

Admissions Policy for The Cherwell School Sixth Form 2021/22: 16-19 Provision (Years 12 and 13)

Introduction

The Cherwell School is an 11-18 comprehensive school which aims to provide excellent education to all students. The School is an Academy and part of the River Learning Trust.

This policy has been approved by The Cherwell School Governing Body and the River Learning Trust Board of Trustees, the body responsible for admission arrangements and decisions. These arrangements come into force for admissions planned for 2021-22.

This policy is for entry to Years 12 and 13 where applications are made directly to the school; the policy for entry to 11-16 Provision is available separately where applications are part of the Oxfordshire Local Authority co-ordinated scheme and further details of this process, including important dates can be found at: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/secondary-school-applications> .

Further details on how to make an application for entry to the Sixth Form (Years 12 and 13) can be found at: <https://www.cherwell.oxon.sch.uk/413/sixth-form>

The Cherwell School Sixth Form

We seek to make our Sixth Form an inclusive one that students enjoy and flourish in. As such we support applications from all students wishing to follow an A Level programme which is the school's specialism. Given the academic demands of A Level study who do operate an academic entry criteria. The governing body reviews this criteria on an annual basis. Our aims are to make the entry criteria as inclusive as possible as we believe that students often flourish academically as they move into post 16 education. Equally we believe it is essential to have criteria to help to avoid students making the wrong choices about the right post 16 pathway for them. We always aim to treat each of our Sixth Formers as an individual and our admissions policy reflects this.

Admissions Numbers

- I. All students in Year 11 at The Cherwell School who meet the academic entry criteria are entitled to a place in the Sixth Form.
- II. The minimum number of external applicants to be admitted is 50. The upper limit of Year 12 external applicants will be based, not on total Year 12 numbers projected for the following academic year, but on the projected number and size of the teaching groups. Taking into account choices for A Level study, applications will be refused where the school considers the size of teaching sets to be detrimental to the education of the group and where it is not financially or educationally desirable for the Governors to alter the balance of the school's staffing or to appoint additional staff.

Admissions Arrangements

- i. The Cherwell Sixth Form encourages applications from students currently at The Cherwell School as well as students from other institutions.

- ii. The academic entry criteria are the same for both internal and external applicants
- iii. All applicants must complete the online application form and send this to the Sixth Form Administrator by the designated date (usually the start of February).
- iv. All information relating to applications is contained within the Sixth Form prospectus, a copy of which can be found on the school website.
- v. A Sixth Form Open Evening is held annually (in January) and all potential applicants are encouraged to attend. For 2021/2022 only this will be a virtual event which students will be able to access via the school's website
- vi. Internal applicants will receive guidance prior to completing their application. External candidates may have a guidance meeting with a member of staff after receipt of their application as required.
- vii. Once external applications have been received, references will be sent for.
- viii. The school aims to inform applicants whether or not they have been successful in their application by the Easter break/ end of Term 4.
- ix. Students wishing to study a subject at another institution should indicate this on the application form. The Cherwell School will facilitate this where the subject is not available within the Cherwell School Sixth Form and no further application is required.
- x. For successful external applicants, a formal written acceptance of the offer will be required by the date indicated in the offer letter. Should a student fail to accept the offer by this date the school reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a place in the Sixth Form.
- xi. All applicants who have been offered a place must attend the Sixth Form induction programme (in late June / early July) and confirm subject choices once students have received their examination results in August. Should a student fail to do so the school reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a place in the Sixth Form.

Admission Requirements: Academic Entry Criteria

- i. Admission to particular courses will depend upon availability of places and a student's prior attainment at GCSE*.
- ii. Our policy is to ensure that students accepted into the sixth form can be placed in appropriate courses where they are likely to succeed. For this reason the following entry criteria apply to the courses offered. If an applicant does not meet the criteria the school reserves the right to use its discretion, based on the school's knowledge of that applicant, to offer a place to that applicant.
 - All students will require 38 GCSE points in their highest GCSEs (this equates to 4 x grade 4, 2 x grade 5 and 2 x grade 6. This must include a minimum of grade 4 in both English (language or literature) and mathematics GCSE. Please see appendix B for an explanation of how points towards this measure are accrued.
 - Many courses have subject specific criteria which are detailed in our course prospectus. This criteria is there to make sure students choose courses they are likely to be successful in.

- We do consider students transferring from another institution at the end of year 12 into year 13. For admission into Y13 external students must meet our GCSE entry requirements. An application form should be completed and following the receipt of the completed application form, eligibility of transfer of subjects between exam boards will be checked, references will be sent for and a guidance meeting held.

Allocation of Places and Oversubscription Criteria

Where students meet the admissions requirements and where there are spaces in courses that the applicant wishes to take, places will be offered in the following order of priority:

- 1) Looked After Children
- 2) Internal applicants
- 3) External applicants

- For each category, priority will be given to students living nearest to the school as measured by straight line distancing.
- In addition, taking into account choices for A Level study, applications will be refused where the school considers the size of teaching sets to be detrimental to the education of the group and where it is not financially or educationally desirable for the Governors to alter the balance of the school's staffing or to appoint additional staff (Paragraph II above).

