year 11 in all 5 subjects.

By 2024, around

54%

of people in employment
are expected to be
**qualified at level 4
and above**



This means that by the time you are 20 (the second year of university):

- Careers in areas of growth will be for higher skilled/qualified employees. (around 2 million extra jobs and growing...)
- Most people with a job will have a degree or higher.
- Average qualification level to rise for all occupations.

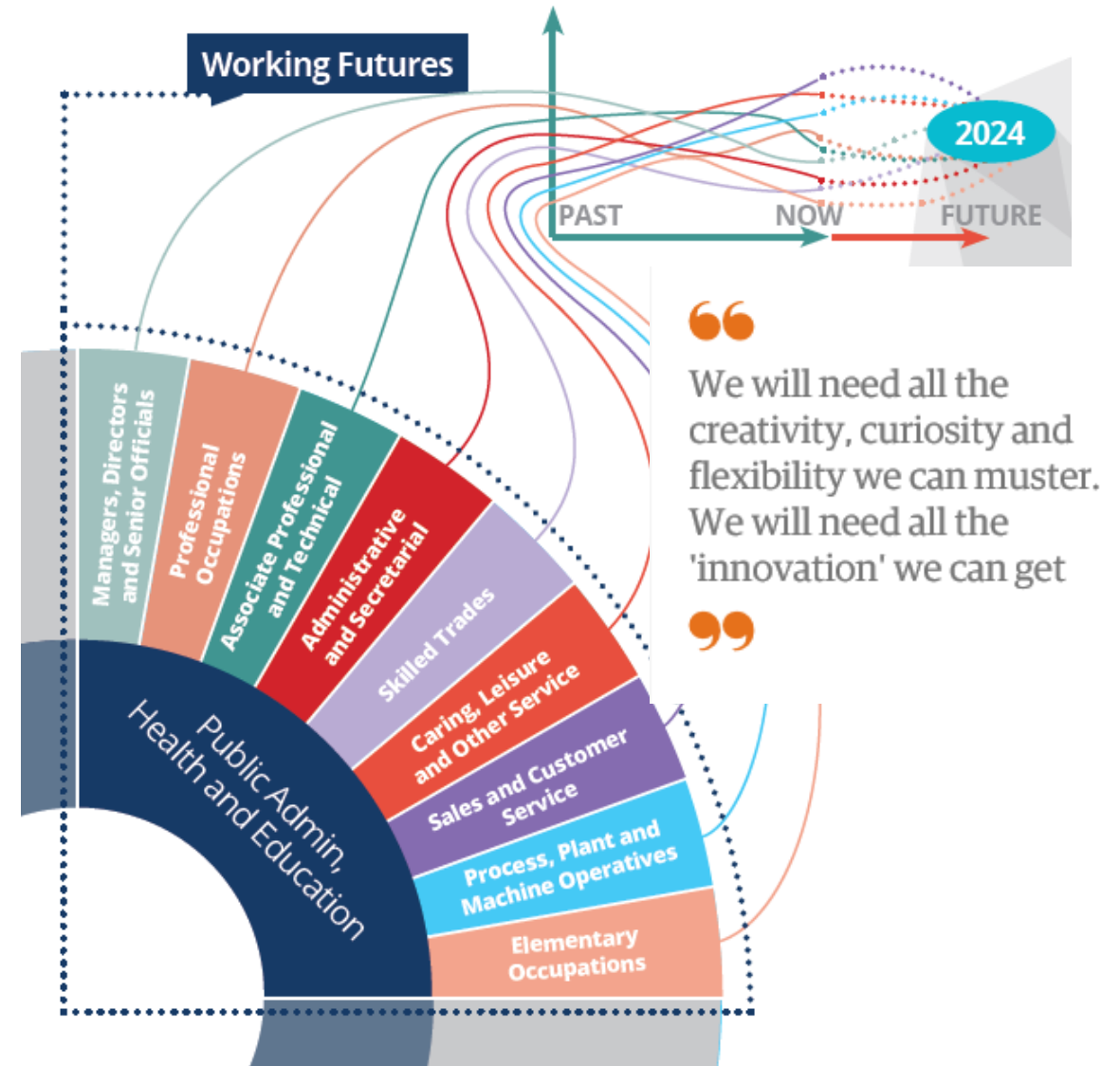
Careers Projections (West Midlands & Nationally)

