



Birchwood High School

Admission Guidelines to Birchwood High School's Sixth Form

Context:

Admission into Birchwood Sixth Form is a separate process to that of admission into Years 7-11. The criteria for admission are also very different because provision is exclusively for Advanced Level study including A-Levels and Level 3 BTEC courses. These have specific academic requirements.

All students are expected to achieve a minimum GCSE average point score (APS) of 40 points with most students following Pathway 1 or 2 which has a minimum GCSE APS of 43 points. Students must also meet the grade entry requirement for the specific subject which are outlined in the course booklet and on the application form.

The following criteria apply once the grade and average points score requirements are fulfilled:

Priority will be given first to appropriately qualified applicants who are children looked after or previously looked after (children who ceased to be looked after because they were adopted or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order) or an Education, Health and Care Plan that names the school and then to Birchwood students in Year 11 wishing to stay on into the Sixth Form and who meet the criteria. It is essential that applications are received by the deadline. Applications received after the deadline may not be considered.

160 places for applicants will be considered per year with a maximum of 300 places in the Sixth Form in total.

Should the maximum size be met then applications over this number will be decided on the priorities outlined above and then external applications will be determined on grade criteria.

Entry Requirements for the Birchwood Sixth Form

As from September 2017 the structure and requirements of Post 16 study are changing from previous years. This is in line with government reforms to A Level and BTEC qualifications.

The vast majority of students will study for 3 subject choices over the course of two years. For A Level these will be linear in structure, with examinations taken at the end of the two years. Unlike in the past, AS examinations will not form part of the majority of student's pathways. This is a significant change and means that students will have to select the subjects they wish to pursue for the whole of the 2 years from the start of Year 12.

With this in mind our admissions pathways are designed to ensure students are following appropriate courses based upon their previous levels of achievement.

We will be retaining an Average Points Score (APS) system that measures what students achieve at GCSE. This will be done by taking the best 8 subjects and converting them to a points score. These are then added together and divided by 8, as shown in the worked example below.

Progression from Year 12 into Year 13

Progression to Year 13 is subject to students demonstrating the capacity to benefit from a course which is more demanding than the Year 12 programme. This will normally mean that the target grade or above is achieved in Year 12. Students who achieve a grade below their target in Year 12 may be considered but this will have to be negotiated between the student, the parents and the school. Those students who achieve a U grade in Year 12 will not be allowed to continue on the course. Students who gain two or more U grades in Year 12 and/or whose attendance or attitude to work has been poor during the year, may not be invited to return. Students achieving a D or E grade in Year 12 and intending to follow the subject into Year 13 will need to negotiate access onto the course with the Head of Sixth Form. If students drop two courses then the Head of Sixth Form will discuss future options with the student.

APS Explained

Grade	Points Score Equivalence	Grade English & Maths only
	64	9
A*	58	8
A	52	7
B	46	6
	43	5
C	40	4
D	34	3
E	28	2
F	22	1

APS Calculation Example		
Subject	Grade	APS
English	7	52
Eng. Lit	6	46
Maths	5	43
History	C	40
PE	A	52
Science	C	40
Science	C	40
French	B	46

Total 359 / 8 = 44.8

Pathways

Pathway 1

For admission onto Pathway 1 to study **4 A levels** students should have a minimum APS of 49 and the specific subject requirement.

Pathway 2

For admission onto Pathway 2 to study **3 A levels or 2 A levels & BTEC single** students should have a minimum APS of **43** and the specific subject requirement.

Pathway 3

For admission onto Pathway 3 to study **1 Double BTEC and 1 Level 3 course (BTEC single OR A level)** students should have a minimum APS of **40** and the specific subject requirement.

Destinations, Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG)

Sixth form students are given advice throughout their two-year study to enable them to successfully obtain a place at University, Higher Apprenticeship, College or employment. We pride ourselves in ensuring that all our Year 13 students leave with a clear destination achieved.