



# Admissions Criteria For Entry into the Sixth Form at Belfast Royal Academy 2017-18

1. The Board of Governors delegates to an Admissions Panel, comprising of the Principal and three Vice-Principals, the application of the admissions criteria to the Lower and Middle Sixth Forms.

## 2. GENERAL POLICY

The School determines the appropriate number of possible admissions so that:

- a. the total enrolment figure remains at or below the number permitted by the Department of Education for Northern Ireland; or
- b. in the event that there are more applications meeting the criteria for admissions to the Sixth Form than places, the school may apply to the Department of Education for approval for additional places. Only if additional places are granted will offers be made to applicants in excess of admissions numbers.
- c. In all cases, the total number of pupils enrolled in the year group will not exceed the school's resources and facilities to provide appropriately for their curricular and pastoral needs.

## 3. ADMISSIONS TO LOWER SIXTH FORM – INTERNAL

Priority for entry to Sixth Form courses will be given to pupils already enrolled at Belfast Royal Academy. All pupils enrolled in Year 12 at the school who meet the following criteria will have a right to a place in the Sixth Form:

- Pupils will require a minimum of 12 points at GCSE in subjects which are an appropriate foundation for academic study at Advanced Level (on a scale where A\* = 4 points, A = 3 points, B = 2 points and C = 1 point). Short Course GCSEs carry a tariff of one half of a full GCSE (A\* = 2 points, A = 1.5 points, B = 1 point and C = 0.5 points): please note that pupils with 11.5 points will not be admitted into the Sixth Form.
- Pupils will normally be expected to have at least a grade C in both GCSE English Language and GCSE Mathematics.
- If the AS chosen was taken at GCSE, then a B grade is a minimum requirement (except in Mathematics where the minimum requirement is A).
- For all new AS subjects (either not studied at GCSE or not offered at GCSE), pupils will normally be expected to have at least a grade B in either English Language or English Literature. In addition, for Economics and Software Systems Development, at least a grade B in Mathematics is also normally expected. For Health and Social Care pupils will normally be expected to have at least a grade B in a Science subject.
- Pupils must have a proven record of good citizenship (including attendance, punctuality and behaviour) within school.

#### **4. ADMISSION TO MIDDLE SIXTH FORM – INTERNAL**

Priority for entry to Sixth Form courses will be given to pupils already enrolled at Belfast Royal Academy. All pupils enrolled in Year 13 at the school who meet the following criteria will have a right to a place in the Sixth Form:

- Pupils who have achieved a minimum of three passes at AS level.
- Pupils must have a proven record of good citizenship (including attendance, punctuality and behaviour) within school.

#### **5. ADMISSIONS TO LOWER SIXTH FORM- EXTERNAL**

- Students from other schools applying to this school, who have satisfied the above academic admissions criteria will be considered for admission to the Sixth Form if there are additional places available. (Please note, however, that pupils with a GCSE in Double Award Science, choosing to study a Science subject at AS must have achieved AA in Double Award Science at GCSE.)
- Those with the highest points at GCSE will be admitted first, those with the next highest points second and so on.
- In addition to satisfying the academic admissions criteria, pupils transferring from another school will be required to demonstrate a proven record of good citizenship (including attendance, punctuality and behaviour) within their own school.
- *Pupils coming from other countries which do not use GCSEs will have to provide evidence from an independent source of having achieved at an equivalent academic standard.*

#### **6. ADMISSION TO MIDDLE SIXTH FORM- EXTERNAL**

- Admission to Middle Sixth Form, which is the year of the principal Advanced level public examinations, will be considered only in exceptional circumstances and if there are additional places available in Middle Sixth.
- Pupils must satisfy the criteria of a minimum of 3 passes at AS level in order to be considered for admission to Middle Sixth.
- Proposed A2 courses must be compatible with the pupil's AS qualifications.

#### **7. VERIFICATION OF DATA**

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require evidence to support or verify information on any application form. This may be requested when an offer of a place is made. It is important that all applicants understand that the provision of false or incorrect information will result in the withdrawal of the place offered.

#### **8. APPEALS**

Issues which arise from the admissions process may be raised through the Appeals Panel, comprising three members of the Board of Governors, selected by the Education Committee of the Board of Governors. The decision of the Appeals Panel is final.

September 2016