

YEAR 13 ADMISSIONS POLICY

General Policy

The Board of Governors of Our Lady and St. Patrick's College, Knock will consider for acceptance into Year 13 those students who have the academic ability and language skills to cope with Grammar School standards. They will be expected to subscribe to the aims and objectives of the College as formulated by the Board of Governors and stated in College publications.

In order to determine which students will be accepted into Year 13 the following **criteria** will apply:

1. The minimum academic qualification for entry to Year 13 is **five GCSE passes at grades A*- C, with four at grade B**.
2. A **minimum of a grade B at GCSE** is required for AS-level, although a number of subjects recommend a grade A. Where "special circumstances" occur, the Transfer Sub-Committee has the flexibility to deviate from this requirement.
3. In order to study AS subjects, you should have an equivalent qualification to GCSE English Language Grade B or above.
4. The entry requirements for each AS-/A-Level course selected as described in the table below:

AS-/A-LEVEL COURSE	Entry Requirements
CCEA ART & DESIGN	Art & Design requires a minimum of a grade B in GCSE Art & Design.
CCEA BIOLOGY	Biology requires a score of at least 73% in Assessment Unit 2 of GCSE Biology OR the Biology component of GCSE Double Award Science. This standard is usually achieved by students with at least a grade B in GCSE Biology OR grades BB in GCSE Double Award Science. If the course is oversubscribed, preference will be given to students who have achieved an A grade.
CCEA BUSINESS STUDIES	Business Studies requires a grade B in GCSE Business Studies. However, if further places are still available, then students who did not study the course for GCSE may still be eligible if they have achieved a grade B in both GCSE Mathematics and GCSE English Language.
CCEA CHEMISTRY	Chemistry requires grades AA in Double Award Science (including grade A in the Unit 2 Chemistry component) or a grade B in GCSE Chemistry. Students should look at the raw exam paper scores as a percentage mark, as this will provide an indication of future success at A level. Students will also be required to have an aptitude for Mathematics, evidenced by a grade A in GCSE Mathematics obtained from the M4/M8 Assessment Units OR grade C in GCSE Further Mathematics, if this course has been studied.
WJEC COMPUTER SCIENCE	Computer Science requires a grade 6 in GCSE Computer Science and a grade A in GCSE Mathematics.
CCEA DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY	Digital Technology requires a grade B in GCSE Digital Technology. (Students who have studied GCSE Computer Science instead of Digital Technology require a grade 5 in GCSE Computer Science).
WJEC DRAMA & THEATRE	Drama & Theatre requires a grade B at GCSE in Drama and grade B in English Language.
CCEA ECONOMICS	Economics requires a grade B in GCSE Mathematics and a grade B in GCSE English Language.
CCEA ENGLISH LITERATURE	English Literature requires at least a grade B in both GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature.
CCEA FRENCH	French requires at least a grade B in GCSE French, although a grade A or A* is recommended.
CCEA FURTHER MATHEMATICS	Further Mathematics requires grade A* in both GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Further Mathematics. Students are expected to take 4 A-Levels over the 2 year period.
CCEA GEOGRAPHY	Geography requires a grade B or higher in GCSE Geography.
CCEA GERMAN	German requires at least a grade B in GCSE German, although a grade A or A* is recommended. It is delivered in Grosvenor Grammar School.
CCEA GOVERNMENT & POLITICS	Government & Politics requires a grade B in GCSE English Language. If the course is oversubscribed, students will be selected using the criterion of highest combined GCSE English Language and English Literature results.
CCEA HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE	Health and Social Care requires a grade B in GCSE.

