



Post 16 Admissions Criteria

Date approved: October 2020
Signed by Chair of Governors: Mr Nick Ager

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Date approved: October 2020
Signed by Headteacher: Mrs Kate Pereira

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Reviewed: September 2024
Next Review: September 2025



St John Fisher
Catholic High School

Policy and Procedures

Post-16 Admissions

"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full"

John Chapter 10

Purpose

To define the process for admission of students into Post-16 (Key Stage 5) courses at St John Fisher Catholic High School

We want Year 12 students at St John Fisher to follow a route to success that relates to their interests and abilities. For this reason all courses in Year 12 have entry requirements. These requirements are based on our understanding of the demands of the courses and of the qualities which students need to meet these demands successfully.

Students wanting to study alternative courses are signposted to local FE colleges and other institutions.

1. Criteria for access to Level 3 courses

Requirements for Level 3 courses are 5 GCSEs at grade 5 or better, usually including Maths and English and representing at least 4 different courses taken in one examination period. Please note that an individual subject cannot count for more than 2 GCSEs.

For students embarking on an A level which requires essay-writing, English language GCSE Level 5 or equivalent is essential. Maths GCSE Level 5 or equivalent is of similar status for those embarking on scientific or technological studies

In order to study specific subjects at Level 3 we strongly recommend that students should have achieved at least a Level 6 at GCSE in subjects which they wish to pursue at A level. Many courses have additional specific requirements; see our 'Entry Requirements' in the prospectus for full details.

Requirements for Level 3 vocational courses, for example Cambridge Technical qualifications are:

Health and Social Care, IT and Business: a minimum of four 4 grades, including a grade 4 in English Language.

Sports Scholarship: a minimum of four 3 grades, including a grade 4 in English Language.

The school reserves the right to refuse a place to students who may have achieved the entry requirements but are not deemed suitable for Level 3 study.

If a course is oversubscribed at the application deadline, students will be allocated to the course according to their previous qualifications in that subject, with priority given to those who have the higher ability. If a further distinction between applicants is required priority will be given to the student who has the fewest alternative courses available to them.

2. Programmes available

The majority of Level 3 students will study three Level 3 courses (3 A levels or a combination of vocational courses and A Levels) plus core RE, PSHE and an enrichment course.

All students must continue studying GCSE English Language and/or Mathematics if a grade 4 has not been achieved.

3. Guidelines for Applicants

The total number of places available in the Sixth Form is 150. Priority is given to applications from current students at St John Fisher who wish to continue their studies here. Of these, priority will be given to applications received by the published deadline, and each applicant's behaviour, attendance, punctuality and reference (external students) will be considered carefully before we make an offer of a place.

If the school has more applications than places available parents may elect to place their child's name on a waiting list. Students will be placed on the waiting list in strict order according to the oversubscription criteria on the Admissions Policy. If a place becomes available at the school, places will be allocated according to this criterion.

The waiting list will be held from the allocation of places date until the end of December in Year 12. Applicants must inform the school on GCSE results day that they wish to remain on the waiting list by telephoning the school.

We invite all (external) students who meet our entry criteria into the school to discuss our expectations, answer any questions students may have and clarify options. Parents are also welcome to attend with students. In addition, students and parents are shown around the school by our own students. We feel this is important as it gives them the chance to see the school during a normal day and to speak to our students about their experiences at St John Fisher, thus giving them a true reflection of life at the school. These visits can take place during the autumn and spring terms.

Successful applicants will be contacted within four weeks of their interview with an offer conditional on their GCSE results meeting their chosen courses requirements, there being spaces in the Sixth Form and on their chosen courses.

Applicants are expected to reply to their offer by 1st June and may only accept one offer.

External applicants are expected to submit their GCSE grades on results day and attend the school to confirm their place. Failure to do so may result in their place being reallocated.

All places offered to external applicants are provisional, depending on grades achieved and also on there being places available in the sixth form and on the chosen courses following the admission of current students transferring from year 11.

Reviewed by the Governors Curriculum Committee: October 2020

Next Review Date: September 2025

Staff Member Responsible: AHT