



Birchwood High School

Admission Guidelines to Birchwood High School's Sixth Form with effect from September 2019

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 competency-based academic requirements.

The introduction of a numbered grading system at GCSE means we will be operating a Total Points Score (TPS). There will be 3 distinct pathways for students to follow, depending on their TPS ⁽¹⁾. The minimum requirement for entry into Birchwood Sixth form is a GCSE / Level 2 total point score of 36 or above to access BTEC courses and a minimum of 42 to access A Level courses. ⁽²⁾. In addition, students must also meet the specific grade entry requirement for individual subjects. These are outlined in the course booklet and on the application form. These minimum requirements apply to both internal and external applicants. Further details are set out below.

Process for Internal Candidates

Providing students in the current Year 11 at Birchwood High School meet these thresholds, they will be admitted to the Sixth Form. The application form for internal applicants can be found on the school website and is an online application. All application forms must be completed and submitted by 18 December 2019.

Special Educational Needs

Any child with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education, Health and Care Plan that names the academy will be admitted.

Process for External Applicants

Providing external applicants meet the academic thresholds specified above, they will be admitted to the Sixth Form subject to the tie-break cited below*. All applications must be completed using our online application (www.birchwoodhigh.org.uk) by 18th December 2019. It is essential that applications are received by the deadline. Applications received after the deadline may not be considered.

The PAN for the Sixth Form is set for a minimum of 100 places for external applicants.

In the event that there are more applications from external applicants than places available, the following criteria apply once the TPS and specific grade 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).
- At the point of over-subscription, if two students achieve the same total point score then a tie break based on geographical distance from the school will apply. Distances are measured using a computerised mapping system to two decimal places. The measurement is taken from the AddressBase Premium address point of the applicant's house to the address point of Birchwood High School. AddressBase Premium data is a nationally recognised method of identifying the location of schools and individual residences. If the distance criterion is not sufficient to distinguish between two or more external applicants for the last remaining place then random allocation will be used. This process will be supervised by somebody independent of Birchwood High School.
- You have the right to appeal against the decision to not admit a student into the Sixth Form. Parents wishing to appeal who applied through Hertfordshire's online system should log in to their online application and click on the link "register an appeal". Out of county residents and paper applicants should call the Customer Service Centre on 0300 123 4043 to request their registration details and log into www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/schoolappeals and click on the link "log into the appeals system."

Entry Requirements for the Birchwood Sixth Form for all Candidates

As from September 2018 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.

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 introducing a Total Point Score system that measures what students achieve at GCSE / Level 2. This will be done by taking the best 8 subject grades. These are then added together to produce a Total Point Score, as shown in the worked example below ⁽³⁾.

Total Point Score

Grade ('old' GCSE)	Grade (new GCSE)	Grade (BTEC Level 2)
Media, Film, Graphics, RM, Textiles, Food		ICT, Business, Health & Social Construction
	9	
A*	8	DISTINCTION
A	7	
B	6	MERIT
	5	
C	4	PASS
D	3	
E	2	
F	1	

Exemplar: Total Point Score - calculation

Subject	Grade	Points
English	7	7
Eng. Lit	6	6
Maths	5	5
History	4	4
Media	A	7
Science	4	4
Science	4	4
French	6	6

Total = 43

Pathways

Pathway 1

For admission onto Pathway 1 to study **4 A levels** students should have a **minimum total point score of 48 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 total point score of 42 and the specific subject requirement.**

Pathway 3

For admission onto Pathway 3 to study **1 Double BTEC and 1 BTEC single OR A level** students should have a **minimum total point score of 36 and the specific subject requirement.**

Meeting one of the Pathways will entitle successful applicants to an offer of available course combinations but will not guarantee a particular combination of courses. Applicants should enquire as to which particular

combinations of courses will be available and they will be subject to change at the Birchwood High School's discretion.

Progression from Year 12 into Year 13

A student may be asked to change a particular course of study due to low academic progress – for example achieving a U grade in an examination or formal assessment. This will be done in conjunction with effective Careers Advice and support.

Progression and continuation in sixth form is at all times dependent on student's attitude to learning and demonstration of model behaviour. Students with poor attendance, poor attitude to learning or an inability to support the school's ethos may be subject to sanctions under the school's behaviour policy and exclusion procedure.