



Admissions Policy for the Sixth Form For entry in September 2021

Section 1 – General Principles

Bennett is a Christian School in the tradition of the Church of England and in the sixth form, as elsewhere, learning and development are underpinned by Christian belief and values. Bennett offers a range of academic and vocational qualifications for sixth form students as described in the prospectus. Some of these require minimum grades at GCSE. Our policy is to ensure that students accepted into the sixth form are placed on appropriate courses where they are likely to succeed. For this reason, we ask all applicants to attend a guidance interview with appropriate staff to discuss the most suitable courses of study.

We accept applications from students wishing to transfer from another school into the Bennett Sixth Form. The same course entry criteria apply to these students as to Bennett students wishing to follow the same courses. The planned admissions number for external students is 10. However, in most years we admit more than this because there is space on the courses and because applicants meet our criteria.

Section 2 – Definitions and details

Admission number in year 12

Internal candidates transfer to Y12 provided they have met the entry criteria. There is no upper limit to the number of internal students transferring to Y12.

The numbers of external applications we receive vary from year to year. We exceed our minimum number if preferred courses of study are not oversubscribed and the external applicant has met the relevant entry requirements. For example, in 2019 we admitted 21 external applicants. The deadline for external applications is the beginning of term in January (4th).

Academic requirements

The Average Points Score is established over 10 GCSEs

To begin A level courses, you must have at least an average point score of 4.0, including at least 3 GCSEs at grade 5. For some courses a higher threshold is required.

If you wish to study biology, chemistry, physics or psychology you will need to have achieved an average of at least 5.5 at GCSE and at least a 6 in at least 2 sciences at GCSE, including those to be studied at A level. Where combined sciences have been studied at GCSE at least 2 grade 7s (i.e.7,7) are required.

If you wish to study English language you will need to have achieved at least an average of 4.0 at GCSE and at least grade 5 in English language GCSE.

If you wish to study English literature, you will need to have achieved at least an average of 5.5 and at least grade 5 in English literature GCSE.

If you wish to study French, German or Latin you will be expected to have achieved at least a grade 5 in that language at GCSE and an average of at least 6 at GCSE overall.

If you wish to study mathematics, further mathematics or AS mathematics you will need to have achieved at least an average of 5.5 at GCSE and at least a grade 7 in mathematics GCSE.

If you wish to study computing, you will need to have achieved at least an average of 5.5 at GCSE and at least a grade 6 in computing GCSE.

If you wish to study music or physical education, you will need to have achieved at least an average of 5.5 at GCSE and be able to demonstrate a track record of performance.

If you wish to study product design, you will need to have achieved at least an average of 4.0 at GCSE and at least 3 grade 5s, and at least a grade 5 in product design or a related GCSE.

If you wish to study fine art, photography or textiles you will need to have achieved an average of 4.0 at GCSE and at least 3 grade 5s, and at least a grade 5 in the corresponding GCSE.

If you wish to study geography or history, you will need at least an average of 4 at GCSE and at least 3 grade 5s. If you have studied geography or history at GCSE, you will need at least a grade 4 in that subject to be able to study it at A level.

If you wish to study the L3 Digital Publishing, Sports Diploma or Health and Social Care courses you will need to have achieved at least an average of 3.5 at GCSE and at least a grade 5 in the A level subject you wish to study alongside the diploma.

If you wish to study the OCR Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate in ICT, you will need to have achieved at least an average of 3.5+ at GCSE.

If you wish to study the Extended Project Qualification, you will need to have achieved at least an average of 4.5 at GCSE and at least a grade 5 in English Language GCSE.

If you wish to study physics A level, you must also study mathematics.

If you wish to study further mathematics, you must also study A level mathematics.

If you wish to study biology, chemistry or physics at A level this must be studied with at least one other science from: biology, chemistry, physics, psychology, mathematics, further mathematics.

Subjects where it is not essential to have a GCSE in the same subject are psychology, L3 OCR Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate in IT, history, physical education, theatre studies, philosophy, photography and media studies.

Applications from students without UK Qualifications: students applying from abroad without GCSE qualifications will be required to sit examination papers, set by the school in English, mathematics and other relevant subjects, according to their course choices, so we can determine that they are working at an equivalent standard to students who have taken GCSEs.

Meeting the requirements of any course is no guarantee that the applicant will automatically be offered a place on his or her preferred courses for reasons of scheduling and group size.

We will require external applicants to provide copies of results slips before taking up places.

Entry into year 13 for external applicants will depend on the courses required availability of space in that group and the compatibility of different specifications. We require convincing evidence that the applicant will go on to complete the course successfully.

Attendance

A minimum attendance of 95% must be maintained throughout the course to continue in the Sixth Form.

Oversubscription Criteria for External Applications

- Children in public care ¹
- Distance from the school

Right to appeal

If an application is refused, there is a statutory right of appeal to the Independent School Appeals Panel. Further details of how to appeal will be provided with the letter explaining why the application has been refused. Appeals may be lodged either by the parent or the student.

Waiting list

No waiting list is held for external applications to the sixth form. Applicants meeting the criteria who are not offered places because there is no space are advised to reapply later in the same year. If places are then available their applications may be successful.

Ethos statement for sixth form application form

Bennett is a Church of England school. The school's aim is to provide a high quality academic education underpinned by strong Christian values, supported across the curriculum, including through Christian worship. In the sixth form all students are expected to support this ethos. A core studies programme is provided for all students which incorporates a range of areas, including religious and ethics education, and all students are expected to take part in the core programme as directed. A range of extracurricular opportunities are offered, and these are considered a vital part of learning and development in the sixth form. A professional standard of personal presentation and conduct is considered essential for membership of the Bennett sixth form, as described in the prospectus. In signing this statement, parents and students are acknowledging support for this ethos and indicating a clear preference for it in their sixth form education.

Distance

Distance for the purposes of these criteria is measured between the child's normal address and the school in a straight line using Ordnance Survey address point data. Distances are measured from a central point within the child's home to a similarly defined point within the school specified by Ordnance Survey. The school uses measurements provided by Kent LA and further information on this is available from booklets provided by Kent. In the unlikely event that there are two or more applications of equal eligibility for the last available place at the school a random selection will be applied.

1 Children in public care are defined as children under the age of 18 for whom the Local Authority provides accommodation by agreement with their parents or carers (Section 22 of the children Act 1989) or who ceased to be so because they were adopted or who is the subject of a care order under Part IV of the Act