AS-/A-LEVEL COURSE	Entry Requirements
CCEA HISTORY	History requires a minimum of a grade B in GCSE History, although a grade A or A* is recommended. We do not recommend students who have not studied GCSE History, to choose it at A-level.
CCEA IRISH	Irish requires at least a grade B in GCSE Irish, although a grade A or A* is recommended.
CCEA MATHEMATICS	Mathematics requires a grade A in GCSE Mathematics obtained from the M4/M8 Assessment Units combination OR a grade B in GCSE Further Mathematics, if this course has been studied. The Mathematics Department asks students who are considering A-level Mathematics, to look at the raw exam paper scores (out of 100) achieved for each Mathematics paper taken. These scores will provide an indication of further success at A-level.
CCEA MOVING IMAGE ARTS	A minimum of grade B in GCSE English Language and a minimum of grade B in one or more of GCSE Art & Design, Drama, Digital Technology, Music, Technology or English Literature. The course uses new digital technologies and the creative learning possibilities they offer. Students need to have basic keyboard and word processing skills to complete the online examinations. Students need to be prepared to work independently to complete a detailed and informed portfolio. The class size will be restricted to 15. If the course is oversubscribed, students will be ranked and selected according to their GCSE grade averages (where A* = 5, A = 4, B = 3, C* = 2, C = 1).
CCEA MUSIC	Music requires: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A grade B in GCSE Music, although a grade A or A* is recommended. • Grade 5 ABRSM or Trinity Theory. • AS: ABRSM grade 6 in Voice or Instrument by April of the examination year. • A2: ABRSM grade 7/8 in Voice or Instrument by April of the examination year. • Membership of a College group (Orchestra/Choir/Ensemble). • A lively interest in music and a willingness to listen and read copiously outside the course.
CCEA NUTRITION & FOOD SCIENCE	Nutrition & Food Science requires a minimum of a grade B in GCSE Food & Nutrition, along with a grade B in GCSE Biology or GCSE Chemistry, or grades BB in Double Award Science. A genuine interest in current social and consumer issues and an enthusiasm for learning will help you in this course.
WJEC PHYSICAL EDUCATION	Physical Education requires at least a grade 6 or B in GCSE Physical Education or a good overall GCSE profile; an interest in sport as a social phenomenon and a willingness to read about it; an above average ability in one or more sports and have demonstrated a disciplined approach to the subject at Key Stages 3 and 4; possess an above average level of fitness; and membership of an outside sports club is desirable.
CCEA PHYSICS	Physics requires grades AA in Double Award Science (including a grade A in the Unit 2 Physics component) or a grade B in GCSE Physics. Students should look at the raw exam paper scores as a percentage mark, as this will provide an indication of future success at A-level. Students will also be required to have an aptitude for Mathematics, evidenced by a grade A in GCSE Mathematics obtained from the M4/M8 Assessment Units OR grade C in GCSE Further Mathematics, if this course has been studied.
CCEA RELIGIOUS STUDIES	Religious Studies requires at least a grade B in GCSE Religious Studies. The acceptance of students who achieve a grade C in GCSE Religious Studies will depend on the quality of their overall GCSE profile. A grade B in GCSE English is preferable.
WJEC SOCIOLOGY	Sociology requires a grade B in GCSE English Language. If the course is oversubscribed, students will be selected using the criterion of highest combined GCSE English Language and English Literature results.
CCEA SPANISH	Spanish requires at least a grade B in GCSE Spanish, although a grade A or A* is recommended.
CCEA TECHNOLOGY & DESIGN	Technology & Design requires a grade A or B in GCSE Technology & Design, a good physical science background and competency in Mathematics.

Please read the subject criteria carefully to check that you meet the criteria for your chosen subjects.

We may not be able to accommodate your first choices if you have selected subjects which do not meet the AS criteria or your GCSE results indicate that you have strengths in other areas. In this case, before being offered a place in the College, you will be invited to interview to discuss your subject choices and careers advice will be given regarding your AS choices.

Note on Special Circumstances

Judgment of the importance of special circumstances will be at the absolute discretion of the Transfer Sub-Committee of the Board of Governors but in such cases, parents should submit medical and/or other reports along with the academic progress reports, etc, in support of their application.

Acceptance of College Rules and Positive Behaviour Policy

A student is expected to conform to College rules and to the Positive Behaviour Policy as formulated by the Board of Governors and interpreted by those in charge of discipline.

Requirements of the Timetable

A student must be prepared to accept timetable and curriculum arrangements. This will include being involved in and present at Religious Education classes, Careers Education classes, RSE classes, Tutorial classes, morning assemblies and the College celebration of the Eucharist. (Arrangements concerning exemptions can be made on behalf of those students who are registered as members of other mainstream denominations).

Positive Attitude

A student is expected to have a positive attitude towards discipline, study, religion and school attendance. This will involve the **signing of an agreement accepting the aims, rules and standards** set by the College, as stated in College publications, and the obligations and restraints resulting from accepting these standards. This agreement includes a commitment to be present in the College for the whole of the school year as a full-time student and to refrain from going on vacation during term time. The College will focus on **attendance, behaviour and commitment** in Year 12 before accepting a student into Year 13.

