

**Welland Park Academy 11-16**  
**Frequently Asked Questions at or after GCSE Choices Evening.**

**Do I have to apply for a place in Year 10?**

No, all students currently in Year 9 will automatically have a place in Year 10, if you leave and then want to return you have to apply for a place through allocations at County Hall.

**What GCSE choices are available at Welland Park?**

We offer a wide range of subjects from traditional EBacc subjects to more vocational courses such as ICT or Sports Studies.

Refer to the Key Stage 4 booklet on the website for information regarding course details and choices.

**Who will my form tutor be?**

We will analyse the groups of students staying and retain the team of tutors which have the greater number of youngsters choosing to study at Welland Park. We try to keep students with their current form tutor where appropriate but this is not always suitable and not always possible.

Last year we went from an 8 form year group in Year 9 to a 6 form year group in Year 10. We currently have 10 forms or tutor groups in Year 9.

**Will I be in the same form with my friends?**

Just as in Year 7 we invest a lot of time ensuring that tutor groups are balanced and everyone has at least one friend. Students already know the year group well and will only spend 1 lesson in form groups through Key Stage 4. The rest of the time all students will be operating in classes with students from across the year or half year cohort.

**Can Welland Park fit everyone in?**

We have reduced our intake to a capped 180 in **Year 7** September 2016 to accommodate the extra year groups and are investing in our buildings to utilise space and increase provision of specialist rooms. We are aiming to become a school of 850 – 900 youngsters in total eventually. We have already invested in improved facilities in PE and Performing Arts and our work on a new MFL block has commenced.

**Can my child still transfer to Robert Smyth at the end of Year 9 as usual?**

Yes. We support all of our students in finding the right school for them. The age range change in Harborough gives parents the chance to have real choice and we have well established transition arrangements with Robert Smyth.

**Can my child still transfer to Robert Smyth at the end of Year 11?**

Yes. All post 16 providers have a set of entry requirements and your child must meet those to attend Robert Smyth sixth form.

**Will the students be segregated depending on the choice they make for Key Stage 4 provider?**

No, the students undertake a different induction programme right at the end of the year but they are not segregated for any of their lessons this year.

**What training have your teachers had in preparation?**

A number of them have very recent experience of teaching GCSE and or 'A' level. Training has also been conducted with awarding bodies eg AQA and OCR. The GCSEs in 2016 were new to all teachers (English and Maths started in 2015). Most importantly the teachers who teach GCSE want to build on the excellent foundation established at Key Stage 3 and will be teaching GCSE work in Year 9.

### **What happens if my child struggles at GCSE?**

We track all students across the curriculum at Key Stage 3 and 4. We employ a number of intervention strategies to ensure youngsters fulfil their potential:

- Small group work
- Mentoring
- Bespoke alternative provision
- Literacy and numeracy support
- Managing learning sessions with student support workers

All of this will be conducted right through Key Stage 4.

### **What careers advice will be available for my child?**

Careers is taught as part of Citizenship and bespoke days throughout Key Stage 3. This will continue into Key Stage 4. We work with a Careers Advisor in Year 9 and this will be available at Key Stage 4. We host a careers day in Year 9 where all Year 9 complete a CV and are given a formal interview by a professional from the community and then feedback. This process is repeated in Year 11.

Through Key Stage 4 we expect to work with other local providers for some youngsters and as part of our relationship building for transition to Key Stage 5. There is a Careers fair scheduled for June where we will host a number of post 16 providers for academic and vocational courses.

Our students will undertake their work experience in the summer break between years 10 and 11.

### **Why would I choose an 11 – 16 school if I know my child will do ‘A’ levels?**

Welland Park has outstanding teachers who secure excellent progress across the curriculum. Our staff are trained to teach to ‘A’ level standard and will secure excellent outcomes right through to Key Stage 4. We already have well established transition arrangements with Robert Smyth and have developed this with other post 16 providers for courses post 16. It is important that students select the right Key Stage 4 courses and then Key Stage 5 courses to reflect their career aspirations and learning strengths.

### **Why do you start GCSEs in Year 9?**

We have always laid the foundation for GCSEs; the move to linear more demanding assessments for all GCSEs warrants a 3 year approach for some subjects to ensure opportunities for maximum progress between Key Stages 2 and 4.

### **What is Progress 8?**

This is accountability for measure for schools from the Government. It is a measure of the progress made by all students between KS2 and KS4. It is based on the attainment of 8 subjects but the combinations are quite specific.

It includes Eng / Ma and 3 EBacc subjects and any other 3 GCSEs or VCERT qualifications.

### **Does the EBacc qualification matter?**

The EBacc (Eng / Ma / 2 Sci/ Hi or Geog and a language at grade 4/5 plus for all subjects) ensures a good spread of subjects and includes a number of subjects considered to be facilitating subjects by some universities.

### **When do you start GCSE Science?**

We start this in Year 9 and have mapped out our provision across 3 years to ensure that students receive more than the suggested number of lessons with time built in for revision. Science groups are set throughout Key Stage 4. Students can opt to take the separate Sciences Biology, Chemistry or Physics or a Science qualification which leads to 2 Science GCSEs.

**Will there be a prom?**

Yes. We may not call it a 'prom' but there will be a celebration of 5 years together towards the end of Year 11.

We will work with a committee of students each year to determine the most suitable event that the majority would like to attend to celebrate the end of Key Stage 4.

**Are there extra – curricular clubs for Year 10?**

Yes many of our Year 10 are involved in Duke of Edinburgh award, Performing Arts clubs and all the sports clubs. Please speak to one of our current Year 10 or check the website if you want more details.