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Birchwood High School

Admission Guidelines to Birchwood High School's Sixth Form with effect from September 2024

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. Students must therefore meet the entrance criteria outlined in this policy for admission into Birchwood Sixth Form.

The introduction of a numbered grading system at GCSE means we will be operating a Total Points Score (TPS). There will be three distinct curriculum plans for students to follow, depending on their TPS.

- The minimum requirement for entry into Birchwood Sixth form is a TPS of 34 or above to access BTEC courses and a TPS of 40 or above to access A Level courses. In addition, students must also meet the specific grade entry requirement for individual subjects. These are outlined in the course booklet, school website and on the application form. These minimum requirements apply to both internal and external applicants
- Providing students meet these thresholds and the subject specific grade they will be eligible for admission to the sixth form.

External candidates

The PAN for external students to the Sixth Form is 100

The following criteria apply once the Total Points Score and specific grade requirements are fulfilled:

- Priority will be given first to appropriately qualified applicants who are looked after children 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. This includes children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted – this is not a criterion as all Year 11s that meet the academic requirements must be admitted.
- At the point of over-subscription, if two students achieve the same total point score then whole school admission rules based on geographical distance from the school will apply.
- Applications must be completed using the schools online application system. It is essential that applications are received by the deadline. Applications received after the deadline may not be considered. If the 6th form is oversubscribed, allocations will be made on the basis of the admission criteria outlined above.

In the event of an application being declined, the applicant has the right to appeal to the Governing Body, which will establish an appeals panel in accordance with DfE Guidelines.

Entry Requirements for the Birchwood Sixth Form

From September 2024 we will expect all students entering sixth form to study for 3 or 4 A-Level / BTEC courses

For a number of students this will be 4 A Levels. These will be linear in structure, with examinations taken at the end of the two years. For the majority of students this will consist of three core A Levels / BTECs and a supporting qualification. With this in mind our curriculum plans are designed to ensure students are following appropriate courses based upon their prior levels of attainment.

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

Total Points Score

Grade GCSE	Grade BTEC Level 2 (Business, ICT, Construction, Health & Social Care)
9	
8	<i>DISTINCTION</i>
7	
6	<i>MERIT</i>
5	
4	<i>PASS</i>
3	
2	
1	

Total Point Score – calculation

Subject	Grade	Points
English Language	7	7
English Literature	6	6
Maths	5	5
History	4	4
Media	7	7
Science	4	4
Science	4	4
French	6	6

Total = 43

Curriculum Plan 1

For admission onto Curriculum Plan 1 to study **4 A levels** students should have a **minimum total point score of 48 and the specific subject grade**

We will consider students below this threshold dependent on subject requirements and combinations. All students will be expected to supplement their core subjects with additional supporting qualifications and / or enrichment opportunities

Curriculum Plan 2

For admission onto Curriculum Plan 2 to study **3 A levels or 2 A levels & BTEC** students should have a **minimum total point score of 40 and the specific subject grade**

We will consider students below this threshold dependent on subject requirements and combinations. All students will be expected to supplement their core subjects with additional supporting qualifications and / or enrichment opportunities

Curriculum Plan 3

For admission onto Curriculum Plan 3 to study **1 Double BTEC and 1 BTEC single or A level** students should have a **minimum total point score of 34 and the specific subject grade**

All students will be expected to supplement their 3 core subjects with additional supporting qualifications and / or enrichment opportunities.

All applicants, both internal and external, will need to complete an online application form via the ULAS system on the schools website.

We will offer a guidance interview to all students to ensure students are making appropriate choices and offer information and advice in reference to their application, although these do not form part of the admissions process itself.

Students must meet the entrance criteria for courses as outlined on the school website and in the sixth form options booklet.

Students in Year 11 with an EHCP:

Students in Year 11 with an EHCP that names Birchwood Sixth Form will be provided with a place. If the child in question is unlikely to meet the academic requirements in terms of GCSE point score, this issue can be discussed as part of the annual review in Year 11.

Progression from Year 12 into Year 13

A student may be asked to change a course of study due to low academic progress during the sixth form. This will be done in conjunction with CEIAG support. Progression and continuation in sixth form is at all times dependent on attitude to learning and demonstration of model behaviour. Students with poor attendance, poor attitude to learning or an inability to support the schools ethos may be referred to the schools behaviour policy and exclusion procedure.