

Admissions Policy for The Swan School Sixth Form 2021/2022 16-19 Provision (Years 12 and 13)

Introduction

The Swan School is an 11-18 comprehensive school which aims to provide excellent education to all students. The School is an Academy managed by the River Learning Trust.

This policy has been approved by The Swan School Governing Body and the River Learning Trust Board of Trustees, the body responsible for admission arrangements and decisions.

This policy is for entry to the Sixth Form where applications are made directly to the school; the policy for entry to 11-16 Provision (Years 7 to 11) 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://theswanschool.org.uk/sixth-form/>

Admissions Numbers

- I. All students in Year 11 at The Swan 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 10.

Admissions Arrangements

- i. The Swan Sixth Form encourages applications from students currently at The Swan 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.
- 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. The guidance meeting will only be used to discuss options and academic entry requirements for particular courses.
- vii. The school aims to inform applicants whether or not they have been successful in their application by the Easter break/ end of Term 4.

- viii. Students wishing to study a subject at another institution should indicate this on the application form. The Swan School will facilitate this where possible and no further application is required.
- ix. 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.
- x. All applicants who have been offered a conditional place will be invited to attend the Sixth Form induction programme (in late June / early July) and confirm subject choices once students have received their GCSE results in August. Should a student fail to confirm subject choices without good reason 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. .
 - All students will require 6 Grade 5s at GCSE, with at least a Grade 4 in GCSE English (literature or language) and Mathematics.
 - Individual courses also have additional subject specific criteria which are detailed in appendix A. Students must meet these in addition to the overall requirements in order to study that course.
 - Offers of places are made for admission into the sixth form and are not offers to study a specific course of subjects.
 - For in year admission to the sixth form any applicant must meet our GCSE entry requirements. An application form should be completed, and if a place is refused then a right of appeal arises.

Allocation of Places and Oversubscription Criteria

Where external students meet the admissions requirements places will be offered in the following order of priority:

- 1) Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children
 - 2) Other external applicants
- For each category, priority will be given to students living nearest to the school as measured by straight line distancing.

- Tie breaker - Where the distance between two children's homes is the same, random allocation will be used to decide between them.

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 31st December in the year of school admission. Each application is ranked on the waiting list as determined by the oversubscription criteria (see above) and should a place become available applicants may be contacted.

Appeals Process

If an applicant is refused a place and wishes to make an appeal, they or their parents/carers may do so.

In relation to appeals that relate to a student not having secured the entry requirements, the student or their parents may write to the Headteacher and Head of 6th form, stating why they feel that there are mitigating circumstances which should be taken into account. This mitigation may involve, but not be limited to, one or more of the following:

- Special Educational Needs
- Significant underperformance against predicted outcomes
- Significant medical issues which impacted on a student's performance
- Other factors which may have led to a student not performing in line with expectations.

It is important that the mitigation is enough to explain why a student has not secured the entry requirements. In such cases, the appeal will first be considered by the school which reserves the right to use its discretion to offer a place to that applicant, in line with the oversubscription criteria.

Should such an appeal be turned down, or appeals that relate to the applicant not having received a place due to the administration of the oversubscription criteria, applicants and their parents/carers have a right of appeal to an independent appeals panel administered by the Local Authority.

Appendix A: Specific Course requirements as at December 2020

Subject	Subject grade/entrance criteria 2022-23
Art	Students are expected to have achieved a grade 5 or above at GCSE Art.
Biology	7 in GCSE Biology or 7-7 in GCSE Combined Science
Business Studies	This course will be delivered at The Cherwell School, and all applicants will need to meet their subject entry requirement.
Chemistry	7 in GCSE Chemistry or 7-7 in GCSE Combined Science
Economics	This course will be delivered at The Cherwell School, and all applicants will need to meet their subject entry requirement.
English Literature	Students are expected to have achieved grade 6 or above in GCSE English Literature and grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language.
French	Students are expected to have achieved grade 6 or above in GCSE French.
Further Mathematics	Students are expected to have achieved grade 8 or above in GCSE Mathematics..
Geography	This course will be delivered at The Cherwell School, and all applicants will need to meet their subject entry requirement.
History	Students are expected to have achieved grade 6 or above in GCSE History and A grade 6 or above in either English Language or Literature.
Mathematics	Students are expected to have achieved grade 7 or above in GCSE Mathematics.
Music	Students are expected to have achieved 6 in GCSE Music or Merit/Distinction in Grade 5 Music Theory (ABRSM), and Grade 5 (ABRSM or Trinity) or equivalent on any instrument
Physics	7 in GCSE Physics or 7-7 in GCSE Combined Science and To also be studying A level Mathematics
Psychology	This course will be delivered at The Cherwell School, and all applicants will need to meet their subject entry requirement.
Sociology	This course will be delivered at The Cherwell School, and all applicants will need to meet their subject entry requirement.