Attendance

It should be 95%+ in Year 12.

Behaviour

Evidence of positive attitude will be a lack of detentions and/or suspensions for serious or recurring misdemeanours in Senior School.

Commitment

Prospective Year 13 students must have demonstrated commitment to their studies in Year 12, e.g. completion of all coursework/controlled assessments on time.

CRITERIA FOR ENTRY INTO YEAR 14

All Year 13 students wishing to progress into Year 14 should be aware of the following important information:

- If your attendance and performance in Year 13 falls below reasonable expectations, as determined by the College, you and your parents will be advised to reassess your academic and career options by consulting with the Vice Principal in charge of the curriculum, course teachers, pastoral and Careers staff in the summer term of Year 13 and/or after the publication of your AS-Level exam results in August.
- If your performance in one or more of your AS-Levels has been unsatisfactory, **you must consult with your course teachers** about the feasibility of studying the same course(s) at A2 level. In most cases, if you have achieved a Grade E in an AS-Level course you will not be allowed to continue with that course at A2.
- You must **pass a minimum of three AS-level courses** if you wish to return as a Year 14 student to take A2 courses.
- You should **pass an AS-Level course (grade A – D)** if you wish to take that course at A2 in Year 14.
- After the AS-Level exam results have been published, at the start of the new school year, all students must attend the **Year 14 Induction** to help them finalise their course choices.

* Ensure that you are back in time from your holidays!

CRITERIA FOR ANY EXTRA PLACES MADE AVAILABLE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR ADMISSION INTO YEAR 13

The Department of Education may, on request, increase the number of pupils that the College can admit into its Year 13. Places that become available in this way shall be allocated only to pupils who meet the basic eligibility criteria for Sixth Form study (as above) and shall be allocated in the order determined by the criteria to be applied in the order set down.

1. Pupils who have most recently completed Year 12 in Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock.
2. Pupils from other schools where admission to an extra place at Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock has been agreed by the Department of Education.

Parents should note that the Department of Education will, in response to a school's request, increase the school enrolment number in order to allow an extra post-16 pupil to enrol. DE will first check whether there is another school or schools of a type suitable for that pupil within an hour's journey of where the pupil lives. If there is, DE will then check whether this other school or schools with places available may provide all of the post-16 courses that the pupil wishes to pursue. If these checks find that no other suitable school may provide all of the post-16 courses that the pupil wishes to pursue — then DE will agree a school's request for an extra place.

What is a school of a type that is suitable for a pupil?

To determine this, DE first considers all schools to be one of 4 types:

- (i) denominational, (ii) non-denominational (iii) Integrated and (iv) Irish Medium.

A school requesting an extra place for a post-16 pupil will belong to one of these 4 types and DE will consider any other school or schools from this same type as suitable for the pupil. DE will also consider as suitable for the pupil any school from the same type as the type of school that the child attended in Year 12.

Admission Criteria for External Applicants

Year 12 students who are currently attending the College will be considered for Sixth Form entry before transferees from other schools. The Board of Governors, having agreed to the criteria for admission, has delegated to the **Transfer Sub-Committee** the authority to decide which particular applicants shall be admitted to the College in accordance with the criteria and any appropriate statutory regulations issued by DE. Where the overall College enrolment number is likely to be exceeded, it is left to the Transfer Sub-Committee to decide which year groups shall have priority in the allocation of places.

The Transfer Sub-Committee will first consider applicants to whom **special circumstances** apply, and who, on the documentary evidence submitted, appear capable of undertaking A-Level study. Applicants will then be ranked and allocated places in Year 13 in order of their **academic ability** as determined by a point score for each GCSE grade obtained. Evidence of academic ability will also be based on Progress Reports and assessments submitted from previous schools. The advice and opinions of the Principal and teachers of the previous school(s) will also be taken into consideration. A **positive reference** from the student's previous school will be required along with verification of relevant results, prior to entry.

If there are more external applicants to be considered than there are places available in Year 13, applicants with **equal academic ability** will be separated and allocated places using the following **subsidiary criteria** in the order set down:

1. Students who have a brother or sister presently enrolled in the College.
2. Students who are the eldest or only child in the family.
3. In the event of a tie between two or more applicants for the last available place lots will be drawn. This process will be witnessed by two members of staff who had no dealings with, or family interest in, the admissions process.