Growth Areas for 2024:

- Creative Arts (growing faster than any other sector)
- Business, Retail and IT
- Hospitality and Leisure

Decline in traditional industries:

- Manufacturing
- Utilities



Every student, no matter what Pathway they are on, will still take the following subjects at GCSE.

GCSE English Language

GCSE English Literature

GCSE Maths

GCSE Science

Core PE (not examined)

L4S (PHSE and Citizenship) (not examined)

Aspire

Advance

Achieve

Languages	Humanities	Block A (3hr)		Block B (2hr)	
French	History	History	Fine Art	Film Studies	
			Art Textiles		
		Geography	3D Design	Musical Theatre	
	OR	Sports Science	Business	Food & Catering	Hospitality & Tourism
				3D Design	
			Drama	Dance	Health & Fitness
		Geography	Triple Science	Media	Religious Studies
			Computer Science	Sociology	Photography
			Fine Art		

ASPIRE PATHWAY

ADVANCE PATHWAY

Block 1 (3hr)	Block 2 (3hr) (pick 2)			Block 3 (2hr)
French	Art Textiles	Fine Art	3d Design	Film Studies
History	Business	Dance	Drama	Musical Theatre
	Geography	History	Media	Food & Catering
Geography	Music	Religious Studies	Sports Science	Hospitality & Tourism
	Sociology			Health & Fitness
				Photography
				Fine Art

ACHIEVE PATHWAY

	Block 1 (3hr) (pick 2)			Block 2 (2hr)
Study & Work Skills Program	Art Textiles	Fine Art	3D Design	Hospitality & Tourism
	Business	Dance	Drama	Food & Catering
	Hair & Beauty	Music	Sports Science	Musical Theatre
				Health & Fitness

Aspire

Advance

Achieve



Some help with picking your subjects...

1. What do I want to do at 16+
 - Sixth Form?
 - Apprenticeship?
 - College?
2. Choose the subjects which will assist your intentions for 16+.
3. Choose a well-balanced timetable. Try not to choose all of your subjects from the same area.
4. It is best not to pick a subject you are poor at.
5. Do not pick a subject because you work well for that teacher. It may be a different teacher taking that subject in years 10 and 11.
6. Do not pick a subject you have not studied before just because you like the sound of it. If you have not done it before find out as much as you can about it before making your decision.
7. Do not choose subjects just because your friends have chosen them.
8. Do not be afraid to choose unusual subjects.
9. Creative subjects are very useful.
10. Do not specialise too much.
11. Are you more suited to GCSE or BTEC method of learning?
12. Seek plenty of advice and ask lots of questions.



