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**Committee:** Curriculum  
**Approved by Governors:** October 2023  
**Committee Review Date:** October 2024  
**Review frequency – Annual**

## 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.

1. 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
2. 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.

Providing students meet these thresholds and the subject specific grade they will be admitted to the sixth form.

The PAN for the Sixth Form is set for up to 100 places for external applicants.

Should the 6<sup>th</sup> Form be oversubscribed then places for external applicants will be allocated (to students meeting the entrance requirements) by applying the following oversubscription criteria in the order set out below.

- a) \*Priority will be given first to appropriately qualified applicants who are children looked after and children who were previously looked after, including those 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 or became subject to a child arrangements order<sup>1</sup> or a special guardianship order<sup>2</sup>.

- b) Priority will then be given to children who live nearest to the school, measured by using E-maps such as Google/Apple mapping. Should two applicants have the same home-school distance a random allocation will be made and that process will be independently supervised.
- c) \* Places are allocated to children in public care according to Chapter 7, Section 2 of the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012. Priority will also be given to children who were previously looked after, including those looked after outside England, but ceased to be so because they were adopted, or became subject to a child arrangements order<sup>1</sup> or a special guardianship order<sup>2</sup>. A “child looked after” is a child who is:
  - i. *in the care of a local authority, or*
  - ii. *being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (section 221(1) of The Children Act 1989).*

*All children adopted from care who are of compulsory school age are eligible for admission under rule 1.*

*Children in the process of being placed for adoption are classified by law as children looked after providing there is a Placement Order and the application would be prioritised under Rule 1.*

*Children who were not “looked after” immediately before being adopted or made the subject of a child arrangement order or special guardianship order, will not be prioritised under rule 1.*

<sup>1</sup> *Child arrangements order*

*Under the provisions of the Children and Families Act 2014, which amended section 8 of the Children Act 1989, residence orders have now been replaced by child arrangements orders which settle the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live.*

<sup>2</sup> *Special guardianship order Under 14A of The Children Act 1989, an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child’s special guardian or guardians.*

*Children previously looked after abroad and subsequently adopted will be prioritised under Criterion Rule 1 if the child’s previously looked status and adoption is confirmed by Hertfordshire’s “Virtual School”.*

*The child’s previously looked status will be decided in accordance with the definition outlined in The Children & Social Work Act 2017:*

- i. *to have been in state care in a place outside England and Wales because he or she would not otherwise have been cared for adequately, and*
- ii. *to have ceased to be in that state care as a result of being adopted.*

*A child is in “state care” if he or she is in the care of, or accommodated by –*

- a) *a public authority,*
- b) *a religious organisation, or*
- c) *any other organisation the sole or main purpose of which is to benefit society.*

- 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. Should the maximum size be met then applications over this number will be decided on the priorities outlined above, in particular the GCSE levels required to fulfil the applicants

preferred A Level or Level 3 BTEC choices.

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

Final decisions subject choices will only be confirmed once actual GCSE grades are known and it is confirmed that applicants have met the minimum academic requirements for each course.

Birchwood High School Governing Body will review its admissions arrangements annually in line with current legislation and the School Admission Appeals Code.

The criteria are subject to review annually.

## 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

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

### Total Point Score – calculation

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Points</b>
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 =

### **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.

### **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.