Strabane Academy

Admissions Criteria for Entry into Sixth Form

Date Ratified by Board of Governors	**11/11/2025**

At Strabane Academy we expect that all students applying for admission to Sixth Form will meet the admissions criteria below which will be applied, on behalf of the Board of Governors, by the principal in conjunction with the Senior Leadership Team.

Please note that applications received after 15th September will not be considered for that academic year.

General Academic Criteria

Entry to Year 13

1. Students wishing to take 3 AS subjects should have a minimum of 5 GCSE passes A* to C including English & Maths and meet the subject-specific criteria for their chosen subjects.
2. Students wishing to take 4 AS subjects should have a minimum of 7 GCSE passes A* to C including English and Maths and meet the subject-specific criteria for their chosen subjects. Students' progress will be reviewed after each tracking, with the view to dropping 1 AS subject (preferably after tracking 1), if they are underachieving in that subject.
3. Students who did not achieve a pass grade in a subject at GCSE will not be eligible to study that subject, irrespective of the criteria outlined below.
4. Students are required to meet subject specific criteria in 3 subject areas.
5. Students who are wishing to study two or more Science subjects at AS Level should obtain a minimum of Grade A in the relevant GCSE Science or possess at least AA grades in Double Award Science.
6. Students wishing to study A-Level Mathematics without having studied Further Mathematics at GCSE level will be decided upon on a case-by-case basis. This process will take into account individual Unit marks in their GCSE Mathematics course.
7. If entry to Year 13 is oversubscribed students with the highest GCSE score will be considered in descending order - an applicant's GCSE score being calculated on the basis of GCSE results as follows:
   • Grade: A* - 5 points / A - 4 points / B - 3 points / C* - 2 points / C- 1 point
   • Level: 9- 5 points / 8/7- 4 points / 6 - 3 points / 5 - 2 points / 4- 1 point

Subject Specific Academic Criteria

Individual subjects will have specific requirements for selecting that subject at AS level. Please see details relating to specific subjects in the table below.

* Subjects marked with an asterisk may be taken as new subjects without previous GCSE study in the area concerned. **In the case of these direct entry admissions will be decided on a case-by-case basis.**

Subject	Essential Criteria	Recommended Criteria
Art	GCSE Art & Design Grade B or Contemporary Craft Grade B (Recommended criteria also essential)	GCSE English Language Grade B
Biology	GCSE Biology Grade B (with an A in either unit 1 or 2) or GCSE Double Award Science Grade AB with an A in Biology units 1 and 2.	GCSE Biology Grade A or GCSE Double Award Science Grade AA
* Business Studies	GCSE Business Studies Grade C* and GCSE Mathematics Grade B	GCSE English Language Grade B
Chemistry	GCSE Chemistry Grade B (with an A in either unit 1 or 2) or GCSE Double Award Science Grade AB with an A in Chemistry units 1 and 2.	GCSE Chemistry Grade A or GCSE Double Award Science Grade AA

English Literature	GCSE English Language Grade A and GCSE English Literature Grade B	
*Digital Technology	GCSE Digital Technology Grade C*	
Geography	GCSE Geography Grade B	
* Health and Social Care	GCSE Health and Social Care Grade C*	GCSE English Language Grade B
* History	GCSE History Grade C*	GCSE English Language Grade B
* IT (Cambridge Technicals)	GCSE Digital Technology Grade C	
Mathematics	GCSE Mathematics Grade A (including A in M4 and study of M8)	GCSE Further Mathematics Grade B
Modern Languages	GCSE Modern Language Grade B	
Music	GCSE Music Grade A and Pupils must be able to perform to a grade 6 standard.	GCSE English Language Grade B
* Physical Education	GCSE Physical Education Grade B	
Physics	GCSE Physics Grade B (with an A in either unit 1 or 2) or GCSE Double Award Science Grade AB with an A in Physics units 1 and 2.	GCSE Physics Grade A or GCSE Double Award Science Grade AA
* Religious Education	GCSE Religious Education Grade B	

* Technology and Design	GCSE Technology and Design Grade B or GCSE Engineering Grade B	Should there be more than 20 students who meet the essential criteria to study AS Technology and Design, first preference will be given to those who have studied GCSE Technology and Design or Engineering and these pupils will be placed in rank order based on Controlled Assessment Marks. These marks will then be used for selection purposes.

Please note, additional criteria may apply for courses studied at SWC and HCC.

Attendance Criteria:

1. All students wishing to enter Sixth Form should have a minimum attendance rate of 90% and a good punctuality record. Students whose attendance rate falls below this level must produce medical evidence/special circumstances to explain their absences.

Behaviour Criteria:

1. All students wishing to enter Sixth Form should have a history of good behaviour. Students with significant behaviour incidents or who exceeded 10 behaviour points in the previous academic year will not be guaranteed entry to Sixth Form. Their return to study at AS level will not be granted until a meeting takes place with the Principal, Vice Principal or a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Pupils must be accompanied by a parent/guardian to this meeting.

Entry to Year 14

Results in AS examinations are important indicators of success at A2 level.

Progression into Year 14 will be reviewed once the AS results are published.

Pupils who achieve below a ‘C’ grade in one or more of their chosen subjects will be required to attend a meeting with the Principal, Vice Principal, a member of the Senior Leadership Team or Head of Year. Pupils must be accompanied by a parent/carer in order to review progression into Year 14.

The purpose of this meeting is to determine the best way forward for the pupil. Some of the following strategies may be implemented:

* A discussion with parents about the best way forward;

* Regular meetings with a teacher mentor to discuss progress, analyse tracking scores and targets will be arranged;

* A decision to leave Strabane Academy and pursue an alternative course of study.

Please note: A pupil’s attitude to his/her school studies and to the school community will also be considered for entry to Year 14. High levels of attendance and punctuality reflect part of a student’s commitment to his/her work.

As per AP1 form (Education Authority) the school will conform with this criterion unless the following applies:

* The pupil’s achievements are not considered adequate for the courses to be followed. Often this relates to the results achieved in public examinations and other academic monitoring such as tracking. There is no right of appeal for years 13/14.

* Only in extenuating circumstances will pupils who wish to repeat year 13/14 be considered by Principal and Board of Governors. Mitigating evidence will be required.