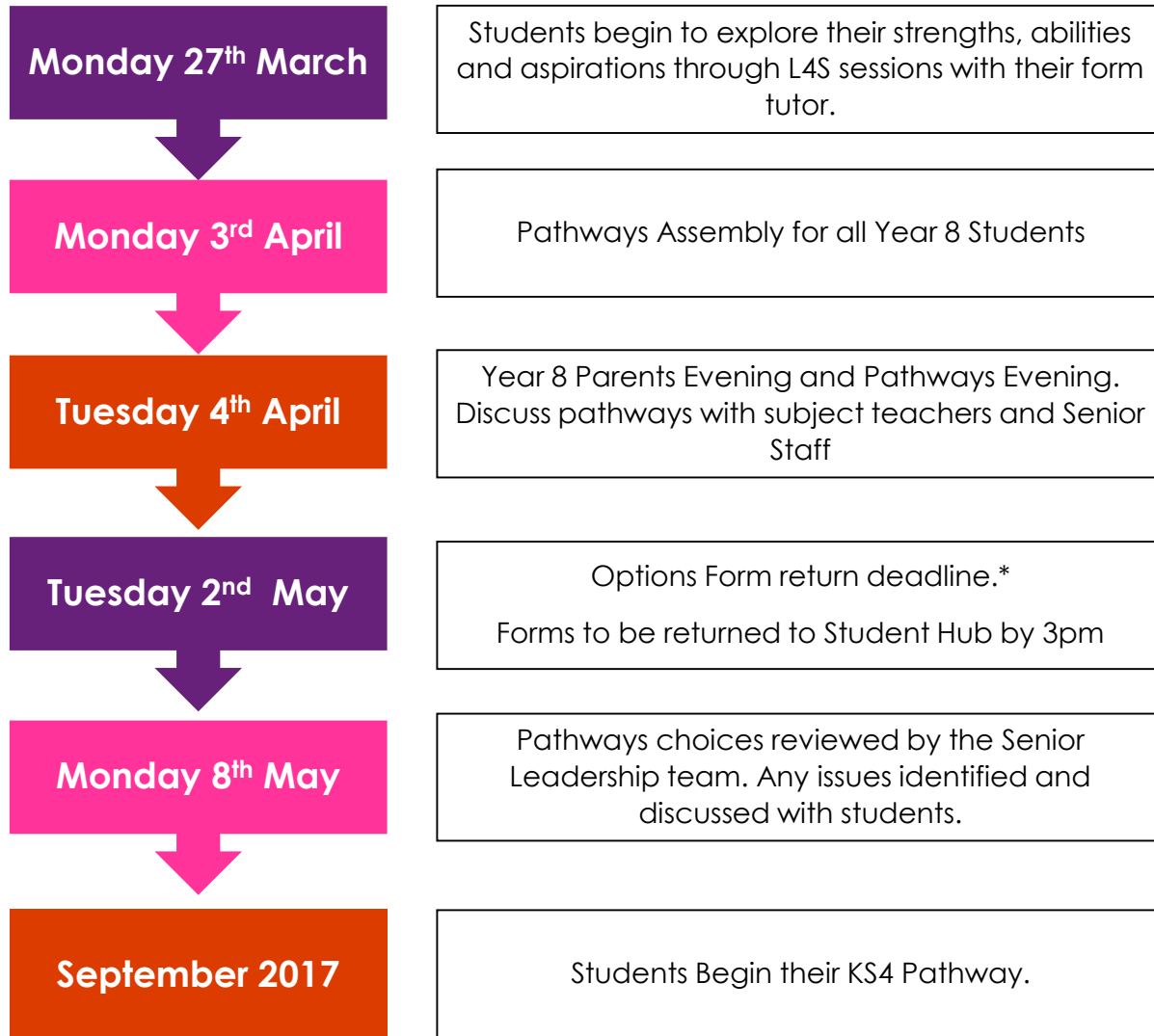
The wrong reasons to make a choice

- ✗ I like the teacher
- ✗ All the other choices are boring / too difficult
- ✗ All my friends are doing that subject
- ✗ I think it will help me get a job

The right reasons to make a choice

- ✓ I am good at/enjoy that subject
- ✓ I know that these subjects will help my career choice, because I have found out about it
- ✓ I have achieved good marks and exam grades in a subject

If in doubt ask for help



The subjects that you choose to study at Key Stage 4 are extremely important.

The decisions made now, will affect the qualifications that you achieve at the end of their compulsory education and may therefore affect future opportunities and career choices.

For many of you, this will be the first major decision about their future that you have to make.

We hope that this decision will not be made lightly and that both students and parents will take the **opportunity to discuss the process** together and also with staff in school to enable an informed decision to be made.

Please do take time to consider and finalise your choices before submitting your form.

