

Changes to Education – A Parent's Guide FAQ

Why is Oasis John Williams Academy changing things?

Progress 8 is a national change made by The Department for Education (DfE), which effect all schools and Academies for exams sat in 2016 and beyond.

What is the point of the changes?

The aim is that all students can make progress and be measured in progress made across a broad choice of subjects and study programs.

What are the benefits of this change?

Using a progress measure helps to make judgements about Pupils and Schools fair. Under the point score progress measure, each pupil's achievements will count equally, which rewards schools for their work with all students, whatever their starting point.

How will progress be measured?

Progress will be measure using a value added (VA) methodology. This method will take the progress each pupil makes between key stage 2 (end of Primary school) and Key stage 4 (End of Year 11) and compare that with the progress that is expected to be made by students nationally who had the same level of attainment at key stage 2.

Are Mathematics and English still important?

Yes, all students will have to sit Maths and English and both subjects will be double weighted (count twice). All schools will still report on the number of students who achieve Maths and English at a C grade or better.

Can my Child do any 8 subjects?

No, The 8 subjects have to be made up of the following combination.

- 1 slot for double weighted English
- 1 slot for double weighted Maths
- 3 slots for other EBacc subjects (sciences, computer science, geography, history and languages)
- 3 slots can be taken up by further qualifications from a range of:

EBacc subjects and/or other high value arts and/or academic and/or vocational qualifications.

What if my Child does not do the correct 8 subject combination?

Regardless of what subjects your child studies they will be measured out of the possible 8 they should study, therefore if your child is missing a subject their overall progress score will be effected.



What if my Child has an interest or passion for a particular subject?

At the Academy we have designed the curriculum to allow students to access their personal preferred subjects as well as fulfilling the national change of 8 subjects with the right combination. All students will have option choices as well as guidance from their teaching staff.

Will my child defiantly get their first choice subjects?

We aim that all students study their first choice subject; however there are times when students will not study their first choice subject. We ask all students to select a 1st and reserve choice subject. Students should take their reserve choice as seriously as their first choice as they could be studying that subject.

Where can I get help or guidance to complete the forms?

For further information and a guidance video on how to complete the attached form please visit our website. <http://www.oasisacademyjohnwilliams.org> or please contact your child's Learning Mentor.

What should I do if I lose or make a mistake on the form?

All forms are on our website at <http://www.oasisacademyjohnwilliams.org>. Please download and print a copy to complete.