Closing Dates and Late Applications

Internal applications received by the closing date will be considered before all subsequent external applications. Late applications will only be considered if places become available in all subjects requested at the time of receiving the application; if a place in all subjects is not available the application is held on the waiting list.

Waiting Lists

If we are unable to offer applicants a place based on the details described in this policy, the school will hold a waiting list until 30th September in the year of school admission. Each application is ranked on the waiting list as determined by the oversubscription criteria (see above) and should circumstances change in relation to the projected number and size of teaching groups which may allow the application to proceed, applicants may be contacted.

Appeals Process

If an applicant is refused a place and wishes to make an appeal, they may do so by writing to the Headteacher and Head of 6th form, stating why they feel that there are mitigating circumstances which should be taken into account. The school does reserve the right to use its discretion based on the school's knowledge of that applicant to offer a place to that applicant. This mitigation may involve one or more of the following:

- Special Educational Needs
- Significant underperformance against predicted outcomes in GCSE examinations
- Significant medical issues which impacted on a student's performance
- Other factors which may have led to a student performing much lower than expectations.

It is important that the mitigation is enough to explain why a student has not secured the entry requirements. Should an appeal be turned down applicants have a right of appeal to an independent appeals panel administered by the Local Authority.

*Or GCSE equivalent courses

Appendix A: Specific Course requirements as at December 2020

Subject	Subject grade/entrance criteria 2021 - 22
Art	Students are expected to have achieved a grade 4 or above at GCSE in art or related subjects (e.g. graphics or textiles)
Biology	Students are expected to average grade 6 or above in the three science subjects if studying triple science, and at least a 6 in the science they want to study. If the student is studying combined/double award science they are expected to have achieved 6-6 grades or above.
Business Studies	No specific requirement beyond entrance requirement.
Chemistry	Students are expected to average grade 6 or above in the three science subjects if studying triple science, and at least a 6 in the science they want to study. If the student is studying combined/double award science they are expected to have achieved 6-6 grades or above.
Computer Science	Students are expected to have achieved a grade 5 or above at GCSE in mathematics, and a grade 5 or above at GCSE in computing. Students wanting to study this subject without a GCSE in computing can do so on successful completion of a computing entrance assessment.
Design Technology	Students should ideally have at least a grade 4 or above in Design Technology (resistant materials, graphic products or textiles). If you haven't studied design at GCSE, then you must demonstrate a genuine commitment and interest in design work
Drama and Theatre	Students should ideally have at least a grade 4 or above in Drama. If you haven't studied Drama at GCSE, then you must demonstrate a genuine commitment and interest in the performing arts.
Economics	No specific requirement beyond entrance requirements.
English Literature	Students are expected to have achieved grade 6 or above in English Literature and grade 5 or above in English Language.
French	Students are expected to have achieved grade 6 or above in French.
Further Mathematics	Students are expected to have achieved grade 7 or above in mathematics; 8 is desirable for this challenging course.
Geography	Students are expected to have achieved grade 4 or above in geography.
German	Students are expected to have achieved grade 6 or above in German.
History	Students are expected to have achieved grade 4 or above in history.
Mathematics	Students are expected to have achieved grade 7 or above in mathematics.
Mathematics AS	Students are expected to have achieved grade 6 or above in mathematics.
Music	Students are expected to have achieved grade 6 or above in GCSE music, or grade 6 in ABRSM theory and instrumental exams.
Philosophy and Ethics	No specific requirement beyond entrance requirements
Photography	Students are expected to have achieved a grade 4 or above at GCSE in art or related subjects (e.g. graphics, textiles or IMedia)
Physical Education	No specific requirement beyond entrance requirements.
Physics	Students are expected to average grade 6 or above in the three science subjects if studying triple science, and at least a 6 in the science they want to study. If the student is studying combined science they are expected to have achieved 6-6 grades or above. Students are also required to study either A level mathematics or AS level mathematics alongside this subject in sixth form.
Psychology	Students are expected to have achieved grade 5 or above in mathematics, and at least two grade 5s in science.
Sociology	No specific requirement beyond entrance requirements
Spanish	Students are expected to have achieved grade 6 or above in Spanish.
Textiles	Students are expected to have achieved a grade 4 or above at GCSE in Textiles or related subjects (e.g. graphics or art)

To be reviewed annually

Appendix B: Point Scores available per Grade

Entry Requirements

All students will require 38 GCSE points in their highest 8 GCSEs. This must include a minimum of grade 4 in both English (language or literature) and mathematics GCSE.

GCSE Grade	Points Awarded	Old GCSE Grade	Points Awarded
9	9		
8	8	A*	8.5
7	7	A	7
6	6	B	5.5
5	5	C	4
4	4	D	3
3	3	E	2
2	2	F	1.5
1	1	G	1
U	0	U	0