There is no race to be the first form handed in!



KS4 Pathways 2017-2020

Aspire Pathway



Name		Tutor Group	
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Mandatory Subjects	GCSE English Language, GCSE English Literature, GCSE Maths, GCSE Science, GCSE French, Core PE (not examined)
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Humanities Pathway: (pick one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>)	Geography	
	History	

Block A: (pick one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> and a reserve 'R') 3 hours	Art (Fine Art)		Art (Textiles Design)	
	Drama		Art (3d Design)	
	Dance		Business	
	History		Media Studies	
	Geography		Sociology	
	Music		Sports Science	
	Computer Science		Triple Science	

Drama/Dance may not be combined with Performing Arts

Block B: (pick one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> and a reserve 'R') 2 hours	Film Studies	
	BTEC Performing Arts (Musical theatre)	
	Food and Catering	
	Health & Fitness	
	Hospitality and Tourism	
	Photography	
	Religious Studies	
	Art (Fine Art)	

It will not be possible for us to provide every subject combination, as some may lead to classes which are too small, or it does not fit with the final timetabled subject groups. If you choose such a combination, you will be advised of this and asked to make an alternative choice.

Student Signature		Date	
Parent Signature		Date	
Tutor Signature		Date	
Senior Leader Signature		Date	

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
Date Received		Time Received	

**Return to the
STUDENT HUB by
Tuesday 2nd
May, 3pm.**



KS4 Pathways 2017-2020

Advance Pathway



Name		Tutor Group	
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Mandatory Subjects	GCSE English Language, GCSE English Literature, GCSE Maths, GCSE Science, , Core PE (not examined)
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Block 1: (pick one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a reserve 'R')	Geography	
	History	
	French	

Block 2: (pick Two <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> and two reserve 'R') 3 hours each	Art (Fine Art)*		History	
	Art (3d Design)*		Media Production	
	Art (Textile Design) *		Music	
	Business		Sociology	
	Dance		Sports Science	
	Drama		RE	
	Geography			

Block 3: (pick one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> and a reserve 'R') 2 hours	Film Studies	
	BTEC Performing Arts (Musical Theatre)	
	Food and Catering	
	Health & Fitness	
	Hospitality and Tourism	
	Photography	
	Art (Fine Art)*	

*You can only pick 1 Art subject for your first choices in Block 2

Drama, Dance and Performing Arts (Musical Theatre) may not be combined.

It will not be possible for us to provide every subject combination, as some may lead to classes which are too small, or it does not fit with the final timetabled subject groups. If you choose such a combination, you will be advised of this and asked to make an alternative choice.

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Senior Leader Signature		Date	

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KS4 Pathways 2017-2020

Achieve Pathway



+	Name		Tutor Group	
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Mandatory Subjects	GCSE English Language, GCSE English Literature, GCSE Maths, GCSE Science, Study and Work Skills Program, Core PE (not examined)
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Block 1: (pick Two <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> and two reserve 'R') 3 hours each	Art (Fine Art)*		Drama	
	Art (3d Design)*		Hair & Beauty	
	Art (Textile Design) *		Music	
	Business		Sports Science	
	Dance			

Block 2: (pick one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> and a reserve 'R') 2 hours	BTEC Performing Arts (Musical Theatre)	
	Food and Catering	
	Hospitality and Tourism	
	Health & Fitness	
	Photography	
	Art (Fine Art)*	

*You can only pick 1 Art subject for your first choices in Block 2. Drama, Dance and Performing Arts (Musical Theatre) may not be combined.

It will not be possible for us to provide every subject combination, as some may lead to classes which are too small or it does not fit with the final timetabled subject groups. If you choose such a combination, you will be advised of this and asked to make an alternative choice.

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Parent Signature		Date	
Tutor Signature		Date	
Senior Leader Signature		Date	

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STUDENT HUB
by Tuesday
2nd May,
3pm.**